



4-H Family News

JUNE 2025

Grand Traverse County



STORYTELLING IS THE HEART OF 4-H

Dear 4-H Friends & Family,

The excitement is mounting as we prepare to go to the fair! The past two weekends there have been families at the Traverse Area District Library who have joined us to ask questions and learn about what is required for showing an animal at the fair and they were amazed! One thing is for sure, cute bunnies help 4-H engage with families, (thank you Tristyn).

Please continue to share your stories about going to the fair. This not only keeps the memories alive, but it also inspires the next generation of 4-H members and clubs. Going to the fair is about species specific learning, laughter, friendships, community and a lot of traditions. Some traditions have been upheld for generations, and some are just beginning for new families eager to be part of the fair. 4-H is about making space for everyone as they find belonging within our community.

Those of you who have been going to the fair for years know the dedication, hard work, love and personal growth required as well as the incredible relationships you build in the process. You also know not everything runs smoothly every year and this year is proving to be no exception. Thank you for your patience as we work and hope together for a fantastic 2025 year at the fair.

Sincerely,

Sarah Bye
4-H Program Coordinator,
Grand Traverse County



IMPORTANT DATES

LIVESTOCK COUNCIL MEETING | 6/2 | 6:30PM | REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

ANIMAL REGISTRATION DEADLINE: DOG | 6/2

LIVESTOCK COUNCIL MEETING | 6/23 | 6:30PM | REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

TANNER BUILDING EXHIBIT FORM | DUE 6/23

FARM ANIMAL DAY | 6/25 | 3PM-7PM | KINGSLEY FARMERS MARKET

CONTACT US

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https://www.canr.msu.edu/grand_traverse/grand_traverse_county_4_h/index

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STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Showcase your photography, videography and graphic design skills at 4-H Dairy Days!



New for 2025, Michigan 4-H Dairy Days will have feature three new contests! These contests are open to any Michigan 4-H youth ages 8-19, regardless of their enrolled project area.

Showcase your creative skills by submitting your entries to:

- Photography
- Graphic design
- Videography

So grab your cameras, get those creative juices flowing and show us what you've got!

Submissions are due June 5. Learn more at tinyurl.com/DDcreative.

June 6: Fairy Garden Workshop

Britton

Youth ages 5-19 will learn the basics of miniature gardening and some fairy lore.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/fairy-garden-workshop25

June 7: Garden Geocache Event

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Cache veterans and new enthusiasts are welcome at this geocaching adventure. Bring your picnic lunch and enjoy a day of caching in the gardens. We will be finding new caches, trading travel bugs, exploring the gardens and much more.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/garden-geocache

June 13: 4-H Terrarium Workshop

Britton

Youth ages 8-19 will create a miniature, self-sustaining ecosystem, in a controlled indoor environment.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-terrarium-workshop

June 20: Garden to Table Summer Workshop Series

Taylor Community Library, Taylor

In this hands-on program, youth will explore the journey of food from seed to plate!

Participants will learn how to plant and care for a garden, harvest fresh produce, and turn their homegrown ingredients into simple, healthy meals.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/garden-to-table-summer-workshops

June 24: Digger Day

Michigan 4-H Children's Garden, East Lansing

Come to the garden and explore the world of diggers. Front-end loaders, dump trucks and back hoes – all of these tools help with projects both big and small in our communities.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/digger-day

June 28: Michigan 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl

Anthony Hall, East Lansing

Come test your dairy industry knowledge against other 4-H'ers! This free event is open to any 4-H youth ages 8-19. Youth may enter as individuals or as teams.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2025-mi-4-h-dairy-quiz-bowl>





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Register for the Michigan 4-H and FFA State Livestock Judging Contest

Registration is now open for the Michigan 4-H and FFA State Livestock Judging Contest! Participants can demonstrate their livestock evaluation and selection skills, as well as improve their communication and decision-making skills at this fun statewide contest. The day will include both individual and team competition with classes of beef cattle, Boer goats, sheep and swine.

