



# 4-H Family News

Dec 2023

Kalamazoo County



Wishing Everyone a  
Safe And Happy Holiday!



We are looking forward to seeing you all at the **All-Species meeting** at the Expo Center on **January 24<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30pm**. This is for youth showing any livestock, but anyone is welcome to attend. Youth will rotate between educational stations, will have the opportunity to ask questions and maybe win some prizes!  
Please reach out to your species superintendent if you have any questions.

## CONTACT US

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Suite 306  
Kalamazoo, MI. 49007

## County Office Phone & Email:

269-383-8830  
[msue.kalamazoo@campusad.msu.edu](mailto:msue.kalamazoo@campusad.msu.edu)

## WEBSITE:

<http://canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo4H>

### Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/Kalamazoo-County-4-H-Youth-Program-122047197873078>

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There will be 4 YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) in 2024. This is a requirement for all youth bringing livestock to the Kalamazoo County Youth Fair and Family Festival in 2024. There are two options, one of 4 face-to-face sessions or an online session. The face-to-face sessions will be a minimum of 1 hour and the cost is \$3.00 per youth. The face-to-face version is meant to include all youth 8 years old – 18 years old. The online version is \$12.00 but the curriculum is age specific. This certification is good for one year.

The face-to-face sessions will be held starting at 6:30PM on the following dates:

January 4, 2024  
February 6, 2024  
March 13, 2024  
May 15, 2024

**Youth who would like to take the face-to-face session will need to do the following:**

- Parents will need to create a family profile on <https://yqcaprogram.org/>
- Parents will need to add each child (if they are not already added) and chose the face-to-face training option.
- Pay the \$3.00 registration fee.
- Youth will need to complete the pre-test.
- Once the youth has taken the face-to-face session, staff will mark your session as complete.
- Youth will log back in and take the post test (found under the child's name and a drop down that says Enrolled ILT trainings).
- Once the post test is complete the youth's certificate will be sent.

**Youth who would like to take the online session will need to do the following:**

- Parents will need to create a family profile on <https://yqcaprogram.org/>
- Parents will need to add each child (if they are not already added) and chose the online training session.
- Pay the \$12.00 registration fee.
- Youth will then need to complete the course.

Once the youth have completed either the online session or the face-to-face session and receive their certificate, they will need to email it to [msue.kalamazoo@msu.edu](mailto:msue.kalamazoo@msu.edu) by **June 1, 2024**.

You can find helpful registration videos and documents at [https://yqcaprogram.org/local/resources\\_for\\_youth\\_parents.php](https://yqcaprogram.org/local/resources_for_youth_parents.php).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZHW2qtMIOc>



## Poultry Project News

December is the month to start planning the poultry projects that you would like to raise for Fair 2024. The next Poultry Project meeting will be on Thursday, Jan. 18th, 2024 at 7pm in room B of the Expo Center. We will welcome our new superintendent, Cherie Gilfillan, and pass out order forms for market poultts and chicks along with some FUN poultry activities.

Remember that there is a 3-meeting attendance requirement for the poultry project to be able to show at the fair.

We have meetings on the calendar for

- Jan.18
- March 21
- May 16
- June 20
- July 18.



Attending other poultry related events such as poultry shows and clinics can also count towards attendance.

And don't delay enrolling/re-enrolling in 4-H using 4-H OnLine.

### Remember:

Your clubs Bank Statements, Treasurers Reports and Meeting Minutes need to be turned in to the 4-H office every month.

If you do not meet every month, please make sure we have your schedule so we can note the months to exclude.




## It's a Balancing Act...

Youth today can have a lot going on including work, school, a social life, family, extracurricular activities, and self-care. This interactive, self-paced, online class will share information on how to find balance in life with competing options and obligations. Learn about ways to stay organized and manage your time, the importance of building a supportive social network, options for working as a student, avoiding burnout, and getting academic support and enrichment to round out your education. With opportunities to reflect and apply in your own life, you will leave with tips to find balance in your Wheel of Life! Add this course to your To-Do list and complete at your own pace. Find out more and take the free virtual class at:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/courses/balancingact>

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

# DAILY TO-DO LIST



TAKE BALANCING ACT COURSE	<input type="checkbox"/>
GO TO CLASSES	<input type="checkbox"/>
WORK A SHIFT	<input type="checkbox"/>
HANGOUT W/ FRIENDS	<input type="checkbox"/>
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Struggling to balance it all? Need tips on how to organize and prioritize to achieve success?**  
Add the self-guided, interactive “Balancing Act” class to your to-do list! Dive into tips and tricks created by college students on how to find balance in life with competing options and obligations.



