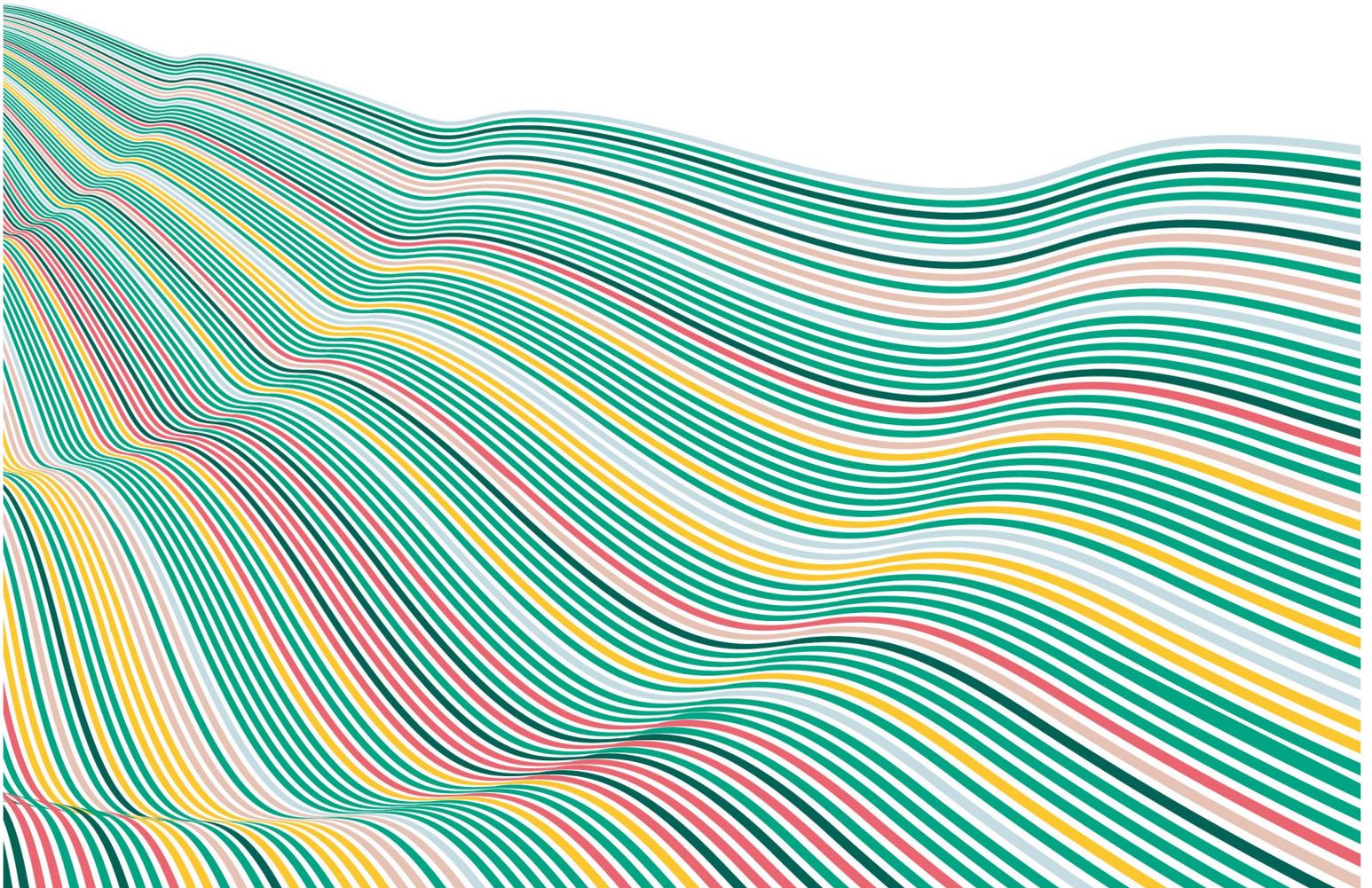




ADULT WORKSHOP GUIDE

MARCH 25TH – 29TH, 2026 | WASHINGTON D.C.