Contest divisions include:

- 4-H Juniors - 4-H youth ages 8-13 as of January 1
- 4-H Seniors - 4-H youth ages 14-19 as of January 1
- FFA Junior High - FFA members that recently completed seventh or eighth grade
- FFA High School – FFA members that recently completed grades 9-12
- MLE - Youth ages 8-21 as of January 1 that are competing in the Michigan Livestock Expo but are not a member of 4-H or FFA
- Cloverbuds - 4-H youth age 7 as of January 1, non-competitive



**Michigan
4-H and
FFA
Livestock
Judging
State
Contest**



While the dates for the contest no longer coincide with Michigan Livestock Expo (MLE), this contest does still count as an educational experience for the MLE Premiere Stockman Award!. Registration is due by June 12. Find registration information at www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-and-ffa-livestock-judging-state-contest-2025.

Ten Michigan 4-H volunteers honored for 50 years of service in 2025

For the fifth year, MSU Extension is celebrating outstanding volunteers who have given a half-century of service to Michigan 4-H. These individuals have pledged their heads, hearts, hands and service to improving the lives of youth and their communities through Michigan 4-H for the past 50 years.

"Simply put, our Michigan 4-H programs would not be possible without the help of caring volunteers who give their time and talent," said Quentin Tyler, director of MSU Extension. "MSU Extension is grateful for every volunteer in every program, but these ten individuals deserve special recognition. They have given so much to 4-H over their five decades of service and we offer our heartfelt thanks for all they have given to support 4-H youth."

The Michigan 4-H 50-year volunteers being recognized in 2025 are:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| • Cheryl Barton, Shiawassee County | • Vanessa Powell, Jackson County |
| • Linda Bogue, Cass County | • Diane Shepherd, Sanilac County |
| • Lisa Coe, Barry County, | • Paul Shoup, Mason County |
| • Janel Horrocks-Boehmer, Ingham County | • Bernadette Strahl, Menominee County |
| • Sharon Mitchell, St. Joseph County | • Marla Wedge, Allegan County |

In recognition of their service, 50-year volunteers received a gift of appreciation from MSU Extension leadership, as well as a personal note of thanks. Tribute gifts in honor of any or all of these 4-H volunteers may be made to support 4-H at: <https://mi4hfdtn.org/memorial-tribute-gifts/>.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

4-H Jr. Master Gardener Summer Camp Program

There are still openings for the **FREE** Jr. Master Gardener Program, which begins **June 24!** See the attached flyer for more information and click here to register: <https://4h-junior-master-gardener-spin-club.4honline.com>

Note: You must sign up for a 4-H Online account in order to register. You do not need to select a club to create an account.



Summer of Savings

We are VERY excited to share a new summer learning opportunity for youth in your communities who are 9-19 years old.

Did you know that 26% of Americans under the age of 65 have \$0 saved for retirement? And 37% of Americans would not be able to cover a \$400 emergency with either cash, savings account funds, or a credit card transaction that is paid off on the next statement.

Retirement is one "bucket" for saving for the future as well as for goals (bigger expenses) and emergencies. We want to help youth be on a path for financial success with their savings goals and the **Summer of Savings** is here to encourage that!

With three ways to learn (live Zoom, self-guided course or watching a recorded webinar), youth have a chance to participate in a way that works for them while also earning a \$20 gift card. It is time to learn and earn!

Thanks to Greenstone Farm Credit Services for helping support this learning experience.

Adulting 101: International Travel on a Budget

We're excited to announce a brand-new session in our *Adulting 101* series: **International Travel on a Budget** – featuring expert insights from an MSU Extension Tourism Educator.

This session is perfect for teens and young adults looking to travel abroad without overspending — but it's packed with valuable tips for *anyone* planning international adventures!

