



TO: Agents and Program Associates with 4-H Responsibilities

FROM: Debra Lloyd, Extension Instructor

DATE: February 15, 2024

SUBJECT: Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Association's Annual Leadership Conference

The Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Association's (MVLA) Annual Leadership Conference will be held March 15-16, 2024, in the Bost Extension Conference Center. The conference will begin with registration at 4:00 p.m. Friday, and conclude Saturday by 4:00 p.m. This year we are doing a drawing for a **Grand Prize** at the end of the conference on Saturday! *You must be present to win so plan to stay for the whole, fun-filled day!*

The MVLA Annual Leadership Conference provides an excellent opportunity for 4-H Volunteers, Extension faculty and friends of 4-H to participate in outstanding experiential learning activities, workshops, great fellowship, and enlightening entertainment. The theme this year is "**4-H Volunteers Growing Our Youth**". We encourage you and the 4-H Volunteer Leaders from your county to plan to share in this event.

The Leadership Conference will open with an informal reception from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. followed by an awards banquet Friday evening, March 15, in the Bost Extension Conference Center. Outstanding 4-H Volunteers in each of the following categories will be recognized:

1. **Harvey Gordon Rising Star Volunteer** Award Category – 4-H volunteers who have served 1-3 years.
2. **Outstanding Volunteer of the Year** Award Category – 4-H volunteers who have 4-10 years.
3. **Lifetime Volunteer of the Year** Award Category – 4-H Volunteers who have served more than 10 years.

Applications for the above awards and MVLA Officer nominations are due by February 23, 2024. Nomination forms will be sent in a separate email and will be available online. This is a great way to recognize the Outstanding Volunteers who work hard to encourage, teach, and support our Youth!

If you have a volunteer who has 50 or more years of service as a 4-H volunteer, please let us know if they will attend as we would like to recognize them during the awards banquet. Other years of service awards are recognized at the North and South forums later in the year.

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Box 9641 • Mississippi State, MS 39762 • Phone (662) 325-0229 • Fax (662) 325-5207

We are an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Please encourage all delegates to bring items valued at a minimum of \$25 for the Live Auction as well as items for the Silent Auction. The auctions serve as the main fundraiser for the Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Association and will be held at scheduled times during the conference. The auctions always provide many exciting moments and attendees are encouraged to outbid each other while enjoying the fast-paced action. A donation request letter from the MVLA President is available. Each county is also encouraged to bring **two door prizes** to be given away throughout the conference.

We will also offer the game of Heads or Tails again this year. This is a fun game that provides an opportunity to win prizes. Those who choose to purchase a \$5.00 glow bracelet will be eligible to play. The Heads or Tails game will be played at various times during the auction Friday evening and at some assemblies on Saturday. More game details will be provided at the conference.

This year, we are sponsoring a special promotion for **first-time attendees** with a reduced rate of only **\$80** for the entire Conference. Registration for full-time returnee delegates is **\$125.00**. Full-time registration fees include the Friday reception and banquet meal, Saturday lunch and snacks, conference t-shirt, and MVLA annual membership. Volunteers are responsible for their own lodging arrangements.

Registration forms and conference information are included for you to share with 4-H Volunteers in your county. Please submit registration and workshop selection for each delegate via the Extension Intranet. **Extension agents must register each adult participant online.** The county delegation form sent with the registration fees to the MVLA treasurer **does NOT** register them for the conference and workshops. **Registration closes February 23, 2024.** Please make registration fees/checks payable to **MVLA**.

The media release form, registration fees and the county delegation form should be mailed to the attention of:

**Debby Carnathan, MVLA Treasurer
415 Lee Horn Drive, Suite 2
Houston, MS 38851**

Agents and volunteers are encouraged to participate in the conference. The workshops and interaction with others will motivate and encourage growth in your county 4-H program! Coffee shop and Fast Lane – Fun Alternatives will be held Friday night following the auction. Please be sure to share this with volunteers. Information can be found on the MSU website as well as the MVLA Facebook page.