## ***Seniors –***

as you are preparing for graduation, it is also time for you to think about secondary education and time to complete scholarship applications. The Kalamazoo County 4-H Leaders Council is offering scholarships to high school seniors entering college or advanced education (trade school).

The applications are due to the 4-H office no later than  
4:30 PM on February 1, 2024.

There are also scholarships available through a variety of other sources and have a variety of deadlines. You can find some of those opportunities on our website at

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo\\_county\\_4\\_h\\_1/4-h-member-resources-forms](https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/4-h-member-resources-forms)

**Want to hear about upcoming events and  
programs from**

**MSU Extension?**

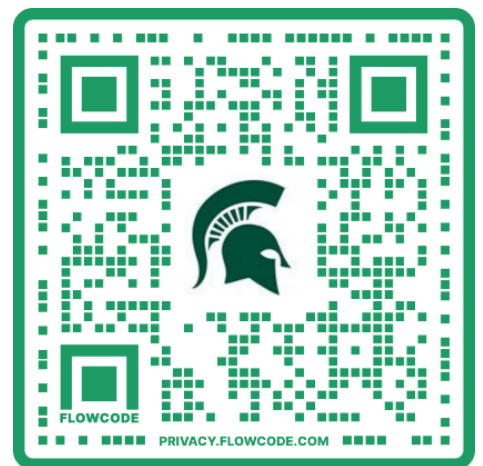
***It's Easy!***

**Use the QR code below and sign up for  
our Monthly Newsletter!**

**Or go to**

**<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/SoKxe0p>**

**And Sign Up!**





# TACK SALE

**SPONSORED BY KALAMAZOO COUNTY 4-H HORSE LEADERS  
MONDAY MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 5:00-9:00PM**

Location: Kalamazoo County Expo and Fairgrounds, 2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, MI  
 \*\*\*40,000 SQUARE FEET full of items for everyone  
 \*\*\*Food Concessions and Dining Areas  
 \$2.00 per person admission donation for all attendees, including vendors  
 Children 5 and under FREE. **RESERVE EARLY! Spaces fill up fast**

**CUBES** 8ft wide X 8ft deep, includes a table that you are welcome to remove for your display.  
 (May be along an exterior wall or in the main section) Cube set up **ONLY** begins at 2pm  
 (Each person entering pays \$2 admission)

**INTERIOR SPACES** 8 ft. wide by table depth of 2 feet. Interior set up begins at 3:30pm  
 (Each person entering pays \$2 admission)

Email inquiries to [kalamazoo4horse@yahoo.com](mailto:kalamazoo4horse@yahoo.com)

No spaces held without payment in full prior to tack sale. Sorry, no refunds.

MAIL BOTTOM PORTION OF FORM BY March 4, 2024 for discounted rates

**Kalamazoo 4-H Tack Sale Registration form**

Individual/Vendor/Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ CK# \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

#Cubes (8' x8') \_\_\_\_\_ x\$35= \_\_\_\_\_ total (\$40 after 3/4/2024)

#Interior spaces (8'X2') \_\_\_\_\_ x\$20= \_\_\_\_\_ total (\$25 after 3/4/2024)

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail the bottom portion of this form with check payable to:  
 Kalamazoo County 4-H Horse Leaders Council  
 % Christina Chase, 7095 N. 32<sup>nd</sup> street, Richland, MI 49083

\*\*\*Our apologies we are unable to accept any form of electronic payment\*\*\*





## Why do YOU love 4-H?

4-H members can be our best advertisers by helping spread the word in a short video highlighting **“Why You Should Join 4-H!”**

Be a 4-H changemaker by using your voice and sharing your story of 4-H. Chance to win prizes for 4-H youth 9-19 as they explore video creation and editing. Learn more about this opportunity here:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-clovers-code/contest/>

Deadline to register and submit videos is January 31, 2024. The 4-H Creative Campaign Contest is sponsored with a grant from the Michigan 4-H Foundation.