- Date:** Monday, June 2
- Time:** 6:30 p.m. ET
- Location:** Zoom (registration required)

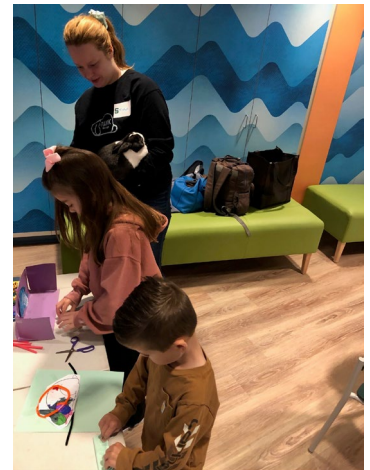
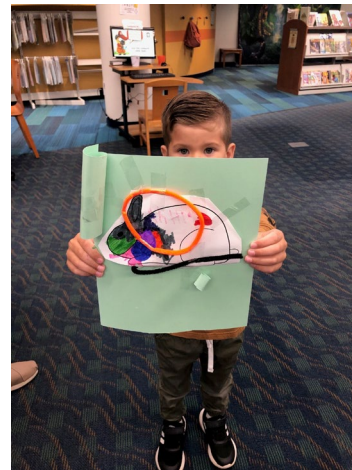
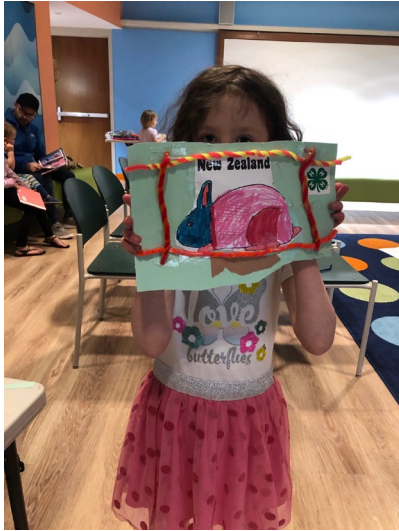
☒ **Register to attend and receive follow-up resources:**
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-international-travel-on-a-budget>





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Bunny Time at the Library

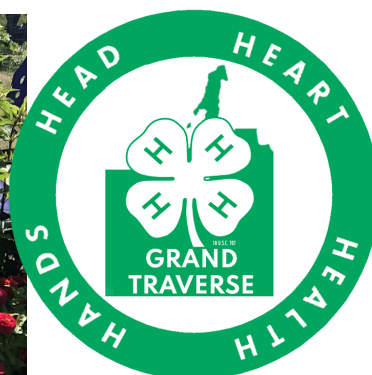


Become a 4-H Volunteer



Whether you're an involved parent, a former 4-Her, or simply a helping hand, consider becoming a 4-H Volunteer! We're always looking for folks interested in giving back to their communities, no matter how much or how little time they are able to provide.

Please reach out to our 4-H Program Coordinator, Sarah Bye, for more information on how to get started. She can be reached at byesarah@msu.edu.



REGISTER HERE



**Cost:
FREE**

REGISTRATION TAKES PLACE ON 4-H
ONLINE: [HTTPS://V2.4HONLINE.COM](https://v2.4honline.com)

**REGISTER FOR THE SPIN CLUB: 4-H
JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER SPIN CLUB**

4-H JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER SPIN CLUB

SUMMER CLUB DATES: TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

June: 24th and 26th

July: 8th, 10th, 15th, 17th,
22nd and 24th

TWO AGE GROUPS:
2ND-4TH GRADE &
5TH-7TH GRADE
10AM-12PM

LOCATION: BOTANIC GARDEN AT HISTORIC BARNs PARK
1490 RED DRIVE, TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49684

Please call Grand Traverse County 4-H Program Coordinator, Sarah Bye,
at (231) 922-4825, or email at byesarah@msu.edu, for more information.



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Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the event contact, Sarah Bye, 4-H Program Coordinator, two weeks prior to the start of the event, at (231) 922-4825 or byesarah@msu.edu. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.



10 Ways to Volunteer with 4-H

No matter how much time you have, volunteering with 4-H makes a difference by helping youth explore and discover the skills they need to lead for a lifetime. There are lots of ways to get involved! **To learn more, visit 4-H.org/Volunteer, or contact your local 4-H office listed below.**

Please note, your volunteer experience and/or opportunities may be happening virtually or in-person. Contact your local 4-H office listed below for more information.

