



FEBRUARY 2024

# 4-H Family News

Wayne County



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# 2023-2024 AWARDS CEREMONY



Since its inception, Wayne County 4-H has proven to be made up of passionate, hard-working individuals: from volunteers who help to shape youths' futures, to the 4-H'ers who help lead and shape their communities. MSU Extension Wayne County is continually grateful for and wowed by the 4-H family. It's time to celebrate the accomplishments of Wayne County 4-H and showcase the many achievements and talents held by our volunteers and 4-H'ers! Join us in Spring 2024 for our annual Award and Recognition Ceremony, where we can celebrate the efforts of the Wayne County 4-H community.

Location: Wayne County Community College District  
Ted Scott Campus, 9555 Haggerty Road, Belleville,  
Michigan 48111

Date: April 13, 2024, 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM

If you have been an exceptional 4-H'er, leader, or volunteer, submit an application to be recognized and awarded for your dedication and hard work. Awards include:

Leadership and Personal Growth (youth)

Community Service (youth)

4-H Project Award (youth)

Leader of the Year (adult)

Volunteer of the Year (adult)

Visit our website to submit your application here: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/wayne/4-h/2022-23-recognition-event>. **REMINDER: AWARD APPLICATIONS ARE DUE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5.**

**Show your 4-H Club Spirit with a club display!** We are asking all clubs to show their club spirit and create a club display to be showcased before and during the event. Clubs will need to create a trifold poster board/display showcasing all the amazing things your club does and has achieved in the 2022-2023 program year. Each club will be provided a 6ft table and tablecloth (you can bring your own if desired). Club members are encouraged to display their awards, pictures, projects, club decorations, and more! Please contact Ashleigh Apel ([apelashi@msu.edu](mailto:apelashi@msu.edu)) no later than April 1, 2024 if your club plans to participate in the club display showcase. The more the merrier!!! New clubs welcomed!!!

Best club displayed will be awarded a prize. Determination will be based on a vote by event attendees.



# WAYNE COUNTY 4-H CURRENT EVENTS

## Volunteer Learning Series

Join Michigan 4-H for Engaging 4-H Youth in Animal Science Education. Animal science projects are a 4-H favorite! Join us for information about the curriculum and resources available to volunteers to engage 4-H youth in their communities in animal science education. This webinar will also include announcements about statewide 4-H animal science offerings for 2024.

Date and time: February 7, 12:00 PM or 7:00 PM

For more information and registration visit:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/volunteering/mi-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series>

## Adulting 101

Join us for our next Adulting 101 session, "Fostering Happy and Healthy Relationships"! During this one-hour virtual session explore healthy relationship models that can enhance your future and current bonds. Tips on setting boundaries, managing conflict, navigating breakups, and practicing consent will be shared by a licensed professional counselor.

Date and time: February 12, 5:00 PM

Register here:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/relationships-1>

## Michigan 4-H Spring Livestock Workshop 2024

Registration is now open for the 2024 Michigan 4-H Livestock Workshop! This one-day workshop is designed for 4-H youth ages 12-19 (as of January 1, 2024) and Active Gold MSU Extension volunteers in beef, sheep, goats, and swine project areas. Youth will learn about different aspects of their livestock projects throughout a variety of breakout sessions, including intro to your species project, animal evaluation, marketing your livestock project, reproduction, nutrition, and more! Registration will cost \$35, which includes lunch and a t-shirt.

Registration deadline: February 19

Date: March 2

Location: Anthony Hall, 474 S Shaw Lane, East Lansing, MI 48824

Full details and a link to register can be found here: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-spring-livestock-workshop-2024>

## 4-H Exploration Days Info Sessions

### 4-H EXPO DAYS INFO SESSION

Got a question about  
4-H Exploration Days?  
Join us online!

- February 23, 11 AM
- March 14, 6 PM
- April 11, 6 PM

Want to learn more about 4-H Exploration days before registering for the event? Join us for one of our virtual informational sessions to get all your questions answer!

Date and time: February 23, 11:00 AM

Register here: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/98081322075>

Date and time: March 14, 6:00 PM

Register here: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/99909688387>

Date and time: April 11, 6:00 PM

Register here: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/95599952874>



# WAYNE COUNTY 4-H CURRENT EVENTS

## Michigan 4-H State Hippology Contest

REGISTRATION  
OPEN!

MICHIGAN 4-H  
State Hippology Contest

March 16, 2024 at Michigan  
State University

The annual Michigan 4-H Hippology Contest allows youth in horse and pony projects to test their equine knowledge.

