



# 4-H Family News

APRIL 2026



## GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

### GROWING BEYOND BARRIERS

Happy Spring, 4-H Friends!

4-H is committed to reducing financial barriers so all youth can take part in meaningful experiences. Scholarships are available for a wide range of opportunities, including local camps, statewide workshops, Exploration Days, Capitol Experience, and national events like National 4-H Congress and Conference.

In 2025, local partners — including the Leaders Association, Livestock Council, MSU Extension 4-H Office, and generous community donors such as the Andrew L. Olson Foundation, the Paul T & Frances B Johnson Memorial Foundation, and the Heather M Barley Memorial Foundation — provided over \$50,000 in scholarships to support youth in everything from camps to college tuition. If you're interested in participating in more of what 4-H has to offer, we encourage you to contact the extension office as well as explore the resources shared in this newsletter and on our website. Many programs are open to all youth, even those not currently enrolled in a 4-H club.

4-H welcomes young people from all backgrounds and interests, and we want to ensure no one misses out. This year, we're also excited to expand fair participation with the return of Still Projects, giving youth more ways to showcase their talents—from LEGO builds and baked goods to garden produce. Help us spread the word and invite others to join in these opportunities.

We are in this together!

Sarah Bye

### CONTACT US

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4-H Program  
Coordinator



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(231) 922 - 4825

- [msue.grandtrvrse@msu.edu](mailto:msue.grandtrvrse@msu.edu)
- [byesarah@msu.edu](mailto:byesarah@msu.edu)

### WEBSITE:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/grand\\_traverse/grand\\_traverse\\_county\\_4\\_h/index](https://www.canr.msu.edu/grand_traverse/grand_traverse_county_4_h/index)

### IMPORTANT DATES

LIVESTOCK COUNCIL MEETING – MONDAY, APRIL 6TH

LEADERS ASSOCIATION MEETING – TUESDAY, APRIL 21ST

DEADLINE FOR EXPLORATION DAYS – APRIL 17TH AT 5:00PM  
[https://www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_exploration\\_days/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/)

SPECIES REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR LLAMA, ALPACA, RABBIT,  
CAVY, AND HORSE – MAY 4TH AT 6:30PM  
<http://www.northwestmichiganlivestockcouncil.org/>

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# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Scholarships Available for 4-H Events



To be eligible for the following scholarships, applicants must be an active 4-H youth member or volunteer in Grand Traverse County, and have a financial need that limits the ability to participate in an event without assistance. Each scholarship also has additional, specific requirements, as outlined in the applications.

GT County 4-H Youth Leader's Association Advisory Board Scholarship/Reimbursement Program:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/grand\\_traverse/uploads/files/GTC%204H%20Youth%20Leaders%20Assoc%20Adv%20Board%20Scholarship.pdf](https://www.canr.msu.edu/grand_traverse/uploads/files/GTC%204H%20Youth%20Leaders%20Assoc%20Adv%20Board%20Scholarship.pdf)

Tractor Supply Company Scholarship:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/grand\\_traverse/uploads/files/GTC%204H%20TSC%20Scholarship%20Application.pdf](https://www.canr.msu.edu/grand_traverse/uploads/files/GTC%204H%20TSC%20Scholarship%20Application.pdf)

Grand Traverse County 4-H Horse & Pony Council Scholarship:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/grand\\_traverse/uploads/files/4-H%20GT%20Horse%20Council%20Scholarship%20205-5-2025.pdf](https://www.canr.msu.edu/grand_traverse/uploads/files/4-H%20GT%20Horse%20Council%20Scholarship%20205-5-2025.pdf)

## Other Scholarship Opportunities



- [Michigan 4-H Foundation](#)
- [MSU Precollege Scholarship](#)
- [Melinda Klockziem Memorial Scholarship](#)
- [Andrew L. Olson 4-H Scholarship](#)
- [The Paul T & Frances B Johnson Foundation Scholarship](#)
- [Heather M Barley Memorial 4-H Scholarship](#)
- [MSU Grand Traverse Area Alumni Spartans Club Scholarship](#)
- [Youth Financial Literacy Foundation](#)

## Shooting Sports

**SPRING 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS INSTRUCTOR WORKSHOP**

**MICHIGAN SHOOTING SPORTS LEARN BY DOING**

May 2-3, 2026

John A. Halter Shooting Sports Education Center  
4390 Bankers Road  
Hillsdale, MI

Offering all Disciplines:

- ✓ Archery
- ✓ Rifle
- ✓ Shotgun
- ✓ Pistol
- ✓ Muzzle Loader
- ✓ Hunting and Wildlife
- ✓ Coordinator

REGISTER NOW!