1 Help youth lead a club

- Assist a youth club leader with organizing meetings, speakers, and other logistics.
- Assist and/or mentor a 4-H volunteer who is serving as a project leader.

2 Teach a skill

- Organize a club, or share your skills by teaching a club meeting workshop, devoted to your area of specialty.

3 Judge projects

- Serve as a judge for 4-H exhibits, competitions or performances, providing encouragement and suggestions for improvement.

4 Plan or help at an event

- Volunteer at a county/parish special event; from set-up or clean-up to serving food or taking registrations, there are a lot of ways to get involved.

5 Serve on an advisory board/committee

- Sit on a local advisory or county governing board to help determine program priorities.

6 Help with a specific 4-H project

- Advise a 4-H member in their project work: help youth identify and set goals, create and implement a plan, and reflect on what they learned and would do differently next time.

7 Assist with program delivery

- Volunteer at an after school program, a summer program, camp program event or club meeting.

8 Volunteer on a fair organizing committee

- Volunteer at a local fair – be inspired by the talents and creativity of the next generation while promoting the country's largest positive youth development organization!
- Work in the food booth or help in the 4-H exhibit hall or at the 4-H show ring.

9 Utilize your professional skills

- Share your technical skills and knowledge to develop subject matter for curriculum/project sheets.
- Utilize your professional skills to assist with creating marketing tools, graphic art, word documents, webpages, videos, online training modules, etc.
- Intern at your local Extension office with the 4-H program, a great resume builder.

10 Share your experiences

- Share your hobby/passion – inspire a young person as a guest speaker or short-term instructor.
- Share your career path – invite a 4-H'er to shadow you for the day.
- Share your educational path/give a testimonial – how did you get to where you are? (If you are a college student – how did you choose your school, what are you pursuing, what are you aspiring to do?)

Provided by:
Program Leaders Working Group,
4-H Volunteerism Committee

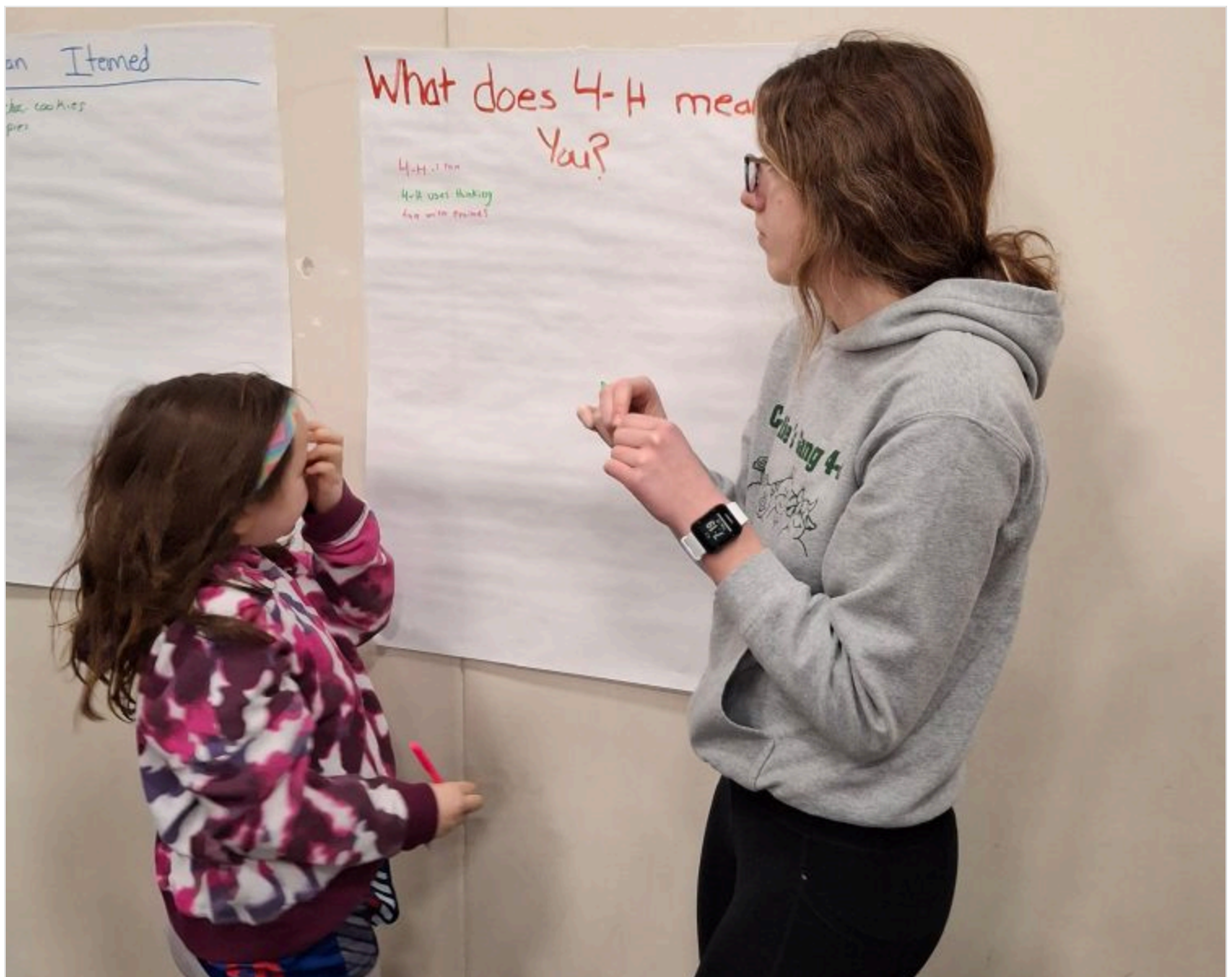
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Helping youth share their 4-H story: A quick and impactful activity for volunteers