Youth aged 5-19 are eligible to participate in the Michigan 4-H State Hippology Contest. Cloverbuds, Junior and Senior divisions as well as Junior Novice and Senior Novice allow for youth to demonstrate their comprehensive equine knowledge and skills in an engaging setting.

REGISTER AT:

[HTTPS://WWW.CANR.MSU.EDU/EVENTS/MICHIGAN-4-H-HIPPOLOGY-CONTEST-2024](https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-hippology-contest-2024)

Interested in testing your Equine Knowledge? Does the idea of working in a team to solve problems thrill you? Come and compete at the Michigan 4-H State Hippology Contest!

Youth aged 5-19 are eligible to participate in the Michigan 4-H State Hippology Contest. Cloverbuds, Junior and Senior divisions as well as Junior Novice and Senior Novice allow for youth to demonstrate their comprehensive equine knowledge and skills in an engaging setting.

Find more information regarding the rules here:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/horses\\_ponies/uploads/Hippology%20Rules%202024%20as%20of%201-25-24.pdf](https://www.canr.msu.edu/horses_ponies/uploads/Hippology%20Rules%202024%20as%20of%201-25-24.pdf)

Already on a team and ready for the 2024 contest? Register here at:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-hippology-contest-2024>

Registration deadline: February 26

Date: March 16

Location: Anthony Hall, 474 S Shaw Lane, East Lansing, MI 48824

## 4-H Cash Composition Contest

Last chance to enter the 4-H Cash Composition Contest! This year's contest is open to any youth residing in Michigan, ages 9-19 years old as of Jan 1, 2024. Get started now on writing a short essay on budgeting to have a chance to win a \$100 gift card thanks to the generous sponsorship from Extra Credit Union. Three winners in each age bracket will win a gift card!

Contest details can be found here: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/money-smart-kids-contest>

Registration deadline: February 29



## 2024 Virtual Animal Science Skillathon

Looking to test your animal science knowledge? Join the 2024 Virtual Animal Science Skillathon, open to both youth and adults! This is a great way for youth looking to excel in their animal projects, set themselves apart in showmanship competitions, and excel in Master Equestrian and Master Stockman competitions. Not just for youth or those in Wayne County, the Skillathon is also amazing for adults who miss competing and want to show off their skills and knowledge they learned in 4-H!

Register for the virtual Skillathon practice here:

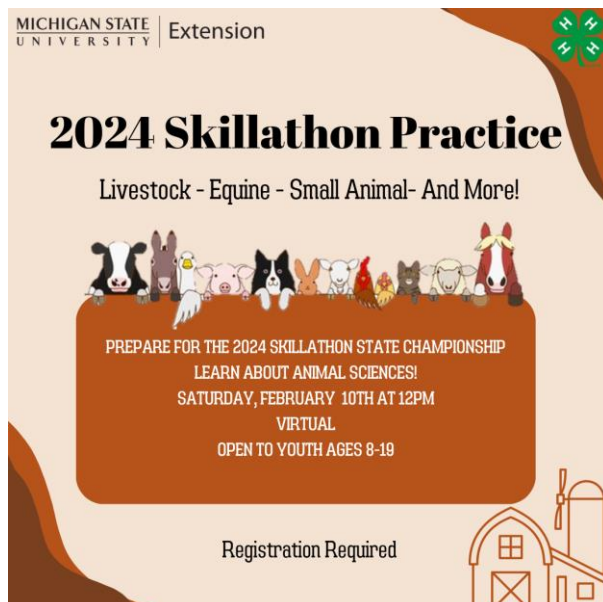
[https://msu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMtfu6grz4vGNUgw\\_Kg4Z52K0PTRi6nJU-p#/registration](https://msu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMtfu6grz4vGNUgw_Kg4Z52K0PTRi6nJU-p#/registration)

Date and time: February 10, 12:00 PM

For more information, visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/otsego/4-h/2024-Skillathon>

Registration deadline: February 29

Competition: March 6th and 9th





# WAYNE COUNTY 4-H UPCOMING EVENTS

## 4-H Capitol Experience



Join 4-H at the 4-H Capitol experience! This a three-day event in Lansing for youth in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, where youth can meet with peers to talk about issues that are important to them, network with folks that work in a wide variety of roles related to public policy and see state government in action. Youth can meet elected officials, hear from experts in policy representing a broad range of careers, hear from young people who have made a difference in their community, discuss hot topics and learn how a bill becomes a law in Michigan, and experience a hands-on legislative simulation. Cost is \$365, and includes conference registration, lodging, and meals.

Scholarships are available! Contact LaToya Jones at [cainjone@msu.edu](mailto:cainjone@msu.edu) for more information.