A block of rooms is reserved for the 4-H Volunteer Conference at LaQuinta Inn & Suites - 662-270-4100. Please refer to the reserved block when making your reservation. Rooms must be reserved by **February 23, 2024.**

***Please register all participants through the Extension Intranet. Mail the registration fees along with the list of agents and volunteers registered and photo release form (last two forms of this packet) to Debby Carnathan, MVLA Treasurer, 415 Lee Horn Drive, Suite 2 Houston, MS 38851. Registration must be complete by February 23, 2024. Please make checks payable to MVLA. No Refunds on registration.**

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Box 9641 • Mississippi State, MS 39762 • Phone (662) 325-0229 • Fax (662) 325-5207

We are an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

"4-H Volunteers Growing Our Youth"

Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Annual Conference Mississippi State University Bost Extension Conference Center March 15-16, 2024

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2024

- MVLA Board Meeting & Pre-Conference Set up
- Registration at Bost Extension Conference Center (3:00 – 5:00 p.m.)
- Volunteer Reception 4:00-5:00 p.m.
- Annual Banquet – 6:00 p.m.
 - Guest Speaker
 - Award Recognition (Nomination forms due in State 4-H office by **February 23, 2024**)
 - Pinning Ceremony for new Lifetime Members of MVLA. All volunteers and Extension employees who pay a \$100 lifetime membership by **March 1, 2024** will be pinned at the Annual Banquet.
- Live Auction
- Coffee Shop and Fast Lane – Fun Alternatives

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024

- General Assembly
- Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Association Annual Business Meeting
- Officer Elections – Nomination forms are due in the State 4-H Office by **February 23, 2024**. Campaign speeches will be presented during the MVLA business meeting (**candidates must be present**). Elected officers will be announced during lunch.
- Workshop Host and Hostess Orientation
- Workshops
- New MVLA Officers will be installed
- Closing Assembly - conference evaluations, **Grand Prize drawing (must be present to win)**

AUCTIONS, GAMES, AND MVLA 4-H STORE

- Conference delegates will have an opportunity to participate in a silent auction and a live auction. Please bring quality items valued at \$25 or more for the live auction, as well as items for the silent auction. A donation request letter from the MVLA President is available. The game of Heads or Tails will also be played and the MVLA store will be open, featuring a variety of 4-H and MVLA promotional items for purchase.

DOOR PRIZES

- Counties are asked to bring at least **two** door prize items. Door prizes will be given away during general assemblies.

DRESS CODE

- Dress is casual attire during most events. Professional dress is encouraged for the Annual Banquet.

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Box 9641 • Mississippi State, MS 39762 • Phone (662) 325-0229 • Fax (662) 325-5207

We are an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

MISSISSIPPI 4-H VOLUNTEER LEADERS' ASSOCIATION

**Annual Conference
Mississippi State University
Bost Extension Conference Center
March 15-16, 2024**

Theme: "4-H Volunteers Growing Our Youth"

THURSDAY, MARCH 14 - P.M.

6:30-8:00 Pre-Conference Meeting..... LaQuinta Inn & Suites Conference Room
Pre-Conference meeting for MVLA Board Members (*Optional*)

FRIDAY, MARCH 15 - A.M.

10:15-12:00 MVLA Board Meeting/Conference Set Up.....Bost Extension Center

12:00 P.M. **LUNCH**

1:00 Registration/Reception Set-Up..... Bost Extension Conference Center
MVLA Officers and Coordinators

4:00-5:00 Registration & Reception Bost Extension Conference Center
Silent Auction Opens

BANQUET - Bost Auditorium

6:00 Call to Order.....Rose Coffey Graham, MVLA President
Pledge of Allegiance Reta Scott
4-H Pledge..... Ella McPherson
Greetings
Invocation.....

Dinner

Entertainment

Introduction of Speaker.....Rose Coffey Graham, MVLA President
Guest Speaker..... Alivia Roberts

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Box 9641 • Mississippi State, MS 39762 • Phone (662) 325-0229 • Fax (662) 325-5207

We are an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Awards Rose Coffey Graham, MVLA President
Lisha Hopper, MVLA Reporter

Announcements Rose Coffey Graham, MVLA President

Live Auction will begin immediately following the awards presentation.