A total of six prizes will be awarded to the top videos judged by professionals.

**There will be two age brackets with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prize winnings in each bracket:**

- 4-H Ages 9-13 (as of January 1, 2024)
- 4-H Ages 14-19 (as of January 1, 2024)

**1st place prize is a \$100 Amazon gift card**  
**2nd place prize is a \$75 Amazon gift card**  
**3rd place prize is a \$50 Amazon gift card**

Need more information: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-clovers-code/contest>

### Contest Rules

- Contest open to all active Michigan 4-H youth 9-19. Not in 4-H, learn how to [join 4-H here](#).
- Register for the contest at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HCampaignContest/>. Must register to be eligible for prizes.
- Check out [Tips for Video Submissions](#) for ideas and [Video Creation Resources](#) for tools to create your video.
- Create a video lasting **1 minute or less** about “Why You Should Join 4-H!”
- Before uploading your video, name your video with your first and last name
- Upload your video here: <https://bit.ly/4-Hcreativecontest>
- Deadline to submit your video and to register is January 31, 2024
- Winners will be notified the week of March 4th through email used during registration. Any change in email must be provided directly to contest coordinators to receive their prize.





# Kalamazoo Teen Leaders Club

Kzoo TLC is an opportunity for Kalamazoo youth to elevate their leadership, time management, communication, and civic engagement skills. Once part of the club, members will help organize and fun events & community service opportunities for the county of Kalamazoo.

Follow the link below to sign up!

# WE WANT YOU!



**Michigan State University Extension**  
is recruiting **TEEN LEADERS**  
for the 2024 program year.

**Increase your Professional & Networking Skills**  
<https://forms.gle/E4ubDW9spuv3vywv7>







## This month's Wild Spartans:

Join us on Tuesday, December 12th, 2023 at 6:30pm EST for **“Casting for a Career in Coldwater Conservation.”** You will meet the Great Lakes Engagement Coordinator for Trout Unlimited, Jamie Vaughan, learn about her field work, and the education and career path she followed to get there.

Youth will be encouraged to ask questions to learn more through a live Q&A. This free series is open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 12-19 years. Monthly sessions will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm EST.

Pre-registration is required: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-2023-2024dec>



Join Us Online

# WILD SPARTANS

SCIENCE \* RESEARCH \* CAREERS \* CONSERVATION

CASTING FOR A CAREER IN COLDWATER CONSERVATION

WITH JAMIE VAUGHAN  
GREAT LAKES ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR, TROUT UNLIMITED

December 12 | 6:30 PM EST

Registration required:  
<https://events.anr.msu.edu/wildspartans20232024/>



## 2024 4-H International Exchange Host Family Applications Open!

**What:** 2024 Inbound Host Family Applications have opened!

**Increase:** Due to the popularity of this exchange here in Michigan we have been approved to increase from only 13 participants this past year to 20 in 2024

**When:** Arrival (tentative) in Grand Rapids from July 21<sup>st</sup> to August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**How:** A host family completes the States' 4-H International Exchange Programs online application and has a youth to match as a host brother/sister (be within 3 years of age of incoming delegate), be Michigan 4-H adult Gold Volunteers, participate in an interview and home visit process.

**Applications to host:** found at [www.states4hexchange.org](http://www.states4hexchange.org)

**Questions:** contact Jan Brinn [brinn@msu.edu](mailto:brinn@msu.edu) or Co-Coordinator John Wurm [wurmj@msu.edu](mailto:wurmj@msu.edu).

**Other Resources:**

- 1) [Michigan 4-H International Exchange Programs Facebook page](#)
- 2) [States' 4-H International Exchange Programs Facebook page](#)
- 3) [States' 4-H International Exchange Programs website](#) or email: [exchange@states4h.org](mailto:exchange@states4h.org)

Thank you very much to all our families who annually open their homes to create 4-H international experiences across the globe.



