

# THE PEACH PRESS

The Official Publication for the Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals



## Important Reminders

GAE4-HYDP Conference  
Covington, GA  
May 14-16, 2025



## A Message from President Megan

Greetings, GAE4-HYDP! I hope y'all had a chance to enjoy a well-deserved holiday break and took time to relax, recharge, and reflect on the incredible work you accomplished last year. Now, we dive into the many opportunities that 2025 brings. We are in the preparation and promotion stages of summer camp as well as prime Project Achievement time. Although it has been cold and we even got some snow in Georgia, this season has such a warm feeling full of momentum, energy, and opportunity.



The theme of our 2024 annual conference, "Rooted in Excellence", remains as relevant as ever as you reflect on what we have accomplished. Now thinking ahead, it is almost time for association awards and conference proposals. I challenge you to think about how you can contribute in those areas. Peer-led sessions are my favorite opportunities because you get to learn from someone who is in your shoes. Use the things that your program offers that are unique, exciting, and engaging to create a session proposal or submit an award! Others in our association will benefit from it and you will too.

Even during this busy time, let's remember the importance of staying connected—not just to our 4-H'ers but to one another as well. GAE4-HYDP provides a community where we can share ideas, celebrate successes, and support each other through challenges. Lean on this network to support your own passion for the work we do. I am proud to work alongside such a talented and dedicated group of professionals and wish you all the best for this year!

# Angel Tree for the Homeless

By: Donna Harris, Wayne County 4-H Agent

Angel Tree for the Homeless is a heartfelt community service project initiated by Wayne County 4-H to support the homeless population in our local area during the Christmas season. What started as a simple statement from Manny Harris, 4-H Agent Donna Harris' son, initiated this whole project. Manny wanted to know if anyone in our community did anything for the homeless at Christmas.

The project aimed to provide essential items such as socks, snacks, and toiletries, items that are often overlooked but can make a significant difference in the daily lives of those without stable housing. We reached out to a local soup kitchen, Tabitha's Place, to get information on the homeless they feed. Tabitha's Place is a great place for the homeless to get a hot meal, shower, and wash the clothes they have. We asked them to get us sizes of clothes, greatest need, and one wish item. The 4-H program reached out to the community, encouraging everyone to contribute in order to bring some holiday cheer to those who are struggling.

A Christmas tree was set up in the lobby of the Wayne County Extension Office. On the tree we placed angels with information we were given on specific homeless individuals as well as overall items needed like laundry detergent, snacks, and toiletry items. Three of the five elementary schools in our community enthusiastically participated in the project, collecting donations from students, teachers, and families. The collective effort was overwhelming, resulting in the adoption of numerous homeless individuals who were matched with specific gifts.

In total, over 300 pairs of socks, a ton of snacks, and toiletry items were gathered, all of which were distributed to the homeless. The generosity of the community not only met the immediate needs of the homeless but also fostered a sense of compassion and togetherness during the holiday season. Through this project, Angel Tree for the Homeless helped brighten the lives of individuals facing hardship while also building stronger connections within the community. The success of the project highlights the power of collaboration and how, when we all come together, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of others. It is a reminder that even small acts of kindness can have a big influence on those who need it most.





# Effingham County 4-H Hosts Toy & Coat Drive to Provide Christmas for Local Families

By: Morgan Triplett, Effingham County 4-H Agent & Lauren Marsh, Effingham County 4-H Program Assistant

In 2024, the Effingham County 4-H office launched a heartwarming Toy and Coat Drive aimed at ensuring local elementary students had a joyful and warm holiday season. The initiative was designed to gather new or gently used toys and coats to support children in need, particularly those whose names appeared on angel tree wish lists. As the first year for this program, staff were eager to see how the community would respond.

Although the drive began with a slow start, everything changed after being featured on a local news channel. The community of Effingham County rallied together, and donations began to pour in from all corners. Contributions continued to flow even after the original deadline, making it clear that the people of the county were committed to supporting their neighbors in need.

