



CHEBOYGAN COUNTY 2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT



I am very pleased to share the results of another successful year of partnership between Cheboygan County and Michigan State University (MSU) Extension. Because of your continued support, we've been able to make a difference in the lives of youth, families, businesses, and communities. MSU Extension offers a broad range of research-based educational outreach to county residents. Over this past year, we've empowered families and individuals to live healthier lives, supported new and local businesses, created opportunities for youth leadership development and career exploration, helped farmers with business management and mental health, brought health programs to local schools, and much more. Our staff live and work alongside county residents and are rooted in community relationships and responsive to community needs. Our partnership with you makes this all possible. On behalf of the MSU Extension team serving Cheboygan County, thank you for another great year. We look forward to your continued support and hope you will be able to join us during one of our upcoming programs.



- Adam Koivisto, District 14 Director

**PROGRAMS
ACCESSED
BY
RESIDENTS**
160

**SOCIAL
MEDIA
REACH**
23,656

**PROGRAMMING
REACH**
875



DEVELOPING YOUTH & COMMUNITIES WITH 4-H



Youth from the community participate in Lawn Games hosted by 4-H on the first day of the Cheboygan County Fair.

The largest youth development organization in Michigan, 4-H provides thousands of young people with experiential learning opportunities to explore new interests and discover their passion.

143 Youth
18 Adult
Volunteers

Cheboygan County 4-H:

- 161 members of the community enrolled in Cheboygan 4-H this year, including 143 youth and 18 adults
- 81 new youth enrolled
- 24 “Cloverbuds” (ages 5, 6, and 7) enrolled



This summer, the 4-H Bike Club put on a Bike Maintenance & Sale Event, open to the public and community members.



4-H members gathered in preparation for the Independence Day Parade. They handed out over 300 informational post cards about 4-H.



Some first-year participants receive their first-year certificates. 81 new youth enrolled in 4-H in Cheboygan County.



18 Cloverbuds participated in a Cloverbud summer camp. There were 24 youth ages 5-7 enrolled in 4-H.

Building Community with 4-H



4-H hosted their annual end-of-year celebration last November for all 4-H members and their families.



4-H participated in two events at the Knights of Columbus Hall this year, hosting games and prizes for the hundreds of youth from Cheboygan County who attended.



4-H participated in 3 events at the Children's Trail this year, including the Duck Dash and Free Fishing Event.



18 volunteers have come together to form an amazing team that have been able to offer more clubs, events, and activities to youth in Cheboygan County than in recent years.



Twelve 4-H volunteers ran a 4-H Fun Room for over 500 youth and adults who attended the Earth Day Expo this year. They filled it with fun activities including: pet a chicken, make a worm bin, sort recycling, make an Earth Day Crown, plant a seed, make a bird feeder, create a windmill, and paint a rock.



4-H at the Cheboygan County Fair



A youth shows off her exhibit at the fair. This was her first year and she is "super psyched" to come back again!

The 4-H barn at the Cheboygan County Fair was full to bursting with over 75 youth participating. Each individual project that was entered into 4-H included a sit-down with a judge to practice interview skills.

More than 300 still exhibit entries
4 animal shows

Over 300 still exhibit projects were entered into 4-H, including animal record books, educational posters, food preparation, fine arts, folk arts, woodworking, photography, budgeting, horticulture, experimental gardening, home garden, genealogy, composting and vermicomposting, conservation, creative writing, field sketching, leadership, robotics, plate setting, menu planning, STEM engineering, bike safety, and MORE!



Free games and prizes in the 4-H barn, including corn hole & stick-it archery, were popular with community members.



The new cages in the small animal barn were filled up this year with a mix of chickens and rabbits from 4-H, open class, and CCYLP.



4-H hosted the Dog Show, Horse Show, Chicken Show, and Rabbit Show, that were huge hits at fair this year. With youth showing off the skills, tactics and lessons they have learned with their animals during club meetings this year.

4-H Summer Camps



Cloverbuds learn about fish in the Cheboygan River. Eighteen 5-7 year-olds participated in the Cloverbud Summer Camp



Two local youth received full scholarships from the Cheboygan County 4-H Council to attend the week-long Great Lakes Natural Resources Camp.