**LABO Michigan Delegation 2023**





# States' 4-H International Exchange Programs 2024 OUTBOUND PROGRAMS

Costa Rica · Japan · Korea · Norway · Taiwan · Argentina



Costa Rica



Japan



Norway



South Korea



Argentina



Taiwan

Are you curious about daily life, culture, and youth programs in other countries?  
Travel abroad with States' 4-H and enter a world that most visitors rarely get to see.

### Program Details:

States' 4-H Summer Outbound programs provide American 4-H youth with the opportunity to travel to foreign countries for a month-long cultural immersion experience. Delegates live with volunteer host families\* and engage in experiential learning about a new way of life. Delegates experience aspects of daily life that allow them to more deeply understand both their host culture and their own culture. Our network of like-minded international partners recruit host families and plan enrichment activities.

*\*Exception: Argentina uses group accommodations on program*

### 2024 Travel Dates\*

Japan 8-week:	June 12—August 9, 2024
Costa Rica:	June 20—July 19, 2024
Argentina:	June 20—July 15, 2024
Norway:	June 20—July 20, 2022
Japan 4-week:	July 10—August 9, 2024
South Korea:	July 16—August 15, 2024
Taiwan:	July 16—August 15, 2024

*\*Program dates subject to slight change or modification*

### Eligibility:

4-H ages 12—18 for Japan 4-Week & Taiwan, 12—17 for Korea, and 15—18 for Costa Rica, Norway, Argentina, and Japan 8-Week

### Program Information:

- Adult chaperones accompany the group during international travel and remain in-country to provide support.
- States' 4-H provides Program Handbooks that cover everything from packing lists to financial matters to cultural information.
- States' 4-H conducts group conference calls and a National Departure Orientation prior to international travel.
- No prior language study is required, but it certainly is helpful! Our international partners have English-speaking staff on hand to assist you in communication.

### Application Deadline & Program Fees:

Contact your 4-H State Coordinator for deadlines and to apply. Please note that program details are subject to change.

### For more information:

[www.states4hexchange.org](http://www.states4hexchange.org)

[QB@states4h.org](mailto:QB@states4h.org)

(206) 462-2200



<https://www.facebook.com/states4hexchange/>

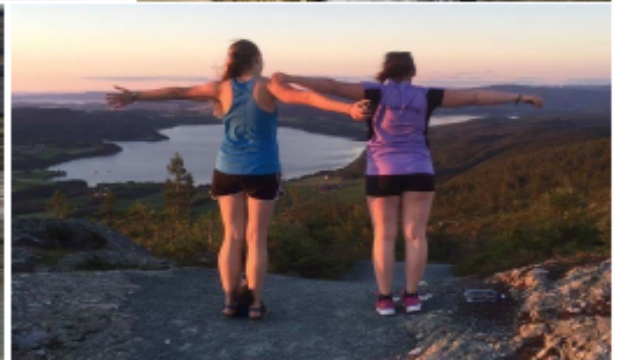
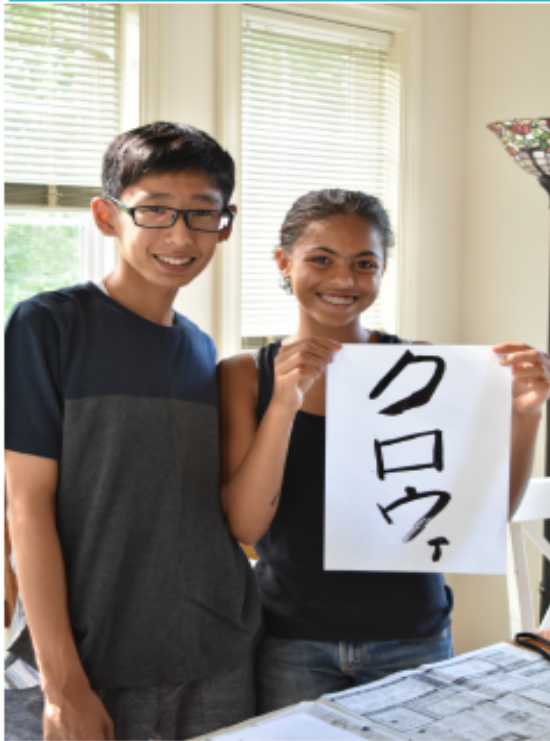


[@states4hinternational](https://www.instagram.com/states4hinternational)



## 2024 OUTBOUND PROGRAMS

States' 4-H International's mission is to enhance world understanding and global citizenship; one way to move towards that goal is through living with a local host family and immersing oneself in another culture.