In total, the 4-H office collected more than 100 coats, 115 books, and over 200 toys. What started as an effort to support one or two local elementary schools quickly expanded to benefit several organizations and institutions. Donations were used to fill angel tree wishes for four elementary schools, support the Effingham County YMCA, provide coats, books, and toys to women and children at Family Promise, and distribute toys to families at local daycares. Additionally, gifts were provided for younger elementary school children through a local church outreach program.

The inaugural 4-H Toy and Coat Drive was nothing short of a resounding success, thanks to the generosity and community spirit of Effingham County. The drive not only met its goals but far exceeded expectations, spreading holiday cheer to children and families throughout the county.

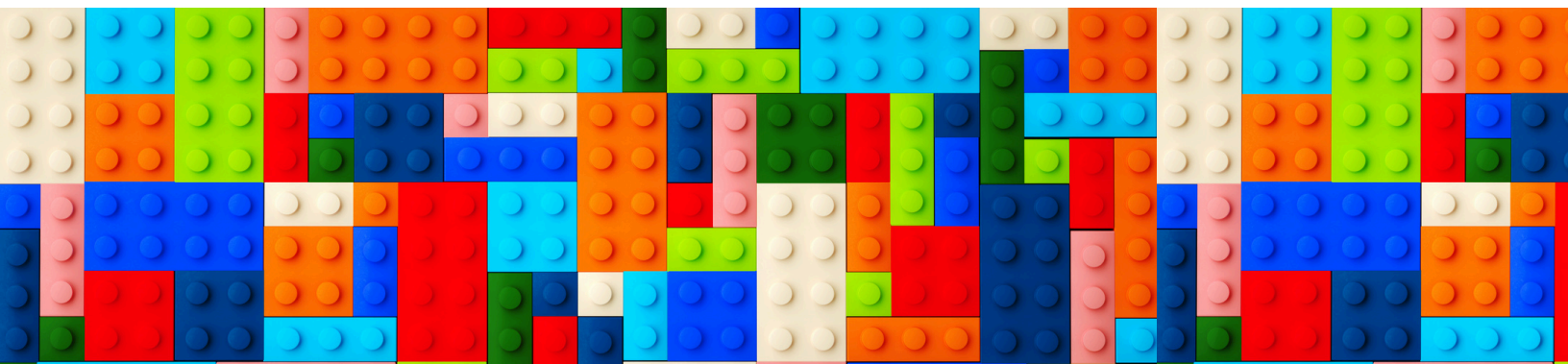




# The FIRST LEGO League (FLL)

By: Autumn Callahan, Lumpkin County 4-H Agent

The FIRST LEGO League (FLL) program fits perfectly with the 4-H slogan, “Learn by Doing,” by allowing students to build critical thinking skills by providing hands-on activities that are related to STEM. This is my second year of being invited to coach a FLL team at Lumpkin County Middle School (LCMS). At first glance, coaching can seem overwhelming, especially for someone who does not have a background in robotics, but the number of available resources makes it very manageable. This summer I attended FLL Coaches Training at Georgia Tech which shared information on building attachments, coding robotics, tournaments competitions, fundraising/sponsorship ideas and additional online resources and curriculum. I have also seen the impact this team has on the students. Students have started to build confidence, expanding knowledge and working well together. These students have worked together to have a successful season. They were awarded the Core Value Award which is given to the team that displays the best team spirit, respect, and understanding of teamwork. The FLL Core Values included Discovery, Innovation, Impact, Inclusion, Teamwork, Fun. Winning this award allowed the Lumpkin 4-H Lego Team to advance to the Region Championship in Chattanooga, Tennessee. I’m so proud of my team. Coaching FLL overall has strengthened my partnership with the middle school by allowing more collaborations in the school such as assisting with the Pollinator Count and the Environmental Art Club.