Youth at summer camps got to explore outdoor recreation as well as STEM engineering topics, like Stomp Bottle Rockets.



Eight youth and two volunteers from Cheboygan received scholarships from the local 4-H council to participate in the 4H Exploration Days camp at MSU.



Ten volunteers put together three free day camps at the Ocqueoc Outdoor Center where 28 youth from Cheboygan got to participate in activities they don't normally get to do, like kayaking and archery.

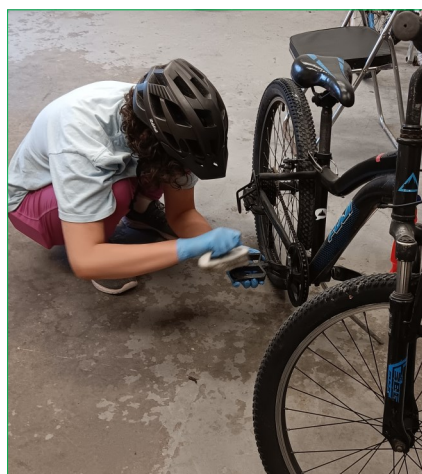




Cheboygan County Year-Round 4-H Clubs



The Arts and Crafts Club had 17 youth enrolled and did projects on many different mediums, including: wood, clay, tissue paper, yarn, canvas, dried flowers and so much more!



The Bike Club had six youth enrolled and learned bike upkeep and maintenance, road and helmet safety, and went for many rides on the Cheboygan trail system



The Tech Club had 14 youth enrolled and explored science, technology, engineering and math by doing hands-on learning. Using the 4-H STEM challenge kits, they explored Mars, built renewable energy resources, decrypted secret cyphers, and much more!

Cheboygan County Year-Round 4-H Clubs



The Eureka Explorers Club had eight youth enrolled and focused on homestead, hobbies, and life skills. Members explored fishing, gardening, composting, leadership and public speaking, budgeting and money management, cooking and hosting, genealogy, field sketching and journaling, and arts and crafts.



The Canine Club had nine youth enrolled and taught youth and their dogs basic obedience commands, dog anatomy, health and nutrition, first aid, agility, real-word working dogs, and more.



The Kountry Kidz Club had nine youth enrolled and learned the anatomy of chickens and rabbits as well as how to raise, handle, and show their animals.



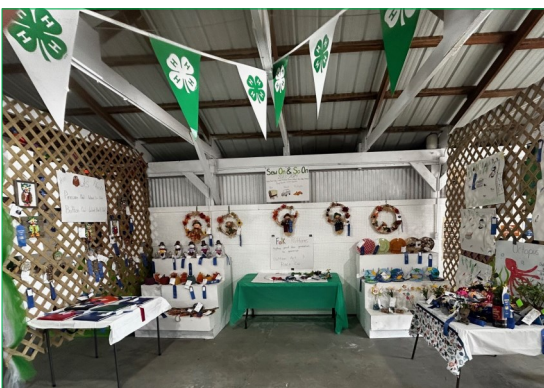
Cheboygan County Year-Round 4-H Clubs



The “Mane Squeeze” Horse Club had eight youth enrolled that learned the basics of horse safety and ownership, as well as in-depth horsemanship, safety, grooming, trail riding, feeding, showmanship, and competition.



The Little Buds & Sprouts Club had eight youth enrolled and did hands-on learning including plant parts, planting, gardening, vermicomposting, mini-greenhouses, bugs and pests, seasons, pollinators, & how to grow their own food.



The Sew On and So On Club had five youth enrolled who did bird watching, pinewood derby car assembly and races, wood crafts, button crafts, knitting, decoupage, folk arts, seasonal crafts, clay crafts, painting, record books, and more.

4-H Special Learning Opportunities



At its core, 4-H is hands-on learning with a positive youth development approach. Cheboygan 4-H provides learning opportunities for 4-H members and the public.

- Cheboygan 4-H reached over 400 youth doing programming open to the public.
- Three youth joined the Cheboygan 4-H Council to help develop 4-H in Cheboygan and learn leadership & responsibility.
- All 4-H special learning opportunities open to the public were free of charge.