### Program Fees Include:

Welcome packet; overnight national departure orientation; arrival orientation in host country; portion of chaperone fee; Accident & Sickness Medical Insurance; in-country transportation, lodging, and meals while on-program; country-specific activities as determined by international partner organizations; overnight national departure debriefing upon return.

### Program Policies:

- Program Cancellations:
  - \* No refund of paid deposits, unless full program cancelled by States' 4-H
- Airfare is non-refundable once issued
- In-State Fees may apply
- Unaccompanied Minor fees may apply (up to \$150 each way)
- Program details subject to change

### FAQs:

**Q: Will a chaperone accompany the group?**

**A: Yes!** Adult chaperones accompany the group during international travel and remain in-country to provide support during the exchange.

**Q: Do I need to speak another language?**

**A: No** prior language study is required, but it is certainly helpful! Our international partners have English-speaking staff on hand to assist you in communication.

**Q: How will States' 4-H prepare me for my homestay?**

**A: States' 4-H** provides travel handbooks that cover everything from packing lists to financial matters to cultural information. In addition, each state may conduct a spring orientation covering these topics. Delegates also receive details during the States' 4-H group conference call in late spring and a National Departure Orientation the day before the international flight.





## Michigan 4-H Youth Code of Conduct



The opportunity to participate in or attend 4-H activities is a privilege. All 4-H participants – youth, families, volunteers, and Extension staff who participate in or attend any activity or event sponsored by the Michigan State University Extension 4-H Youth Development Program are expected to uphold the values of the Michigan 4-H program.

All 4-H youth participants must conduct themselves according to the following standards that apply to all Michigan 4-H programs, including virtual programs, and interactions such as social media and internet engagement:

- 1. Create a Welcoming Environment for All.** Encourage everyone to fully participate in 4-H. Recognize that all people have skills and talents that can help others and improve the community. Though we will not always agree, we must disagree respectfully. When we disagree, try to understand why. Our first priority is to create a safe, inclusive space for learning, sharing and collaboration that is welcoming to people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives. Diversity includes, but is not limited to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.
- 2. Bring Your Best Self.** Conduct yourself in a manner that reflects honesty, integrity, self-control, and self-direction. Accept the results and outcomes of 4-H activities and programs with grace and empathy for other participants. Accept the final opinions of judges and evaluators. Be open to new ideas, suggestions, and opinions of others.
- 3. Obey the Law.** Obey the laws of the locality, state and nation and Michigan State University and Extension policies and guidelines. Commit no illegal acts. Do not possess, offer to others, or use alcohol, illegal drugs, marijuana, or tobacco products, which include e-pens, e-pipes, e-hookah, e-cigars, JUULs, vapes, vape pens or other electronic nicotine delivery systems. Do not attend 4-H activities under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances. Do not possess or use weapons or firearms except as expressly permitted as part of supervised 4-H shooting sports programming. This includes dangerous or unauthorized materials such as explosives or similar items.
- 4. Honor Diversity – Yours and Others'.** Respect and uphold the rights and dignity of all persons with whom you interact as part of Michigan 4-H.
- 5. Create a Safe Environment.** Be kind and compassionate toward others. Be considerate and courteous of all persons and their property. Do not carelessly or intentionally harm or intimidate anyone in any way (verbally, mentally, physically, or emotionally). Do not insult, harass, or bully others or engage in other hostile behaviors, including sexual harassment, sexual assault or sexual abuse. Abstain from sexual behavior and intimate physical/sexual contact in either public or private situations at an MSU Extension youth 4-H activity or event.
- 6. Be a Team Player.** Work cooperatively with all individuals involved in 4-H programs and activities. Be responsive to the reasonable requests of the person in charge such as volunteers and staff. Respect the integrity of the group and the group's decisions.
- 7. Humane Treatment of Animals.** Treat animals humanely and provide appropriate animal care.
- 8. Participate Fully.** Participate in and contribute to planned programs, be on time and follow through on assigned tasks/responsibilities in a manner that fosters the safety, well-being, and quality of the educational experience for self and others.