# Professional Development

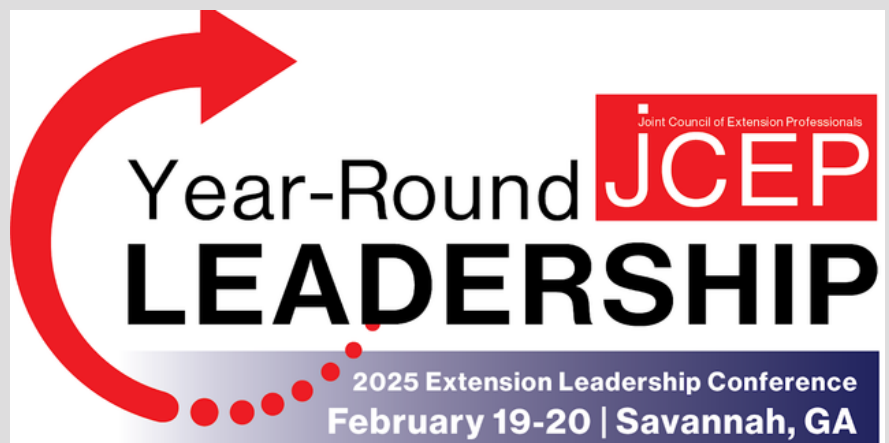


## JCEP Extension Leadership Conference (ELC) February 19-20, 2025 | Savannah, GA

The aim of ELC is to build leadership capacity, and provide professional development and networking opportunities for state officers and members of the Extension Associations:

- ANREP
- ESP
- NACAA
- NACDEP
- NAE4-HYDP
- NAEPSDP, and
- NEAFCS.

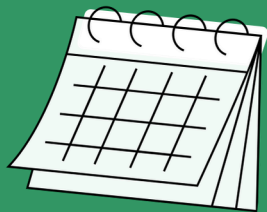
For more information, visit  
<https://www.jcep.org/elc>



# Georgia Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals



## Professional Development Committee Update



## GAE4-HYDP Conference & State Meeting

May 14th-16th in Covington, GA

*Thinking about submitting a proposal to share with your colleagues? Consider these topics!*

### Working with People:

- ✓ Communication strategies for various personalities
- ✓ Working with Youth with Special Needs & tactful approaches for these youth
- ✓ Reaching non-english speaking youth & parents

### Stakeholder & Resource Development

- ✓ Examples of creative & easy fundraisers
- ✓ Annual reports for BOC, BOE, etc.
- ✓ Developing local stakeholders/donor list strategies

### Base Programming

- ✓ Promotion & recruitment strategies
- ✓ How to integrate project achievement into school programs/curriculum?
- ✓ Camp Recruitment

### Project SAFE

- ✓ Recruiting & retaining coaches
- ✓ Team manuals
- ✓ Advertising SAFE Programs

### Proposal Timeline:

#### *Call for Proposals:*

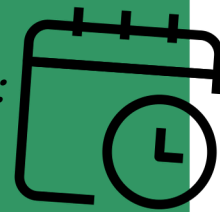
January 22, 2025

#### *Proposal Deadline:*

March 3rd, 2025

#### *Selection Announcements:*

March 21, 2025



# NEW!

### *Outlook Calendar Tool:*

*Add the GAE4-HYDP Outlook Calendar to your calendar so you never miss a deadline, event, or program again!*



# GAE4-HYDP State Meeting

May 14th-16th in  
Covington, GA!



## Professional Development Call for Proposals

### PRESENTATION TYPES

Program Seminar (45 min.) | "Tools of the Trade" Showcase (25 min.) | Poster (1 hour manned)

#### PROGRAM SEMINAR

Seminars are for programs and high quality experiential education courses that utilize research findings in their design. Programs may target youth, adults, volunteer leaders, etc. They have clearly defined outcomes and evaluation data. Workshops should advance the field of youth development by introducing new or newly interpreted curricula, delivery models, management methods, technologies, etc. Presenters should utilize hands-on activities to help session participants experience the program.