15 people from Cheboygan received a local 4-H scholarship to attend an Animal Clinic at the Emmet County Fairgrounds.



4-H organized a tour of a local homestead for youth and adults in the community in partnership with Earth Week Plus.



14 youth attended the three different Sunday STEM Afternoons at the library and learned about aerodynamics, crime scene investigation, and used our brand new Makey Makey kits.



4-H taught fun and engaging STEM afterschool classes at Compass Academy once a week for most of the school year



4-H put on a fun solar eclipse educational event open to the public.



IMPROVING HEALTH & NUTRITION

Michigan State University Extension is here to support all the ways we can live healthier lives, be strong and successful and build healthier communities, by bringing the vast knowledge and resources of MSU directly to your community.

MSU Extension offers programming and resources for social-emotional and mental health, chronic disease and diabetes management, food safety and food preservation, developing healthy relationships, caregiving and parenting, nutrition and physical activity, and more.

SNAP-Ed Mini Grants were available for up to \$1,500. Two of our partners averaged a little over \$1,300 in items received with help to obtain these grants.

- Jackie Lyons Childcare received SNAP-Ed Mini Grant funding to support physical activity (indoors and outdoors).
- Wolverine Schools received SNAP-Ed Mini Grant funding to support their greenhouse project.

Health Program
Total Reach:
929

Programs in SNAP-Ed provide youth with fun activities

- The Smoothie Bike
- Ice cream Making
- Food Safety



Cheboygan County youth enjoyed using the SNAP-Ed Smoothie Bike.



While learning about Fruits and Veggies; The Cheboygan County youth made Smoothies.



Students from Wolverine say "CHEERS" to a successful smoothie!



Students make (a slightly healthier version of) home made ice cream.

Healthy Eating Adds Up, Teen Cuisine, and Senior Project Fresh

These are some of the programs offered and participated in by Cheboygan County members.



Students at Wolverine High School show off their knife skills on fresh strawberries.



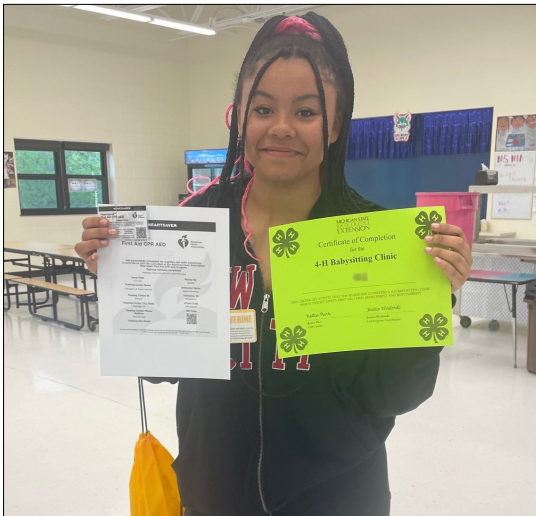
The strawberries cut by students, were added to freshly made French Toast!



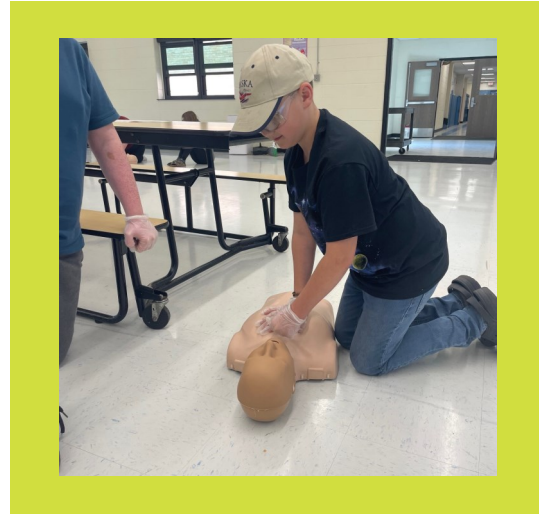
CHILD & FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Babysitting Clinic

During the months of May, June and July, forty-two 10–18-year old’s participated in the Babysitting Clinic’s held throughout Cheboygan County. There was one held in Wolverine at Wolverine Public Schools (14 kids) and two in Cheboygan held at the Cheboygan Area Public Library (16 kids in June and 12 kids in July). During the course we discussed what it takes to be a good babysitter, child development and how to take care of children, the importance of good nutrition, and how to entertain and run their babysitting business. Most importantly, each participant was certified in CPR and First Aid by the American Heart Association.