[Christine Heverly<sisungch@msu.edu>](mailto:sisungch@msu.edu), [Michigan State University Extension](#) - May 01, 2025

4-H volunteers can play a key role in helping youth learn how to share their 4-H story.



4-H members working on brainstorming ideas for their 4-H elevator pitches.

Every 4-H member will eventually be asked, “*what’s 4-H?*” Whether it’s at a community event, a showcase, during the fair or in a casual conversation with a curious friend or adult, it’s important that youth feel confident answering. As a 4-H volunteer, you can help youth prepare by assisting them to develop a clear, personal and enthusiastic response—known as their 4-H elevator pitch.

Michigan State University Extension offers a simple activity you can use during 4-H meetings, activities or events to help youth prepare to share their 4-H story. This activity not only builds communication skills, but also deepens their personal connection to the 4-H experience.

The “**4-H in Four**” activity helps youth develop their own 30-second elevator speech by thinking about 4-H through four key prompts. To begin, explain that an elevator pitch is a short, personal, and enthusiastic explanation, something you could share in the time it takes to ride in an elevator.

Getting started: brainstorm the 4-H story

Guide youth through brainstorming responses to these four prompts:

- **What is 4-H?** (Explain 4-H in simple, clear terms.)
- **What do you do in 4-H?** (List projects, events and activities they’re involved in.)
- **What does 4-H mean to you?** (Reflect on personal growth, friendships and learning.)
- **Why should someone join or support 4-H?** (Share a reason to encourage others.)

Crafting and practicing the pitch

After brainstorming, have youth write one sentence for each of the four prompts. These sentences form their personalized “4-H in Four” elevator speech. Encourage them to keep it authentic, clear and energetic. Next, have them practice their pitch, either in pairs or small groups. Encourage good communication skills: make eye contact, smile and speak clearly.

Tips to support the activity

- For Cloverbuds (youth 5-7 years-old), allow them to draw pictures instead of writing. Then, help them turn their drawings into a spoken pitch.
- Have youth write their final pitch on a note card so they can practice and build confidence.
- Ask other volunteers to reflect on the prompts in advance so they can help spark ideas if youth need support.

- Make it fun! Consider a friendly contest with categories like “Most Enthusiastic,” “Most Informative” or “Most Memorable.”
- Record the speeches to share on social media or at club recruitment events.

