



DECEMBER 2025

4-H Family News

Bay County, Michigan



Here's to a season of joy, reflection, and continued growth

Step inside any 4-H classroom or meeting space, and you will see it:

Sparks of curiosity, bursts of laughter and the quiet, unstoppable force of young people discovering their power! This is where potential meets possibility ~ and it's happening every single day in Bay County..

In 4-H, every day is an opportunity for growth. From hands-on projects in STEM and healthy living, to leadership experiences that challenge our teens and youth to stretch their confidence. Our programs continue to inspire curiosity and cultivate life-long skills. Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers and staff, children and teens in our community have discovered new passions, strengthened friendships and built confidence that will carry them far beyond 4-H.

I also want to extend heartfelt thanks to our community partners, families and supporters. Your generosity, time and energy make every program possible. This holiday season, consider sharing the gift of 4-H: volunteer, enroll your youth or help us spread the word about the opportunities available in Bay County. Together, we create an environment where young people can thrive.

As we move into the new year, we look forward to launching exciting initiatives, welcoming new volunteers and empowering the next generation of 4-H leaders. Thank you for being part of our 4-H family ~ your support fuels every success story and every bright future.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a 2026 filled with learning, laughter and growth!

With 4-H Gratitude ~ Ronda Tousciuk

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Mark Your Calendar . . .

Youth and Volunteer Awards Banquet February 21st, 2026

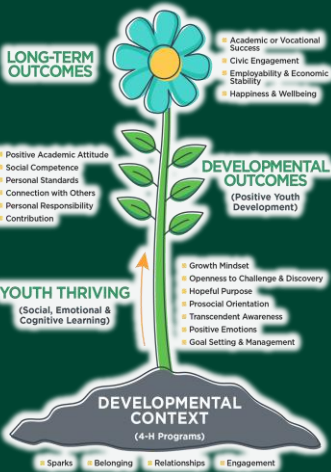
Please use the following link for nominations:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1PC179EP0CI2f1RELS2HLc5MdWC5kun4wzjJ3LVbiSdU/edit> (Cloverbuds)

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1jLkhhLe2P8boHCNeOFG7rGNujGXaldk-5_5RU1w7P0g/edit (Project Pin Application)



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Have you ever been to a club meeting that starts with a roll call question? Building a sense of belonging in the 4-H community is one of four core concepts of the 4-H Throwing Model that any 4-H program can intentionally do.

We strive to build this welcoming feeling and offer kindness to help develop a sense of belonging throughout project meetings, club meetings, workshops and events offered. What better way to build a community than to find similarities among the membership?

Some of the questions are simple, some are silly, and some can get more involved depending on the purpose of the meeting. Regardless, it's a great way to get to know everyone. Contact your local 4-H staff for more information.

November 28 – December 14: Fall TSC Paper Clover Campaign

Local Tractor Supply Co.

Support 4-H by purchasing a \$1 paper clover at your local Tractor Supply Co. (TSC) store! Seventy-percent of funds raised stay in the local community where the paper clover was purchased.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign

December 2: Giving Tuesday

Online

Join the #GivingTuesday movement — a global day of giving and a chance to celebrate the opportunities that makes 4-H so extraordinary. 4-H'ers are leading the way in a world full of change and together, we can build a generation ready for anything. We have set a goal to raise \$5,000 to grow 4-H county endowments in a 24-hour period.

mi4hfdtn.org/giving-tuesday/

December 9: 4-H Wild Spartans

Online

Join 4-H staff to take a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! This month's session is "Adventures in Wildlife Medicine: From the Field to the Clinic." Meet Avery Tilley, a veterinary student at the University of Georgia. Learn about his work, and the education and career path he followed to get there. Open to youth ages 12-19.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-december

December 13: 4-H Holidays Around the World Workshop – Hanukkah

Jefferson-Barns Community Vitality Center, Westland

Learn, create and celebrate the Festival of Lights! Open to all youth in grades 3–8, this hands-on workshop includes storytelling, candle-making, snacks, games and festive music. Pre-register by December 8.!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-holidays-workshop-hanukkah

December 20: 4-H Holidays Around the World Workshop – Christmas in Norway

Jefferson-Barns Community Vitality Center, Westland

Celebrate Norwegian Christmas traditions! Open to youth in grades 3–8, this hands-on workshop includes gnome-making, butter-churning and festive cookie decorating. Pre-register by December 15.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-holidays-workshop-christmas





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



Mandatory reporting guidelines for Michigan 4-H volunteers

MSU Extension has updated its mandatory [reporting guidelines](http://www.canr.msu.edu/od/civil_rights_diversity_multiculturalism/civil_rights_compliance) (www.canr.msu.edu/od/civil_rights_diversity_multiculturalism/civil_rights_compliance) to align with MSU's policy (UW-02-01). All volunteers are required to report incidents of child abuse, neglect, or misconduct promptly. Reports should be made to MSU's Office for Civil Rights (MSU OCR) and, when applicable, to Children's Protective Services (CPS)/Department of Health and Human Services. In short, volunteers should:

1. In emergencies: Call 911 immediately.
2. Child abuse/neglect: Call CPS at 855-444-3911 and file [DHS-3200](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/adult-child-serv/abuse-neglect/childrens/mandated-reporters) (available at www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/adult-child-serv/abuse-neglect/childrens/mandated-reporters) within 72 hours.
3. All other incidents: Report to MSU OCR via online form at <https://msu.guardianconduct.com/incident-reporting/>; phone at (517) 353-3922 between the hours of 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00-5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; by mail at 408 W. Circle Dr., Suite 105, Olds Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824; or by email at ocr.isr@msu.edu.
4. Please notify your local MSU Extension staff after submitting a report.