To learn more and register, visit: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/CapEx2024/>

Registration deadline: March 4

Date: March 17-19



Registration & Information  
[www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_capitol\\_experience/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_capitol_experience/) MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

## Michigan Youth Livestock Conference

Join Michigan Junior Livestock Society & Michigan 4-H for the 2024 Michigan Youth Livestock Conference. This event has been planned for the sole purpose of providing new opportunities to Michigan youth that are interested in or passionate about raising, exhibiting, producer, or showing livestock. Industry Leaders bringing you educational sessions on animal selection, nutrition, showmanship, animal husbandry, and career opportunities in agriculture. Cost is \$25 and includes lunch and a t-shirt.

Register here: [https://mylc.4honline.com/#/public/ins\\_w/evt\\_1wh](https://mylc.4honline.com/#/public/ins_w/evt_1wh)

Registration deadline: March 7

Date: April 6

Location: Gaylord University Center, 80 Livingston Blvd, Gaylord, MI 49735

## 4-H Exploration Days

Join 4-H on Michigan State University's campus for this three-day overnight pre-college experience! This MSU precollege program welcomes youth ages 12-19 to explore their future, try new things and experience college life! During this three-day event, youth will gain confidence and independence through hands-on learning and make friends for a lifetime. Cost is \$220, which includes meals, housing, educational sessions, a t-shirt, and fun!

Scholarships are available! Contact LaToya Jones at [cainjone@msu.edu](mailto:cainjone@msu.edu) for more information.

For questions regarding the event, contact Ashleigh Apel at [apelashl@msu.edu](mailto:apelashl@msu.edu).

For more information, visit [https://www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_exploration\\_days/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/)

Registration opens in mid-March.

Date: June 19-21





# WAYNE COUNTY 4-H UPCOMING EVENTS

## Veterinary Education Day

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | College of Veterinary Medicine

### VETERINARY EDUCATION DAY

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024 @ 12-3:00 P.M.  
HYBRID EVENT - REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

Join us for presentations and student panels representing our preveterinary, Veterinary Nursing, and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Programs. The event is ideal for high school students, college students or post-college individuals considering a veterinary career!

Meet current students, faculty, & staff, ask questions, & learn how to apply!

Register Here!

Veterinary Education Day is an annual event for high school students who are interested in learning more about post-secondary educational programs at the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine. Presentations will focus on the pre-vet and veterinary nursing undergraduate programs, as well as DVM admissions. Participants can choose to attend in-person or via Zoom.

For more information and registration, visit:  
<https://cvm.msu.edu/events/veterinary-education-day-2024>

Registration deadline: March 20

Date and time: March 23, 12:00 – 3:30 PM



## 4-H Mark of Excellence Contest

The 4-H Mark of Excellence contest is an introductory opportunity for the Michigan 4-H State Awards program for youth ages 11 and 12. Youth are asked to create a submission either video or a journal reflection centered around the theme of “Because of 4-H I can!”

Submission Requirements:

- Contestants are asked to create either a video or a journal reflection focusing on the theme of “Because of 4-H I can...”
- Entries should be legible, readable, or easily viewable.
- Video submissions must be no more than 2 minutes in length. Videos should be in MP4 format or provide a YouTube Channel link.
- Journal reflections must be 500 words or less and can be handwritten or typed.
- Submission can be either video OR a journal reflection.
- Must include first name and county.

Please send all submissions to Ashleigh Apel at [apelashl@msu.edu](mailto:apelashl@msu.edu) or LaToya Jones at [cainjone@msu.edu](mailto:cainjone@msu.edu).

Submission deadline: April 1



# 4-H'ER SPOTLIGHT

## Meet Simran!

Simran is an extremely accomplished youth leader and community member! From reading to mental health to STEM, Simran has brought her passions and skills for engagement to communities around the world. Her journey as a community leader and 4-H'er is inspiring, and we look forward to seeing where her leadership will take her. Read about Simran here!



Know a great 4-H'er or volunteer that should be spotlighted? Submit a nomination here!

[https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cvU3kKrJ2CwwFuK](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cvU3kKrJ2CwwFuK)

### What are your recent/past 4-H achievements?

I have been successfully conducting a STEM club for the past 3 years. I invite expert speakers to each session. They discuss their expertise with the students who then ask them questions. A new STEM topic is discussed each week. The speakers have been very gracious with their time and the learning has been greatly enriching for the students.

Being an avid reader, I like sharing my joy of reading with others. I recently donated more than 5000 books to the Children's Hospital of Michigan.