**Have fun!**





## MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Dear Friends :

MSU Extension is committed to serving communities, individuals, and businesses alike in every one of Michigan's 83 counties, where our dedicated staff provide people with educational programs and essential tools for their personal and professional growth. But we can't do that without hearing directly from the communities and people we serve.

Starting in November, MSU Extension is holding a series of public listening sessions across the state. There will be a session in Kalamazoo Dec 18th from 4-6:30 pm at the Delta Hotels Kalamazoo Conference Center, 2747 South 11th Street, Kalamazoo, MI, 49009. Through these sessions, we hope to gather input to determine where the organization is, what we do well, and where there are opportunities for improvement. This input will be used to help shape MSU Extension's priorities and service for years to come.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend – youth, parents, community and statewide partners, all MSU Extension-affiliated faculty and staff, and curious community members. Whether you've used MSU Extension services for years or not at all, you can play a part in helping shape the services and offerings in your community in the future. The outcome of this work will be a co-developed vision to guide MSU Extension's work in the future.

Each listening session will begin with a welcome from MSU Extension leadership and staff. Then, participants will be divided into two groups – external participants and partners will gather in one room, and MSU Extension faculty and staff will gather in another.

In each of these rooms, participants will be invited to anonymously share their perspectives and insights through a series of facilitated activities. Finally, common themes heard from participants will be identified and reflected to the entire group for each activity. If time allows, participants may be able to give additional input. Light refreshments will be provided.

Please [register](#) to participate in a listening session and indicate any accommodation needs (<https://events.anr.msu.edu/listeningseries>). Pre-registration is highly encouraged. Walk-in registrations may be limited due to facility capacity.

If you have any questions about registration, please contact Kathy Walicki at [walicki@msu.edu](mailto:walicki@msu.edu) or 231-873-2129 or Marie Garcia at [garci434@msu.edu](mailto:garci434@msu.edu) or 517-353-9464.

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Michigan State University,  
U.S. Department of  
Agriculture and counties  
cooperating.



# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Shop the Michigan 4-H store this holiday season



Buy your favorite Michigan 4-H apparel, drinkware, and essentials at the SHOP 4-H Online Store!

Offered in collaboration with National 4-H Council through Shop 4-H, the Michigan 4-H store offers Michigan 4-H branded apparel and other gifts. Visit the store online and find the perfect item for your favorite 4-H'er, volunteer, alumni, professional or fan! The shop is open to the public and a percentage of all proceeds will be donated to Michigan 4-H.

To order Michigan 4-H specific items, visit <https://bit.ly/30pdNJw>. The store will remain open beyond the holiday season to continue offering Michigan 4-H branded gear to the Michigan 4-H community.

### December 2: Oakland County Tack & Craft Sale

Springfield Oaks Activity Center, Davisburg

Come shop for one of a kind unique holiday gifts! Admission to the sale is \$1. All are welcomed to attend.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting10111-8-23](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting10111-8-23)

### December 12: Wild Spartans – Casting for a Career in Coldwater Conservation

Online

Dive into the Great Lakes and rivers to explore their coldwater residents! Meet the Great Lakes Engagement Coordinator for Trout Unlimited, Jamie Vaughan. Learn about her field work and the education and career path she followed to get there.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-2023-2024dec](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-2023-2024dec)

### MSU Extension Listening Session Series

Various locations

MSU Extension is holding a series of public listening sessions. Through these sessions, MSU Extension hopes to gather input on where the organization is, what they do well, and where there are opportunities for improvement. This feedback will be used to help shape MSU Extension's priorities and service for years to come. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend!