8:30-9:30 Coffee Shop and Fast Lane – Fun Alternatives – Bost Building B

SATURDAY, MARCH 16 - A.M.Breakfast at your hotel (or location of your choice)

7:30-8:00 Registration Bost Extension Conference Center Auditorium

8:00-8:45 *Entertainment by Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Choir*

General Assembly Bost Theatre

Welcome/Call-to-Order Rose Coffey Graham, MVLA President

Pledge of Allegiance

4-H Pledge.....

Thought-for-the-Day

Greetings Dr. Linda Mitchell
Head MSU Extension Center for 4-H Youth

MVLA Annual Business Meeting

Call to Order Rose Coffey Graham, MVLA President

Introduction of MVLA Board Members ... Rose Coffey Graham, MVLA President

MVLA Minutes and By-law Changes.....Reta Scott, MVLA Secretary

Financial/Budget/Membership ReportDebby Carnathan, MVLA Treasurer

Introduction of CandidatesConnie Darden, President Elect

Candidates Speeches – 3 minutes..... Candidates must be present

Other Business of Importance Rose Coffey Graham, MVLA President

Door Prizes

Announcements Rose Coffey Graham, MVLA President

District Caucus’District Coordinators

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Box 9641 • Mississippi State, MS 39762 • Phone (662) 325-0229 • Fax (662) 325-5207

We are an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

- 8:45 MVLA Officer ElectionBallot box will be set up in the lobby
- 9:00-10:15 **WORKSHOPS – Session I**
- 10:15-10:30 **BREAK & EXHIBITS**Bost Extension Conference Center
- 10:30-11:45 **WORKSHOPS – Session II**
- 11:45-1:00 **LUNCH**.....Bost Extension Conference Center

County pictures will be taken during lunch

Entertainment by Mississippi 4-H Volunteer Choir

- MVLA Election Results and By-Laws..... Rose Coffey Graham, MVLA President
- Greetings
- First Time Attendance Recognition Debby Carnathan, MVLA Treasurer
- Door Prizes

1:15-2:30 **WORKSHOPS – Session III**

2:40 **Silent Auction Closes**

2:45-4:00 **WORKSHOPS – Session IV**

- 4:00 Closing Assembly..... Bost Auditorium
- Installation of MVLA Officers..... Bert Sanders, Past President

Grand prize drawing – Must be present to win!

CONFERENCE ADJOURNS

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Box 9641 • Mississippi State, MS 39762 • Phone (662) 325-0229 • Fax (662) 325-5207

We are an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

MVLA Conference Workshops 2024

Preparing 4-H'ers for STEAM Day

Dr. Mariah Morgan

In this workshop participants will learn the “ins” and “outs” of helping 4-H youth prepare for 4-H STEAM Day (June 25th).

Project Learning Tree Activities for Youth

Butch Bailey

Project Learning Tree is a collection of hands-on activities useful for youth of all ages. This workshop will empower adults to use trees and forests to teach youth using fun and active games.

All participants will receive a book of over 75 activities and plans.

Limit 25

Junior Master Gardener Volunteer

Warner Creekmore

The JMG workshop will be informative and educational. Potential volunteers will be shown lessons and activities they can use in their clubs, as well as ways they can share learning experiences with youth despite their knowledge of gardening. The workshop will be simple with basic, easy activities.

Limit 20

4-H Fun & Learn Activities – Creative Ways to Keep Youth Engaged

Regina Boykins

At a time when it often seems daunting to keep youth’s attention in a nontechnological way, there are strategies to help overcome this challenge. In this workshop, participants will identify the different ways to keep youth engaged during the different parts of the 4-H club meetings. They will also learn how to incorporate the life skill wheel in all activities that youth are involved in that may or may not include technology.

Limit 18

Fun with Fishing

Reta Scott

Participants will practice hook tying, the techniques of casting, learn the types of fish in Mississippi and use Backyard Bass to use the skills.