At Ignite by 4-H 2026, there will be numerous educational opportunities available for adults in attendance. All adult workshops are optional, but we encourage you to take advantage of as many as you are able.

There will be one adult workshop scheduled during each teen workshop session, and each workshop will be offered only once. All adult workshops will take place in the Adult Networking Lounge, located on the Terrace Level in the Columbia West Ballroom which is centrally located near the teen workshop sessions.

You do not need to register in advance for adult workshops, you can simply arrive at the designated time to participate.

Thursday, March 26

11 a.m. - 11:50 a.m. Mentors of Change: Lead To Change for Educators

Parker Harris & Kinda McInnis

National 4-H Council & South Carolina State University

This workshop introduces the Lead To Change program and equips adults with tools to support youth as they identify issues they care about and create meaningful community impact projects. Educators will explore the Lead To Change process, review project requirements, and learn practical strategies for mentoring youth through idea development, planning, and implementation.

12 p.m. - 12:50 p.m. Beyond Ready to Ignite Sparks

Tara Brent, Mike Knutz & Esther Turner

Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, University of Idaho & University of Arizona

Helping young people discover and grow their passions—known in 4-H as sparks—is foundational to preparing them to be Beyond Ready for work and life. This engaging, hands-on workshop empowers 4-H volunteers and professionals with tools and strategies to intentionally ignite youth interests, talents, and potential through the lens of Positive Youth Development. Participants will explore how sparks fuel motivation, deepen engagement, and connect learning to future pathways. They will leave with interactive, practical activities they can immediately use to help youth feel inspired, supported, and excited about their growth in 4-H.

1 p.m. - 1:50 p.m. Beyond Ready to Foster Engagement

Tara Brent, Mike Knutz & Esther Turner

Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, University of Idaho & University of Arizona

Youth engagement is at the core of high-quality 4-H experiences—and it is essential to preparing young people to be Beyond Ready for work and life. In this interactive workshop, volunteers and professionals will explore practical strategies to foster authentic youth engagement by creating environments rooted in belonging, purpose, and meaningful participation. Grounded in Positive Youth Development and the Beyond Ready framework, this session will equip participants with hands-on, ready-to-use activities that strengthen youth voice, build relationships, and sustain engagement in clubs and programs. Participants will leave prepared to apply these strategies immediately at their next 4-H meeting or event.

2 p.m. - 2:50 p.m. Safe Solutions, Healthy Habits: Youth Peer-to-Peer Engagement Strategies to Foster Positive Change in Rural Communities

Jana Davidson

Progressive Agriculture Foundation

In rural and farming communities, teens can play a powerful role in shaping a safer, healthier future generation. This interactive workshop will empower teens to become leaders and local changemakers through peer-to-peer engagement strategies that promote smart choices, safe practices, and positive habits. Participants will explore how to influence safer decisions among their friends and peers through hands-on, interactive lessons aimed at reducing risky behaviors, eliminating preventable incidents, and promoting overall well-being.

Thursday, March 26 (continued)

3 p.m. - 3:50 p.m. From Implicit to Intentional: Building Character through 4-H

Tonya Price

Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

Character development has always been at the core of 4-H, but as we prepare young people to be Beyond Ready for work and life, intentionally fostering strong character traits within them is more important now than ever. During this workshop, participants will learn how to integrate the CHARACTER COUNTS! framework directly into their 4-H programming efforts. Utilizing hands-on activities, group discussions and practical examples, participants will learn how to move from teaching character implicitly to embedding it intentionally into all 4-H programs. Furthermore, participants will leave with ready to use activities and strategies to engage youth in developing strong character traits.

4 p.m. - 4:50 p.m. Beyond the Ask: Innovative Fundraising for 4-H Travel Experiences

Shelly Bingle, CFRE, Liz Espie & Gemma Hogarth

Purdue University & Texas A&M University

Preparing youth for National 4-H experiences takes more than passion, it takes resources. This Ignite by 4-H workshop is designed for adult volunteers and Extension professionals who want to strengthen their fundraising skills and explore creative, practical strategies to support youth national travel. Participants will learn how to move beyond traditional selling approaches and instead build sustainable, youth-centered fundraising strategies that engage community, individual, and corporate donors. Participants will walk away with fresh ideas, practical tools, and increased confidence to help youth turn big dreams into boarding passes.