Finally, I am passionate about spreading education on the importance of yoga and mindfulness in schools. To this effect, I published an opinion piece in the guest commentary section Bridge magazine recently (<https://www.bridgemi.com/guest-commentary/opinion-michigan-student-says-pe-mindfulness-critical-mental-health>).

### How and when did you get involved with 4-H?

I was 5 years old when I first learned about the meaning of volunteerism. My mom took me to an event in Detroit where students were encouraged to read through little free libraries (LFL). I was awarded my very own LFL which I have shared with my friends and neighbors to date. Since then, I was hooked to the cause of serving others. I became a 4-H member and started raising books for underserved kids in Detroit and in India. I then travelled to India and visited several rural schools to help open more than 7 little free libraries in their communities. On my return from India, our communities were torn down by the pandemic. Schools were closed and students felt lost. I decided to bring our youth together by starting a virtual STEM club. This club has invited more than 60 speakers and I have spent more than 400 volunteer hours organizing and conducting the club which runs every week.

### What drew you to being a part of the 4-H program?

I belong to a family of immigrants who were raised in India. My mom had limited resources growing up, but she was very active in volunteering. She has been working in Detroit for the past 17 years and has always participated in volunteer service. Her spirit is certainly very infectious and that is how I got exposed to volunteerism. I always enjoyed the experience of serving others and now it is part of my life.

### What have you gained from being a part of 4-H?

4-H has empowered me to become a leader who is kind and compassionate. I feel more confident as a person. As I have conducted 4-H clubs and introduced various speakers, I have improved my communication skills. I believe 4-H has been very instrumental in developing my personality.

### What advice would you give someone else in 4-H or thinking about joining 4-H?

I would tell them to trust the system and enjoy the journey. You never know when you will meet someone who may be your mentor for life. Also, 4-H helps you develop your leadership and communication skills which can shape your personality in big ways.

### What is your favorite memory of 4-H?

I enjoy all the activities conducted by 4-H. One time, I was asked to share the importance of an Indian holiday called Diwali that I celebrate each year with my family. This was one of the best experiences I had since the students loved learning about Diwali.

### What are your plans for the future?

As a 4-H member, I would like to continue serving my community and growing as a person. I want to focus on United Nations goals 4 and 10 which focus on quality and equitable education for all. I am also very passionate about raising awareness on plant-based diet and yoga. I would like to pursue a STEM field when I am older.

### Is there anything else you want to share about yourself or 4-H that we may include?

I hope more students can join 4-H and help the world through amazing programs offered by 4-H.



# 4-H SUCCESS STORY

## Fun at the DIA!



As a part of 4-H Day of Wellness, Wayne County 4-H partnered with the Detroit Institute of Arts. Although the group spent just two hours together, it was packed with fun and learning!

Our time together was split into two parts: a guided social and emotional learning (SEL) tour, and mindful art creation. The DIA staff led our group on a mini SEL tour through the museum, where we got to take in the sights and the art. We stopped at a few pieces of art, and we discussed what the artists may have been feeling when creating, and we even got to make our own mini creations in the gallery! Our tour guide was knowledgeable, kind, and showed us the importance of connecting with art.

Back in our hands-on space (where we could touch the art!), the group created two projects: a calming jar, and a painting. The calming jar was a huge success, and the youth loved mixing colors and glitter to create their own personalized jar. The jar is meant to be used as a way to re-center when experiencing big emotions. If one is feeling anxious, upset, angry, or overwhelmed, they can give the jar a shake to focus their attention elsewhere or sit more quietly with their thoughts. Not only did the group have fun creating, they also learned a valuable mechanism for coping.

They also created a painting. While I gave them supplies to create a mixed media piece using multiple materials, the group almost unanimously gravitated towards the paint! They loved the experience of creating using paint, and seeing their painting come together. Some participants chose to paint something they loved, while others chose a more abstract route. Not only did the youth get to leave with a piece of artwork, we learned that paint was a popular technique!





# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Get free tickets for Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin!



Make plans for a fun day in East Lansing on February 24! Join with other members of the 4-H community for Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin. This fun family event will be held at the Jack Breslin Student Events Center as the MSU women's basketball team takes on the Rutgers Scarlet Knights.

Attendees will also enjoy 4-H games and activities around the concourse. Tickets are free to 4-H youth and their families as well as 4-H volunteers and their families. In addition, Michigan 4-H will be showcased during the halftime show as a group of 4-H youth will lead the crowd in reciting the 4-H pledge.

Doors will open at 12:30 p.m., with tip-off scheduled for 2 p.m. Participants are encouraged to show their pride and wear green and white 4-H or MSU Extension apparel.

For more information and to get tickets, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-day-at-the-breslin](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-day-at-the-breslin).