Shop with purpose: 4-H gifts that give back

'Tis the season to spread joy and support 4-H youth while doing it! Consider the following options in your holiday shopping to make the holidays merry, bright and meaningful!



Michigan Shop 4-H Store: 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, the Michigan 4-H store offers Michigan 4-H branded apparel and other gifts for your favorite 4-H'er, volunteer, alumni, professional or fan! A percentage of all proceeds will be donated to Michigan 4-H. Visit <https://bit.ly/30pdNJw>.

My Pottery Place: Get crafty with 4-H pottery! From mugs to ornaments, you can paint your own masterpiece while supporting youth programs—5% of every 4-H licensed pottery purchase goes to 4-H. Learn more at mypotteryplace.com/product-category/all-products/4-h/.

Mickman Brothers: Decorate your home with beautiful greenery and purpose: 15% of the proceeds from each wreath or evergreen purchased at 4hwreaths.com will benefit 4-H.

Twisted X: Step into the season with style! The Twisted X 4-H Collection has shoes for the whole family and 6% of each pair sold supports 4-H! Learn more at twistedx.com/pages/4h-collection.

Georgia Boot: Built for hard work and big dreams, Georgia Boot is a proud supporter of 4-H. Consider giving their boots, which are ready for any adventure, especially a 4-H project! Shop at georgiaboot.com.

Michigan 4-H Dog Showmanship Manual updated

The Michigan 4-H Dog Showmanship Manual has been updated! A major update to the previous version, this guide provides the basic information needed to compete successfully in 4-H dog showmanship classes. Be sure to check out the resources section of the manual for additional useful books, websites and videos.

View the updated manual at www.canr.msu.edu/resources/michigan-4-h-dog-showmanship-manual.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Saginaw Bay Adventure Camp ~ ~ ~ June 18, 19 and 20 (2026)



Chaperones make our 3-day, 2-night camp unforgettable. Their guidance, encouragement, and care give campers confidence to try new things, build friendships, and create memories that last a lifetime. Every laugh, every “I did it!” moment is stronger because a caring adult is there to cheer them on.

If you are willing to serve as a chaperone for the **2026 Saginaw Bay Adventure Camp**, please take a moment to complete the interest form below.

Your confirmation helps us plan, prepare and ultimately ensure that every young person has the opportunity to attend.

Volunteer Chaperone Confirmation Link:

<https://forms.gle/g6ZjGFg17Rcy4Ajy8>



2026 Fish Camp ~ ~ ~ July 7th and 8th (2026)

Hook, line, and fun! **Fish Camp 2026** invites youth to explore Michigan’s waterways through hands-on fishing, water safety and conservation activities. With engaging activities and expert guidance, this camp inspires curiosity, confidence, and friendships that last well beyond the shore.

Cast a line for fun at **Fish Camp 2026**! Youth will discover the joys of fishing, explore local waterways and make lasting memories with peers. This immersive experience promotes outdoor skills, teamwork and a deeper connection to our natural world.

Look for more information and sign-up information after the new year ~ spaces are limited.

Frankenmuth Michigan will host the 2026 Spark and Share Summit



Mark your calendars for **March 6th 2026**! Youth and volunteers are invited to the **Spark & Share Summit** in Frankenmuth, MI—a day full of hands-on learning, leadership activities, and the chance to connect with 4-H peers from across the state. This inspiring event will ignite new ideas, strengthen skills, and leave participants energized to take their clubs and communities to the next level!

This year’s cost will include 4 sessions (up from 3 last year)!! The price will be \$75 a person. To learn more about the Spark and Share Summit, go to <https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=5BCFE2A67BE826609CD E642D1EF566E8E349C140B2AC50F05B17F8153C08E518>



Our year was filled with Growth!

WELCOME...

New 4-H Council Leaders:



- Karrie Mieske, President
- Kristy Engstrom, Vice President
- Melissa Jenkins, Treasurer
- Ashlee Mannion, Secretary



Beyond Ready

Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar So you want to be a Club Leader: Lets Talk

Code of Conduct : <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/volunteer-code-of-conduct>

4-H Administrative Leader (Club Leader) Role Description: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/4-h-administrative-leader-club-leader-role-description>

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/planning-your-year-as-a-4-h-volunteer>

https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/annual_4_h_financial_summary_report

https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/county_4_h_fund_raiser_application

https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/county_4_h_fund_raising_report_form

https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/financial_manual_for_4_h_volunteers

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/signs-of-successful-4-h-clubs>

https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/characteristics_of_effective_4_h_clubs

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/4-h-essential-elements-for-positive-youth-development>

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/4-h-thriving-model>

<https://www.nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/Experiential-Learning-Model.pdf>

https://www.montana.edu/extension/4h/projects/experiential_learning.html

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/engaging-every-voice-in-4-h-part-3-the-head-of-facilitation>

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/engaging-every-voice-in-4-h-part-4-the-health-of-facilitation>

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/engaging-every-voice-in-4-h-part-2-the-heart-of-facilitation>

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/engaging-every-voice-in-4-h-part-1-the-hands-of-facilitation>

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/tools-for-building-strong-clubs>

<https://shop4-h.org>

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-spark-and-share-summit-2026>

https://www.canr.msu.edu/bay/bay_county_4_h/

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61564146205418>



MSU Extension 4-H

Bay County

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4-H Family News

Bay County Michigan



Learn More About How You Can Get Involved in 4-H:

Contact the Michigan State University Extension Office in Bay County at (989) 895-4026 or email: tousciu1@msu.edu



Beyond Ready