Friday, March 27

7:10 p.m. - 8 p.m. Signing Season: Beyond Ready for Anything

Sadaf Baig & Parker Harris

National 4-H Council

Signing Season is one our three Tentpole Moments that unites the 4-H system to celebrate graduating 4-H'ers and recognize their readiness for the next steps in life - whether college, trade school, or career. In this workshop, educators will learn how to activate Signing Season locally through a simple, meaningful experience, explore available resources, and brainstorm ideas that fit their community. The goal: make sure every graduating 4-H'er feels seen, celebrated, and supported.

8:10 p.m. - 9 p.m. Amplify Your Impact: Elevate Youth Voice Through Beyond Ready Storytelling

Esther Bonney, YIA & Yolanda Stephen

National 4-H Council

When youth voices lead, the Beyond Ready story comes alive. This interactive media and message training puts young people front and center -- featuring real storytelling examples that show impact in action. Discover how youth share their journeys, engage the media, and inspire change. Build confidence to stay on message, navigate interviews with ease, and authentically amplify the impact of 4-H.

Saturday, March 28

9 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. CLOVER in Action: Bringing Activities to Classrooms and Clubs

Chris Douglas & William Wilton

National 4-H Council & University of Nebraska

This workshop will provide an overview of CLOVER by 4-H and how it can be used for in-school programming and community clubs for both in-person and hybrid settings, to support youth development. Participants will learn how to navigate the platform, locate relevant activities and lesson plans, and adapt resources for various ages and interests. The session will include demonstrations of CLOVER features, examples of activity integration across different program formats, and time for participants to create an action plan for using CLOVER in their own clubs or classrooms.

10 a.m. - 10:50 a.m. Strengthen Your Local 4-H Marketing with National 4-H Council

Katie Bowker, Erin Comp & Andrea Omer

National 4-H Council

Discover how National 4-H Council supports you as a national partner and equips you with tools to simplify and elevate your work as a 4-H professional. In this workshop, you'll connect with subject matter experts from the Extension Relations team, get key updates on the Beyond Ready initiatives and its major tentpole moments, and learn practical ways to strengthen your local marketing efforts through opportunities like the Collective, Canva, and more.

11 a.m. - 11:50 a.m. Pathways to Possibility: National 4-H Youth Opportunities

Mary Clayton Murphy & Gracie Rowe

National 4-H Council

Empowering young people to lead with purpose is more important now than ever before. This session will introduce extension professionals to Youth in Action, National 4-H Council's premier recognition opportunity for outstanding young people making a difference in their communities. Participants will receive an in-depth overview of the purpose, structure, and impact of Youth in Action, including ideal candidate qualities, benefits for selected honorees, and the ways this program elevates youth voice. Presenters will provide practical guidance on application requirements, selection timelines, storytelling preparation, and best practices for supporting young people through the process.

1 p.m. - 1:50 p.m. Beyond Ready to Share the Impact of 4-H

Makayla Burg & Erika Schwisow

University of Nebraska

This session is designed to equip 4-H Extension professionals with practical strategies to translate findings from the National Index Study into meaningful insights for stakeholders. Participants will be introduced to the National Index Study, explore the new Beyond Ready measures used in the study, and learn how these data points can be used to demonstrate 4-H's response to real-world challenges. The presentation will highlight ready-to-use public value stories, empowering professionals to clearly communicate impact and demonstrate the value of 4-H programming in their communities.

2 p.m. - 2:50 p.m. Unlocking Insights: The Power of Reflections

Jamie Teuteberg

Washington State University

Adults, join this session to learn how to go deeper with your 4-H teens through reflections. We will explore the power of reflective debriefing (reflections) by unpacking experiences in creative ways. Get ready to boost your self-awareness and improve your reflective debrief skills. Discover how a few minutes at the end of an experience can make a huge difference!