### February 7: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar - Engaging 4-H Youth in Animal Science Education

Online

Explore ways 4-H volunteers can utilize curriculum and resources to engage 4-H youth in animal science education. This series will provide volunteers with a variety of learning opportunities to help them grow as a volunteer and support Michigan 4-H'ers. This session will be offered twice, once as a daytime option and once as an evening option.

- **12 p.m. session:** [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-engaging-4-h-youth-in-animal-science-education](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-engaging-4-h-youth-in-animal-science-education)
- **7 p.m. session:** [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-engaging-4-h-youth-in-animal-science-education7pm](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-engaging-4-h-youth-in-animal-science-education7pm)

### February 12: Fostering Happy and Healthy Relationships

Online

The 4-H Adulting 101 series helps young people prepare for college or life on their own through free online sessions. Join this session to explore healthy relationship models that can enhance your future and current bonds.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/relationships-1](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/relationships-1)

### February 13: 4-H Wild Spartans – Seeing the Forest for the Wildlife

Online

This month's 4-H Wild Spartans Series will wade with waterfowl and explore forests. Meet Jeremiah Heise, ecosystem program manager with the U.S. Forest Service, learn about his field work, and the education and career path he followed to get there. This free series is open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 12-19.

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

### March 2: Michigan 4-H Spring Livestock Workshop

Anthony Hall, East Lansing

This one-day workshop is designed for 4-H teens and volunteers in beef, sheep, goats and swine project areas. Youth will learn about different aspects of their livestock projects throughout a variety of sessions.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-spring-livestock-workshop-2024](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-spring-livestock-workshop-2024)

### March 6 and 9: Michigan 4-H Animal Science Skillathon

Online

This competition tests both youth and adult competitors' knowledge of market livestock, animal science, and management practices in various categories. Competitors can choose to compete during the week or on the weekend. Registration closes Feb. 29.

[www.canr.msu.edu/otsego/4-h/2024-Skillathon](http://www.canr.msu.edu/otsego/4-h/2024-Skillathon)





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



## Register today for Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience!

At Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience, teens learn how to change the world for the better through engagement in Michigan's state government and public policy process. The program is scheduled for March 17-19, in Lansing. The three-day event, open to high school-aged youth, includes tours of the Michigan Capitol, interactions with state legislators, meetings with state agency staff, lobbyists and state-level experts, and learning how policy is made. During the program, youth work in small teams to draft legislation on agriculture, civil rights and youth advocacy, crime and law enforcement, education and teacher retention, environment and natural resources, health, or jobs and the economy/infrastructure.

The cost to register in 2024 is \$365, which includes meals and lodging at the Quality Inn University in Lansing. Contact your local 4-H program coordinator to inquire about local funding opportunities. Scholarships may also be available through your local Farm Bureau office. To register or learn more, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_capitol\\_experience/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_capitol_experience/).

## Make a difference for food security with World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute

As millions across the globe deal with food insecurity, the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute (WFP MIYI) offers young people an opportunity to be part of the solution. Held May 9 in East Lansing, or by participating from anywhere else using Zoom video/web conference technology, the event seeks to inspire and prepare the next generation of global leaders to end world hunger.



To participate, youth should be in grades 7-12 and register by the March 15 deadline. As part of the registration process, youth are required to prepare and submit a 2-to-5-page research paper about a developing country and one of 20 key factors that affect food security. At the event, youth present and discuss their papers with other attendees and research and industry experts. The top performing students at the WFP MIYI will be selected to attend the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute in Des Moines, Iowa, in October.

There is no cost to participate in the WFP MIYI. For more information, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/wfpmiyi/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/wfpmiyi/).



## Apply for a Michigan 4-H State Award!

Michigan 4-H true leaders ages 11 and older have an opportunity to be recognized for the great work they do in 4-H and develop their career skills by completing a state award application. A Michigan 4-H State Award is the highest honor bestowed on a Michigan 4-H member and provides an opportunity to receive recognition for their engagement in rich learning experiences that result in outstanding knowledge and life-skill development.

State award applications are divided into four categories: Mark of Excellence essay contest (11-12 years), junior state award (13-15 years), senior state award (16-19 years) and group awards (13-19 years). Each application and selection process varies, dependent on the age of the 4-H member. Additional details about the Michigan 4-H State Award process can be found at <http://bit.ly/stateaward>.

Applications are due April 1. For more information, contact your 4-H program coordinator or email Betty Jo Krosnicki at [nashbett@msu.edu](mailto:nashbett@msu.edu) or Janice Zerbe at [rajzerj@msu.edu](mailto:rajzerj@msu.edu).