Questions? Email 4H.ShootingSports@msu.edu

This workshop is sponsored with a grant from the Michigan 4-H Foundation

Registration is now open for the Spring 2026 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Workshop in Hillsdale! Join us for 2 days of classes at the John A. Halter Shooting Sports Education Center. Classes will focus on everything you need to know to teach Shooting Sports fundamentals as part of a 4-H Youth Development Program.

Follow this link to learn more and register: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/2026SpringWorkshop/>



## Species Deadlines

**May 4, 2026:** Horse, Llama & Alpaca, Rabbit & Cavy

<http://www.northwestmichiganlivestockcouncil.org/>



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Paper Clover Campaign



April 17 - May 3, 2026

Since 2010, Tractor Supply has partnered with 4-H to prepare youth to be ready for work and life. The success of the Paper Clover campaign has raised more than \$24 million to impact local youth with the technical skills and life skills that prepare them for whatever comes their way.

100 percent of funds raised through the bi-annual Paper Clover campaign directly benefits 4-H youth. 90 percent of donations directly support 4-H youth in the state where the funds were raised, and the remaining 10 percent supports the overall mission and growth of 4-H nationally.

## FAIR: Clover Award & Still Projects



### 4-H Clover Award

All Grand Traverse, Benzie, Kalkaska, Antrim and Leelanau County 4-H members ages 10-19 are eligible to apply for a Clover Award. Application finalists chosen to earn a Clover Award must complete an interview on Monday during the fair. The top youth interviewed will be awarded the Outstanding Clover Award during the 4-H Awards Ceremony and be known throughout the region as an exemplary 4-H'er! Prize: a \$100 VISA gift card, certificate and a ribbon. Applications are due by Wednesday, July 29th to the Grand Traverse 4-H office. Apply [Here](#).

### Still Projects

Still projects are **any non-animal projects** (including eggs) that 4-H youth can showcase at Fair. See the full list [here](#).

## Empty Bowls



Mark your calendars! Our Empty Bowls fundraiser is coming back to Howe Arena in Traverse City on **May 4th!**

## MakerFest 2026



Join us at Howe Arena for the latest and greatest celebration of Making and all things STEAM, in combination with our friends from the Recycle Smart Earth Day event! Get ready for a continued green focus focus the event, including as much upcycling, repurposing, and recycling as possible.





# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Building awareness in 4-H experiences**



**Beyond Ready**

Helping young people understand that they are part of 4-H and what that means is a key part of strengthening their overall experience. Awareness builds pride, connection and a sense of belonging.

As volunteers, you play an essential role in helping youth and families recognize when they are participating in 4-H and how activities connect to the values and learning within the program.

Simple, intentional steps can make a big difference.

- Have the 4-H flag and recite the 4-H pledge.
- Use the 4-H clover on handouts and materials when possible.
- Make clear connections between activities and one of the four Hs.

These actions help youth see themselves as true 4-H members engaged in meaningful learning.