#### "TOOLS OF THE TRADE" SHOWCASE

Showcases are a quick way to share a 4-H/Extension best practice that works well for you. Presenters should focus on the planning, implementation and outcomes. The program should give participants an idea and the opportunity to learn the basics of the program they may want to replicate within their youth development program.

#### POSTER SESSION

Poster sessions will be manned for one hour during lunch. Posters can be based on an impact statement, an innovative idea, or other great program/event. A 200-250 word abstract is required and should reference relevant research.

### Areas of Consideration

- Base Programming
- Youth Development
- Program Development
- Access, Equity and Opportunity
- Partnerships
- Organizational Systems

Submit proposals by midnight  
Monday, March 3, 2025.  
Proposals accepted will be  
notified by March 21, 2025.



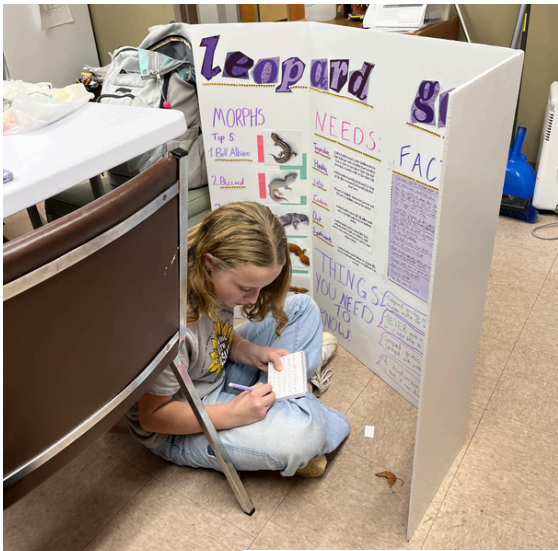
# Ideas at Work

This edition's theme:  
Project Achievement Promotion

## White County Wraps Up Cloverleaf DPA

By: Rachel Martin, White County 4-H Agent

White County completed 4-H Cloverleaf DPA in December with twenty-two competitors who presented their projects. This is a 50% increase in our participation from last year! The numbers fluctuate quite a bit from year to year, but there were several things done differently this year that I believe helped boost our participation numbers. This year, I incorporated a parent Project Achievement information meeting at our local ag center. Parents of students who were interested in learning more about Project Achievement, what all was involved, and how to get to the district contest was discussed. A lot of times, students may come home with information, and are excited about it, but the parents don't have any idea what it entails. I think this helped a lot! Next, I held DPA workshops at the elementary schools this year, where in the past, they've just been at our office. This way students are able to conduct research for their project using their Chromebooks, which can only be kept on school property. I was able to hold at least one workshop at each elementary school then encourage them to meet me at the office for more help if needed. Finally, we encouraged students to participate in Project Achievement by providing an incentive: a free trip to the trampoline park! Students only receive the trampoline park trip for competing at the district competition in Union County. Students were also able to present their projects in their classrooms during 4-H time at school, but those who were interested in advancing to the district contest had to put in more work and practice with Ms. Rachel to make it a district level presentation. White County hopes to continue to see rising numbers with Cloverleaf DPA as we look towards next years competition!





# Getting to Know You

“My favorite holiday tradition is dressing Christmas Cozy for all holiday events. My partner & I get out our favorite onesies for all holidays events.”

From Autumn Callahan, Lumpkin County 4-H Agent



My favorite holiday tradition growing up was always getting to open new pajamas on Christmas Eve night. When I became a parent, I knew that was a tradition I wanted to carry on. My two boys always get new pajamas and items such as popcorn, hot chocolate, and some candy for us to have a family movie night on Christmas Eve. Later on, a new tradition I started was to get Gabe and Manny, a new nutcracker each year. This is something they can take when they leave home as a beginning to their own Christmas decorations. My photos are a few years old since teenage boys really don't like to take pictures.