- **Dec. 11 - Marquette** - 4-6:30 p.m. - Northern Center, Northern Michigan University
- **Dec. 12 - Grayling** - 4-6:30 p.m. - Kirtland College Event Center
- **Dec. 13 - Frankenmuth** - 4:30-7 p.m. - Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center
- **Dec. 14 - Muskegon** - 4-6:30 p.m. - Muskegon Community College
- **Dec. 18 - Kalamazoo** - 4-6:30 p.m. – Delta Hotels Kalamazoo Conference Center

Pre-registration is highly encouraged. Walk-in registrations may be limited due to facility capacity. Register now at [events.anr.msu.edu/listeningseries](http://events.anr.msu.edu/listeningseries).

### Kettunen Center Inventory Closeout

Kettunen Center was the first 4-H volunteer and youth training center in the nation, owned and operated by the Michigan 4-H Foundation from 1961 to 2021. The center's remaining merchandise, such as sweatshirts, t-shirts, jackets, mugs and more, is now available for sale! We know the Kettunen Center meant so much to the 4-H community and this is an opportunity to purchase something by which to remember the center. Purchase yours today at <https://mi4hfdtn.org/shopkett/>.

KETTUNEN CENTER MERCHANDISE SALE

SHOP NOW





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## MSU Extension announces statewide public listening sessions

Adapted from: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/msu-extension-announces-statewide-public-listening-sessions-in-november-and-december>.

Whether it's supporting the dedicated professionals who drive the state's agriculture economy or empowering children to develop leadership skills, helping others is central to the mission of Michigan State University Extension, the community outreach arm of the university.

"Service is at the core of who we are," said Quentin Tyler, director of MSU Extension. "As we think strategically about our organization, we value input from those we serve most of all."

With that in mind, MSU Extension is holding a series of public listening sessions at various locations across the state as part of an ongoing strategic direction process. These sessions will begin in late November and continue through mid-December.

Through these sessions, the organization hopes to gather input from a diverse group of people to determine where MSU Extension is, what is working well and opportunities for improvement. This feedback will be used to help shape MSU Extension's priorities and service for years to come.

Each listening session will begin with a welcome from MSU Extension leadership and staff. Then, participants will be divided into two groups – external participants and partners will gather in one room, and MSU Extension faculty and staff will gather in another. In each of these rooms, participants will be invited to share their perspectives and insights through a series of facilitated activities. Questions will center on topics such as: emerging social, economic, and other trends that participants expect will impact them in the future; what participants know MSU Extension for; what participants believe MSU Extension does well, and what they think can be improved; and what participants envision a thriving MSU Extension would look like in the future. Common themes heard from participants will be identified and reflected to the entire group for each activity.

**Everyone** is welcome and encouraged to attend – youth, parents, community and statewide partners, all MSU Extension-affiliated faculty and staff, and curious community members. Translation and interpretation services, as well as other accommodations, may be available upon request.

### Listening Session Locations and Dates:

- **Nov. 28** - Detroit - 1-3:30 p.m. - MSU Detroit Center
- **Nov. 28** - Troy - 6-8:30 p.m. - Troy Continuing Education Building
- **Nov. 29** - East Lansing - For public attendees only, 9-11:30 a.m. - Hannah Community Center
- **Nov. 29** - East Lansing - For MSU Affiliated Staff only, 1-3:30 p.m. - MSU Campus, Conservatory
- **Dec. 11** - Marquette - 4-6:30 p.m. - Northern Center, Northern Michigan University
- **Dec. 12 - Grayling** - 4-6:30 p.m. - Kirtland College Event Center
- **Dec. 13 - Frankenmuth** - 4:30-7 p.m. - Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center
- **Dec. 14 - Muskegon** - 4-6:30 p.m. - Muskegon Community College
- **Dec. 18 - Kalamazoo** - 4-6:30 p.m. – Delta Hotels Kalamazoo Conference Center

Pre-registration is highly encouraged. Walk-in registrations may be limited due to facility capacity. Register now at [events.anr.msu.edu/listeningseries](https://events.anr.msu.edu/listeningseries). Questions? Contact Kathy Walicki at [walicki@msu.edu](mailto:walicki@msu.edu) or Marie Garcia at [garci434@msu.edu](mailto:garci434@msu.edu).