Limit 15

The 4-H Western Heritage Project – Shooting Sports Meets the Study of the American Frontier

Bert Sanders

The 4-H Western Heritage Project is a combination of Shooting Sports and the study of the American Frontier from 1860-1900. Members dress in authentic clothing, develop a nineteenth century persona based on historic research, and compete in a target shooting contest using period-correct firearms.

Participants will learn more about this hands-on history lesson and how they can get their 4-Hers involved.

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Box 9641 • Mississippi State, MS 39762 • Phone (662) 325-0229 • Fax (662) 325-5207

We are an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Branching Out: A Fun Educational Program to Promote 4-H Forestry

James Shannon

This is an educational program to provide 4-H Volunteers with the knowledge, skills, and resources to lead youth in Forestry projects. Youth Forestry education provides youth with an understanding of forestry principles and provides an appreciation of how forests benefit society. It also allows preparation for rewarding natural resources management careers. **Limit 20**

LifeSmarts. Learn It. Live It.

Cassandra Hainsworth

Looking for a fun, educational program that teaches youth how to function in the world as smart adult consumers? The LifeSmarts competition is a program of the National Consumers League. This is an educational opportunity for 6th-12th graders. This workshop will include an overview of LifeSmarts and provide ideas for conducting exciting practices. There will also be an interactive and competitive challenge for the participants to test their LifeSmarts. **Limit 30**

Youth Leadership

Michelle Petrowski Russell

Participants will learn more about the roles and responsibilities of 4-H Youth Ambassadors and Council Officers.

4-H Cloverbud Fun & Growing Your Resources

Connie Darden

Do you want to grow your Cloverbuds 4-H program (for 4-Hers ages 5-7)? Do you need new ideas of things to do with your Cloverbuds? If so, come to this workshop and get a wealth of resources, while completing hands-on activities to take home as examples!

Beat Exhibit Day Blues – Fun, Cheap Items For You and Your 4-H'ers to Make With Recycled Items

Lisha Hopper

Looking for fun, cheap, easy ways to engage your 4-H'ers in hands-on activities that can also be used for Exhibit Day? Want to find ways to recycle items normally thrown away? Want to have fun working with your hands and showing off what you made? It's all here! Participants will make a succulent planter with the succulent included. Time permitting, they will also make a craft using fairy lights plus a surprise item. All supplies, instructions, and examples of other crafts done by recycling easily found items will be provided, but feel free to bring your own clean, empty can and empty, but interesting jar (with lid) to add to the fun. Join us as we beat the Exhibit Day Blues and Save the World!

4-H Cooking on Grill Workshop

Lionel Hinds

This workshop will cover the rules/regulation of the 4-H Cooking on the Grill Contest. This workshop will consist of how to pre-clean grill racks using various cleaning techniques, how to safely light a portable/table top grill, identify some of the dangers of leaving out unrefrigerated foods during cook-outs, and how to plate food for competition. **Limit 10**

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Box 9641 • Mississippi State, MS 39762 • Phone (662) 325-0229 • Fax (662) 325-5207

We are an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Growing Your Photography Skills

Connie Darden

Do you want to learn how to improve your photographs? Are your photographs just stored on your electronic devices and not seen? Do you want to give meaningful gifts? If you answered yes, this workshop is for you! Bring **20 photos** with you to make 4 items to take home with you! You will get ideas for many more items!

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Box 9641 • Mississippi State, MS 39762 • Phone (662) 325-0229 • Fax (662) 325-5207

We are an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

2024 MVLA Conference Workshops

WORKSHOP SELECTION FORM – *Please use for the Online Registration*

Name: _____ County: _____

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS - CHOOSE ONE WORKSHOP IN EACH TIME SLOT

Session I – 9:00 –10:15 a.m.

- _____ Junior Master Gardener Volunteer
- _____ Preparing 4-H'ers for STEAM Day
- _____ The 4-H Western Heritage Project

Session II – 10:30 -11:45 a.m.