From Donna Harris, Wayne County 4-H Agent





# Meet the Member

## Autumn Callahan

Northeast District

### How long have you worked in Extension?

4 years total. 2 years as Hall County 4-H Educator and 2 years as Lumpkin County 4-H Agent where I am currently serving still.

### Family:

My partner is Jordan Nathan and I have two dogs, Macy and Moose.

**Hobbies:** gardening, reading, walking, and Legos

**Favorite 4-H Activity:** District Project Achievement

**Favorite Book:** I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

**Favorite Movie:** Pride & Prejudice

**Favorite Music Genre:** Rock

**Favorite TV Show:** Schitt's Creek, New Girl, and Brooklyn 99

**Favorite Quote:** "The best way to predict your future is to create it." -Abraham Lincoln

**If I didn't work for Extension, I would be:** A Librarian



## Lauren Shelton

Northeast District

**How long have you worked in Extension?** 3 years

### Family:

My husband is Matthew and we have 2 dogs (Scout and Summit) and 1 cat (Moon).

**Hobbies:** anything outdoors; recently camping and reading

**Favorite 4-H Activity:** summer camp

**Favorite Book:** The Inn on Harmony Island

**Favorite Movie:** The Lost City

**Favorite Music Genre:** Country

**Favorite TV Show:** Virgin River

**Favorite Quote:** "Promise me you'll always remember: You're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think." -A.A. Milne

**If I didn't work for Extension, I would be:** A Wildlife Biologist



# Meet the Member

Katie Hayes  
Northeast District

**How long have you worked in Extension?**

Since August 2024

**Family:**

My family consists of myself, my husband, Isaac, and our two menace dogs, Maddox and Bruce!

**Hobbies:** My go-to hobby is crafting but I have a very short attention span with the crafts. I have many half-way knit scarves, mostly-sewn quilts, and various clay earring projects hanging out in my house!

**Favorite 4-H Activity:** So far, my favorite 4-H activity is Project Achievement! There is something so special about seeing kids gain confidence and do something many grown adults would hate to do!

**Favorite Book:** My favorite author is Sarah Addison Allen and her book the Sugar Queen is one of my favorite reads of all time!

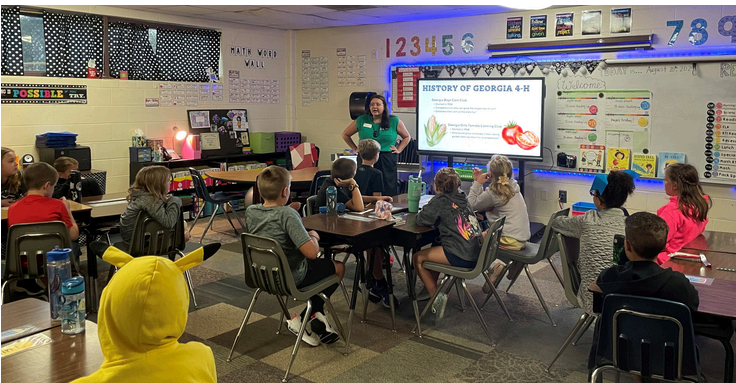
**Favorite Movie:** Masterminds with Zach Galifianakis, Owen Wilson, and Kristen Wiig is my guilty pleasure movie! It is so dumb, but cracks me up every time.

**Favorite Music Genre:** My favorite music genre is folk music- think James Taylor, Jim Croce, Lord Huron, etc.

**Favorite TV Show:** Survivor! I don't think I would last a day, but I am tempted every time Jeff says "Audition for next season!"

**Favorite Quote:** "Change is inevitable. Growth is optional."- John C. Maxwell

**If I didn't work for Extension, I would be:** I would be a lot less active in my community. This position has allowed me to get out of my comfort zone, and talk to people (kids, AND ADULTS!) that I would have never spoken with! I feel like I am making a change in my community thanks to 4-H!



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*Special thanks to all contributing authors and the 2024-2025 GAE4-HYDP Media Committee for their contributions to this newsletter.*

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