



McDowell County



Summer Discovery 2026

4-H Summer Discovery is a collection of educational workshops, field trips, and hands-on activities planned especially for McDowell County youth. This special program is designed to give youth positive learning opportunities and focus on developing life skills. Summer Discovery is made possible by dedicated 4-H volunteers and McDowell County Cooperative Extension staff.

Chad Ray, Agent
4-H youth and Development

Registration BEGINS: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 1:30 pm
NO EARLY REGISTRATION WILL BE ACCEPTED!

4-H is a non-profit organization and is open to **ALL** youth ages 5-18 in McDowell County. All fees are for educational supplies, admission fees, limited insurance, refreshments, and transportation. Limited insurance will be provided for all participants for \$1.00 (this insurance is required). Registration form and 4-H Online enrollment must be completed in its entirety by parent or legal guardian prior to registering the participant. Registration will not be accepted if forms and 4-H Online are incomplete.

If your child has any special needs, contact the 4-H Agent prior to registration. Every effort will be made to accommodate special needs if adequate notification is given.

Prepayment is required to reserve a space.

No registration will be accepted by telephone.

Make your checks payable to **McDowell County 4-H** and use only one form per child.

Activities are filled on a first-come, first serve basis.

water will be provided at all workshops

Attention Parents:
Spaces are limited to youth only.

Questions Attention Parents ????

For more information about 4-H Summer Discovery or the 4-H program in McDowell County, call Chad Ray @ (828) 652-8104, Monday – Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

No Debit or Credit Cards Accepted

**Make check or money order payable to: McDowell County 4-H and mail or bring to:
McDowell County 4-H
NC Cooperative Extension
60 East Court Street
Marion. NC 28752**

To enroll in 4-H Summer Discovery, you must be enrolled in 4-H Online. If you have never enrolled, please go to <https://nc.4honline.com> and set up a profile. If you have questions or need assistance in completing the enrollment, please contact Chad Ray or Heather Peek at 828-652-8104.



Canning Fruit Jam

June 18, 2026

1:00pm - 4:00pm

Ages 10-18

Cost: \$5.00

Class limit 10

Fruits are a fun food for kids to use to learn how to preserve. Join us as we make a jam from in-season fruit. Come learn how to can jam with safety in mind when using a water bath canner. The class is open to 10 year olds and older. We will have all the supplies so just bring your preserving questions.

This class will meet in the Cooperative Extension Conference Room!

Fun With Frosting - Cake Decorating 101

June 23, 2026

1:00pm – 4:30pm

Ages 10-18

Cost: \$5.00

Class Limit 10

Join Miss Janet and Miss Skyler in the kitchen and learn how to pipe, swirl and make rosettes. Participants will make buttercream icing from scratch, and never want another tub of store bought icing again!

This class will meet in the Cooperative Extension Conference Room!

Pizza! Pizza!

June 25, 2026

1:00pm – 4:30pm

Ages: 10-18

Cost: \$5.00

Class Limit 10

Join Miss Janet and Miss Skyler in the kitchen to make homemade focaccia bread pizzas - no delivery required!!

Participants will learn how to make fresh dough AND homemade pizza sauce. You will "knead" to come hungry to try your pizza creation!

This class will meet in the Cooperative Extension Conference Room!

NASCAR Hall of Fame

June 30, 2026

8:30am – 4:00pm

Ages 8-18

Cost: \$35.00

Class limit 12

Join us as we travel to Charlotte, North Carolina to tour the NASCAR Hall of Fame. Participants will get to tour the facility, race a simulator and even change tires on a race car!

What to bring: Bagged lunch

Cataloochee

July 8, 2026

8:30am – 3:00pm

Ages 8-18

Cost: \$10.00

Class Limit 12

We will travel to the historic Cataloochee settlement in Haywood County. We will see how this community thrived in the early 1900's. We will visit historic structures and hike around the area. Fingers crossed we might even see Elk!!!

What to bring: Comfortable walking shoes and lunch

Gem Mining / Tom's Creek Falls Hike

July 14, 2026

9:00am – 2:00pm

Ages: 5-12

Class Limit 22

Cost \$15.00

We will trek up the mountain to Gem Mountain in Spruce Pine. Participants will have the chance to gem mine and find all kinds of precious stones that are native to Western North Carolina.

After a picnic lunch we will spend the afternoon hiking to the beautiful Tom's Creek Falls right here in McDowell County. This is a great hike that isn't too strenuous.

What to bring: Please wear comfortable walking/hiking shoes, a water bottle and bagged lunch.

Fish On!

