Montanans for 4-H

Montana4HDay.com

Mary Beth Walsh
Twin Bridges

Kathy Cheney
Belgrade

Blake Hauptman
Helena

Cade Duran
Bozeman

Luke Duran
East Helena

Neil Gertner
State 4-H Ambassador

Dave Kelsey
Molt

Breanna McCabe
Missoula

Ayla Mundinger-Adsay
State 4-H Ambassador

Aaron Pruitt
Bozeman

Judy Smith
Ronan

DATE: September 25, 2026
TO: County Extension Agents, County 4-H Councils, and County 4-H Foundations
FROM: Mary Beth Walsh, Chairperson, Montanans for 4-H Committee
RE: 2027 Montanans 4-H Day

The 2027 legislative session is approaching, and the Montanans for 4-H Committee has reimagined the long-running 4-H Legislative Breakfast as **Montana 4-H Day**.

We greatly appreciate the generous support we have received over the decades from 4-H County Councils, 4-H County Foundations and private donors, which has made our events so successful in communicating the value and impact of 4-H in Montana.

With **Montana 4-H Day**, our committee will continue traditions with a new approach that will increase the exposure of Montana 4-H during the 2027 Legislative Session, and show legislators how MSU Extension funding directly supports 4-H in communities across the state.

We respectfully request your support again with the hope that you can contribute *at least* $100 to the 2027 Montana 4-H Day. These funds help cover legislators' noon meals and other event expenses. An invoice for the minimum contribution is enclosed for your convenience. Donations above the minimum will help our committee host the most successful event possible.

Montana 4-H Day—**montana4hday.com**—is a joint effort of the Montanans for 4-H Committee and the Montana Historical Society. Montana 4-H members, clubs, counties, families, and affiliated programs are invited to participate in an open-house format. At tables throughout the room, participants can share their 4-H stories, give demonstrations, describe club projects or county workshops, display fair entries, and highlight community service led by 4-H members. Legislators, elected officials, and Montana Heritage Center visitors will hear directly from members about how 4-H and MSU Extension strengthen families and communities, foster personal growth, and prepare young people for lifelong success. ***Will you join us***?

Montana 4-H Day will take place in the Central Commons at the Montana Heritage Center on **Tuesday, January 19, 2027**. Open-house sessions will run from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., followed by a 4-H panel discussion at 6:00 p.m.

The theme for 2027 Montana 4-H Day is **Montana 4-H: Beyond Ready**, extending the National 4-H "Beyond Ready" initiative. The theme highlights challenges facing today's youth, including loneliness, low self-confidence, limited emotional support, career readiness, chronic school absenteeism, and increasing dependence on screens and social media. Through meaningful opportunities and support, 4-H helps young people become "Beyond Ready."

Montana 4-H youth speakers will address these challenges through personal stories of growth. They will explain how 4-H meets these needs and prepares young people to be Ready to Lead, Ready to Serve, Ready to Build, and Ready to Conquer. Their remarks will show how 4-H has strengthened their character, responsibility, and leadership skills.

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The success of Montana 4-H Day depends upon strong participation from 4-H youth and leaders. We therefore encourage County 4-H Councils, foundations, clubs, and private donors to help offset the costs for county delegations attending or presenting at the event.

The Montanans for 4-H Committee believes 4-H Ambassadors can play a valuable role in planning and delivering **Montana 4-H Day**. If your county has an Ambassador(s), please encourage them to work with the county agent or county 4-H council before the event. They will help the county delegation prepare a 4-H story or activity to share or attend the event in Helena as participants.

Thank you for your support and prompt attention. We will share additional information about Montana 4-H Day over the next three months. Please review each update and respond promptly when requested.

For more information, go to **montana4hday.com** or contact **montanansfor4h@gmail.com**.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Walsh

Background on the Montanans for 4-H Committee

The Montanans for 4-H Committee was established in 1986 by members of the Montana 4-H Leaders Council and the Montana 4-H Foundation. This grassroots committee educates legislators about 4-H, the opportunities it provides Montana youth, and the program's state funding through the MSU Extension Service budget. By sharing the value of that funding with legislators, 4-H members can help keep Montana's 4-H program strong and vibrant.

Enclosures: County Donation for Legislative Breakfast Invoice
Cc: Dr. Cody Stone, Director of Extension; Montanans for 4-H Committee