- _____ Project Learning Tree Activities for Youth
- _____ 4-H Fun & Learn Activities – Creative Ways to Keep Youth Engaged
- _____ Fun With Fishing

Session III – 1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

- _____ Branching Out: A Fun Education Program to Promote 4-H Forestry
- _____ LifeSmarts. Learn It. Live It.
- _____ Leadership
- _____ 4-H Cloverbud Fun & Growing Your Resources

Session IV – 2:45 – 4:00 p.m.

- _____ Beat Exhibit Day Blues—Fun, Cheap Items For You and Your 4-H'ers To Make With Recycled Items
- _____ 4-H Cooking on Grill Workshop
- _____ Growing Your Photography Skills

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Box 9641 • Mississippi State, MS 39762 • Phone (662) 325-0229 • Fax (662) 325-5207

We are an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

REGISTRATION FORM – To be used for online registration

MISSISSIPPI 4-H VOLUNTEER LEADERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

March 15-16, 2024

Mississippi State University, Starkville

*This form is to be used by the Extension Agent to register participants on-line. The deadline for on-line registration is **FEBRUARY 23, 2024**.*

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ County: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Full MVLA Conference registration **\$125.00** _____

Full MVLA Conference registration for First Timers only **\$ 80.00** _____
(Banquet meal, breaks, lunch, t-shirt & annual membership)

Full Conference registration for MVLA Lifetime members **\$115.00** _____

Friday Banquet – ONLY **\$ 30.00** _____

Saturday registration – ONLY **\$ 95.00** _____

Saturday registration – ONLY for First Timers Only **\$ 50.00** _____
(Lunch, breaks, t-shirt & MVLA annual membership)

MVLA Lifetime Membership ONLY **\$100.00** _____

Conference T-shirt (S M L XL XXL XXXL XXXXL) **Choose Size** Size _____

Late fee for registration after February 23, 2024 **\$ 10.00** *(T-shirt size not guaranteed)* _____

Is this your first time to attend the MVLA conference? _____ **Yes** _____ **No**

Are you currently a registered Mississippi 4-H Volunteer? _____ **Yes** _____ **No**

Are you a Lifetime Member of MVLA? _____ **Yes** _____ **No**

Please list any dietary restrictions: _____

All participants must be registered and have paid all registration fees to attend. This conference is for adults only (this includes all workshops). *Childcare will not be provided during the conference.*

Emergency Contact (Name & Phone #): _____

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Box 9641 • Mississippi State, MS 39762 • Phone (662) 325-0229 • Fax (662) 325-5207

We are an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

PHOTO RELEASE FORM

I hereby grant permission to Mississippi State University (MSU), Mississippi State University Extension Service (MSU-ES), or anyone authorized by MSU, to use and reproduce any and all photographs of me that have been taken during my involvement in the Mississippi Volunteer Leaders' Association Conference without compensation to me. All negatives and positives (whether digital or film), together with any prints, are owned by MSU. MSU reserves the right to crop and edit the photographs and to use these photographs in any form, including but not limited to print and electronic publications, social media, or web posting. MSU may choose not to use the photographs at all, or may choose to use the photographs at its discretion at a later date. MSU reserves the right to discontinue use of photos without notice.

I acknowledge that I am 18 years of age or older have read and understood the terms of this release.

Name (Print)

Signature

Date

Contact information:

Phone

Email

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Box 9641 • Mississippi State, MS 39762 • Phone (662) 325-0229 • Fax (662) 325-5207

We are an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

2024 MVLA Conference County Delegation

County: _____

Participant	Registration Fee	First Timer (Y or N)
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____
11. _____	_____	_____
12. _____	_____	_____
13. _____	_____	_____
14. _____	_____	_____
15. _____	_____	_____

Please submit this form with payment and mail to:

Debby Carnathan, MVLA Treasurer
415 Lee Horn Drive, Suite 2
Houston, MS 38851

Mississippi State University Extension Service

Box 9641 • Mississippi State, MS 39762 • Phone (662) 325-0229 • Fax (662) 325-5207

We are an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.