July 16, 2026 8:30 am - 2:00 pm
Ages: 8-18
Class Limit 12 **Cost: \$5.00**

Who wants to go fishing? Participants will get to try their hand at fishing.. This is an entertaining fun filled day. Participants will go with Molly Sandfoss, aka Fish Momma, to see who will catch the biggest or the most. This is a great trip for both experienced anglers and first timers. **If you are 18 or older you must have a valid North Carolina fishing license to fish!!!**

*What to bring: Bag lunch, rods, reel, tackle (hooks, sinkers, and bobbers), stringer, and cooler so you can take your catch home. ***Closed face reels are much easier for youth to use. 4-H will provide bait.*

Natural Tunnel State Park in Duffield, Virginia

July 28, 2026 8:30am – 5:00pm
Ages 8-18 **Cost: \$20.00**
Class limit 12

Join us as we head up the mountain to Virginia. Natural Tunnel State Park is an awesome park that we will explore. Participants will get to take a chair lift down to the tunnel and learn how nature cut a hole in a mountain. We will also get a guided tour to go through the tunnel that most do not get to do.

What to bring: closed toe shoes, bagged lunch.

Kerr Scott Dam Fishing

July 29, 2026 8:30am - 5:00pm
Ages 10-18 **Cost: \$10.00**
Class Limit 12

We will travel to W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir in Wilkes County. Participants will get to meet with park rangers for a nice educational workshop. Then we will have the chance to fish in the lake and even go swimming.

What to bring: Fishing pole, swim clothes and towel, bagged lunch.

Linville Falls/Linville Caverns

August 3, 2026

9:00am – 2:00pm

Ages 5-12

Cost: \$10.00

Class limit 20

Join us as we explore under a mountain right here in McDowell County. We will learn about how the caverns were formed and discovered. Afterwards we will drive up the mountain and have a picnic lunch at Linville Falls and then hike to the falls.

What to bring: Comfortable shoes, water bottle and a bagged lunch

Carowinds

August 5, 2026

8:30am – 7:00pm

Ages 13-18

Cost: \$45.00

Class limit 12

Come join us as we travel to Carowinds Theme Park in Charlotte, North Carolina. This will be an exciting trip. They have roller coasters, water parks and great shows. This is an all day event and we will stop for dinner on the way home.

What to bring: Change of clothes for water park, bagged lunch and money for fast food dinner on way home

Carolina Hemlocks

August 11, 2026

9:00am – 3:00pm

Ages: 9-18

Class Limit 12

Cost \$15.00

We will go to Carolina Hemlocks in Yancey County. Participants will get to float down the river, swim and take a hike.

What to bring: Towel, water shoes, comfortable walking shoes, a life jacket if needed and a bagged lunch!

Orchard at Altapass

August 12, 2026

Ages 5-12

Class Limit 20

9:00am – 2:00pm

Cost: \$15.00

Join us as we travel up the mountain to the Orchard at Altapass. 4-Hers will get to tour the historic orchard by wagon and then have a great staff led educational program. We will then stop by the Mineral Museum in Spruce Pine.

What to bring: bagged lunch



All workshops will begin and end in the parking lot behind the former EMS station located on South Garden Street. Unless otherwise stated.
(Look for the Big Red Van)

4-H Summer Discovery Registration Form

Child's Name _____ Age _____

Date of Birth _____ Male _____ Female _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Parent's/Guardian's Name _____

Daytime Phone (required) _____ Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

T-Shirt Size _____ (if applicable)

I WANT TO ENROLL IN THE FOLLOWING SUMMER PROGRAMS:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Canning Fruit Jam</i>	<i>June 18</i>	<i>\$5.00</i>	
<i>Fun with Frosting-Cake Decorating</i>	<i>June 23</i>	<i>\$5.00</i>	
<i>Pizza! Pizza!</i>	<i>June 25</i>	<i>\$5.00</i>	
<i>NASCAR Hall of Fame</i>	<i>June 30</i>	<i>\$35.00</i>	
<i>Cataloochee</i>	<i>July 8</i>	<i>\$10.00</i>	
<i>Gem Mining/Tom's Creek Falls Hike</i>	<i>July 14</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>	
<i>Fish On!</i>	<i>July 16</i>	<i>\$5.00</i>	
<i>Natural Tunnel State Park</i>	<i>July 28</i>	<i>\$20.00</i>	
<i>Kerr Scott Dam Fishing</i>	<i>July 29</i>	<i>\$10.00</i>	

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Linville Falls/Linville Caverns</i>	<i>August 3</i>	<i>\$10.00</i>	
<i>Carowinds</i>	<i>August 5</i>	<i>\$45.00</i>	
<i>Carolina Hemlocks</i>	<i>August 11</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>	
<i>Orchard at Altapass</i>	<i>August 12</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>	
<i>Insurance Cost (One Time Fee)</i>		<i>\$1.00</i>	<i>\$1.00</i>
<i>T-Shirt</i>	<i>FREE</i> w/ 4 or more activities	<i>\$10.00</i>	
<i>Total</i>			

NC Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity provider.