This activity works well at club meetings, as a warm-up for public presentations or before community engagement events. Helping youth craft their message gives them the tools to be prepared to share their 4-H message with others, anytime it is needed.

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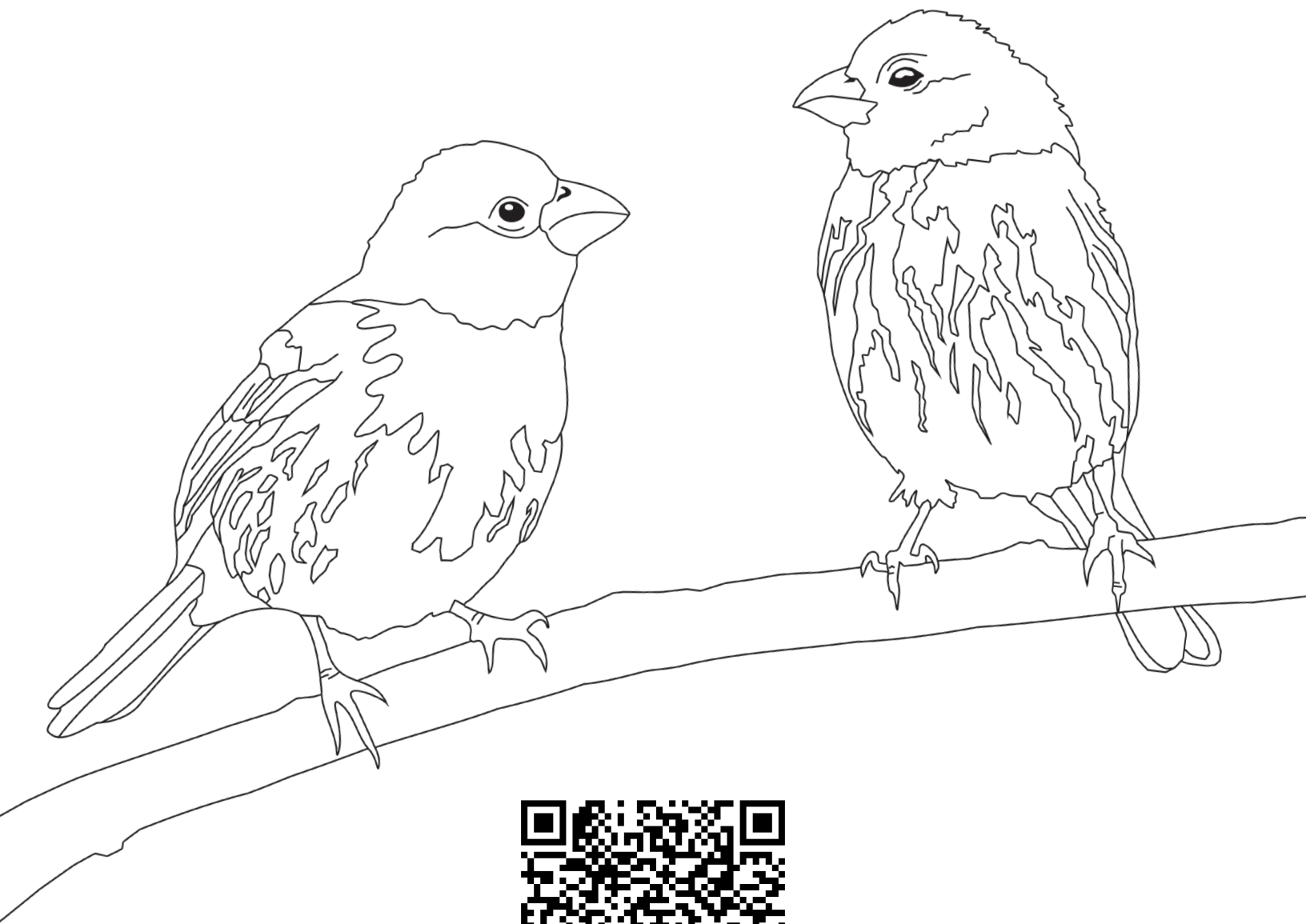


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