This Wolverine student is showing off her two certificates and the backpack she received during training.



A student shows off his skills, taught during CPR training.



Cheboygan County youth certified in CPR and First Aid.

Thank you to Cheboygan County 4-H and Cheboygan County Child Advocacy Council (CCCAC) for making this possible.

Each babysitter left the course certified with a backpack full of babysitting supplies.

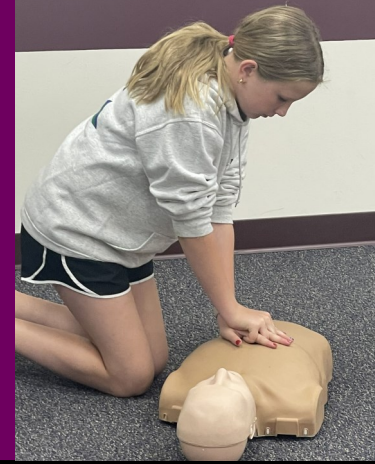
We are looking forward to getting more youth certified throughout Cheboygan County in the future.



“The class was very informative and will help me become the best babysitter I can be.” - Cheboygan Babysitting Clinic participant



Babysitting Clinic & Family Fun Day



“This was an AMAZING class, and I learned a lot.”

-Cheboygan participant



Family Fun Day:

“In partnership with the Cheboygan County Child Advocacy Council, I had the privilege of chairing the planning committee for Family Fun Day. The event was held on August 5 in the Quonset Hut on the Cheboygan County Fairgrounds. This was a great opportunity for organizations to connect with Cheboygan County families that we serve. The theme this year was the Summer Olympics, and each organization did an amazing job of adding the theme to their table activities and bringing fun to the event. There were 24 participating organizations, and we had 283 participants join us, including 166 youth under the age of 12. Through donations we were able to give away 31 ride bracelets for the Cheboygan County Fair. This year’s event was a great success!”

-Katie Parr, Child & Family Program Instructor



FOSTERING STRONG COMMUNITIES

In May, Leadership Cheboygan Class of 2024 attended Environment Day at MSU Extension, Walstrom's and the Cheboygan Water Treatment Plant. Students heard from lead sponsors Cheboygan County Community Foundation and learned about MSUE, water conservation, blue economy, Michigan Sea Grant, fisheries landscape, Walstrom's clean water marina, and water treatment.



Dedicated to the protection and sustainable use of the Great Lakes and coastal resources, Michigan Sea Grant is a cooperative program of the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. We promote research, education, and outreach to enhance responsible and sustainable use of our diverse Great Lakes resources.

Through MSU Extension, Michigan Sea Grant works with Michigan citizens, industries, and coastal communities to encourage their use, benefits, and enjoyment of Great Lakes resources that positively influences our state's economy, environment and quality of life.

CHEBOYGAN COUNTY OFFICE



This past year Cheboygan County MSU Extension has helped community members through phone, email, Facebook and office walk-ins.

As MSU Extension continues to bring research and education to citizens across the state, three wonderful resources help reach every community member in our county:

MSU Extension Lawn and Garden Hotline (888) 678-3464

Calls answered by Extension Master Gardeners with the knowledge and resources to help with gardening and lawn questions.

Ask Extension canr.msu.edu/outreach/ask-an-expert

One-to-one answers from MSU Extension experts on topics such as lawns, agriculture, food preservation, natural resources, and more!

Soil Testing homesoiltest.msu.edu

Don't guess - soil test! Learn what vital nutrient your soil is missing for healthy growth in gardens, lawns, and crops. Purchase soil tests in our office or online.

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MISSION:

Michigan State University Extension helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical needs and issues and opportunities.

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