



NEXTGEN YOUTH EVENT 2026

NEXTGEN YOUTH VENDOR MARKET RETURNS TO INSPIRE CAROLINE COUNTY'S YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

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The Caroline County Chamber of Commerce proudly hosted the return of the NextGen Youth Vendor Market on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at the Caroline County 4-H Park. From 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, the park was buzzing with excitement as young entrepreneurs ages 5–18 showcased their creativity, skills, and business ideas to the community.

This year's event featured 23 individual youth vendors and youth-led groups, each bringing something unique to the marketplace—from handcrafted goods and custom accessories to artwork, services, and innovative product ideas. Families, friends, and community members explored tables filled with talent and originality, celebrating the entrepreneurial spirit flourishing among Caroline County's youth.

The NextGen Youth Vendor Market is more than just a shopping experience. It's an opportunity for young people to learn real-world skills such as customer engagement, marketing, pricing, budgeting, and presentation. It also offers a supportive environment where their confidence and passions can grow. We are honored to once again partner with the University of Maryland Extension Continued...



Caroline County 4-H to make this inspiring youth-centered experience possible. Their commitment to youth development, leadership, and community learning continues to strengthen this event year after year.

Admission was free, and the memories made were priceless. Thank you to every student entrepreneur, family, volunteer, and supporter who helped make this year's NextGen Youth Vendor Market a success. Together, we are lifting up the next generation of leaders, dreamers, and doers.

INTRODUCING: NEXTGEN YOUTH CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP

We are excited to launch the NextGen Youth Chamber Membership, a brand-new opportunity designed to support and inspire young leaders across Caroline County. Open to youth ages 5–18, this membership invites our youngest entrepreneurs, creators, innovators, and community-minded students to become a part of the Chamber family.

For just \$25 per student, members will receive full Chamber benefits, access to programs like the NextGen Youth Vendor Market, mentorship opportunities, and the chance to connect with local business leaders. This initiative reflects our commitment to fostering leadership, confidence, and entrepreneurial thinking in the next generation. Together, we're opening the door for young people to learn, grow, and shine as future business and community leaders of Caroline County.