#BeyondReady

**April 1-21: Smart Money Missions Goosechase Game**

*Online (Goosechase App)*

Join an interactive scavenger hunt game designed for youth to learn essential money management skills while having fun. Players age 13-19 complete creative missions, answer trivia and solve puzzles, all while earning points to climb the leaderboard.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/smart-money-missions](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/smart-money-missions)

**April 12: Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers**

*Comerica Park, Detroit*

Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at the ballpark as the Detroit Tigers take on the Miami Marlins on Sunday, April 12. Michigan 4-H will be honored as the Group Charity of the Game.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers)

**April 13: Adulting 101 – Eat Smart: Meals on a Budget**

*Online*

Simple tips to plan meals that save money and taste great. Plus learn how to cook once and eat twice!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-eat-smart](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-eat-smart)

**April 17 – May 3: Spring TSC Paper Clover Campaign**

*Tractor Supply Stores everywhere*

Support 4-H by purchasing a \$1 paper clover at your local Tractor Supply Co. (TSC) store!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/spring-tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/spring-tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign)

**April 21: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project – Goal Getters**

*Online*

Learn how to set SMART goals to enhance your livestock marketing success. Youth will learn practical strategies to develop a goal, stay focused and achieve it.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar4-21](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar4-21)

**April 22: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Let’s Talk it Out: Handling Conflict with Ease**

*Online*

Conflict happens—even to the best volunteer groups. Learn how to handle tough conversations without the stress. Pick up practical tips for turning disagreements into productive dialogue and keeping your volunteer experience positive and drama-free.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-let-s-talk-it-out-handling-conflict-with-ease](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-let-s-talk-it-out-handling-conflict-with-ease)

**April 28: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project – Talk the Talk**

*Online*

Effective communication is key to successfully selling livestock. Learn tools and techniques to connect with buyers, convey product value and empower youth with tips for impactful auctions and markets.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinars-april-28](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinars-april-28)





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## Registration open for 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp

4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp mixes summer fun and hands-on science education. The camp will be held July 26 – August 1 on the shores of Lake Esau at Camp Chickagami in Presque Isle and is open to youth ages 13-15 during camp.

During this enriching MSU Extension educational program, campers will increase their science literacy and stewardship as they learn from natural resource experts in fields such as Great Lakes coastal and fisheries management, limnology, wildlife, forestry, geography, geology and environmental education. In addition to hands-on learning, attendees also enjoy exciting natural resources recreation activities such as kayaking, swimming, sailing, archery, fishing, snorkeling, evening campfires and more!



Registration is now open! The registration fee is \$550 and includes six nights of lodging, all meals and snacks, a t-shirt and program and activity costs. Space is limited to 70 campers so register today. For more information and to register, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_great\\_lakes\\_natural\\_resources\\_camp/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_great_lakes_natural_resources_camp/).



## Register for 4-H Exploration Days!

Join 1,000 youth from across Michigan on MSU's campus to explore YOUR future! This three-day pre-college program is designed to help you explore careers, build skills and envision your future. Choose from more than 100 fun learning sessions on a variety of topics that are led by MSU faculty, 4-H staff and volunteers, and other experts. You'll stay in and eat at MSU residence halls, attend sessions in buildings throughout campus, and of course have fun at free-time activities across the university!

4-H Exploration days will be held June 24-26 at MSU in East Lansing. Young people ages 12 to 19 are invited to join the fun! The cost for the 2026 event is \$250, which includes two nights' lodging in a residence hall, meals, learning sessions, an event t-shirt and free-time activities. Contact your local MSU Extension office to find out if your county 4-H program offers scholarships for youth participants.

Registration is open and closes April 17. You'll want to register soon – sessions fill up fast and are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis! For registration links or more information, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_exploration\\_days/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/).

## Purple up for military families!

April is the Month of the Military Child, an annual awareness campaign that recognizes the sacrifices made by military families and their children. In partnership with many others across the United States, Michigan 4-H Military Partnerships is participating in the annual "Purple Up!" Day event. To show your support of children whose parents are serving in the military, MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H are asking residents throughout Michigan to Purple Up! on April 15.

The color purple is chosen as the signature color because it symbolizes all branches of the military. It is a combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue. Michigan 4-H Military Partnerships hopes everyone will take this opportunity to appreciate and celebrate all of our state's young heroes strength and sacrifice as their parents serve. Let's show our military families how much we appreciate their service by encouraging everyone to Purple Up!



Looking for more ways to celebrate Month of the Military Child? Visit [www.4-hmilitarypartnership.org/month-of-the-military-child.html](http://www.4-hmilitarypartnership.org/month-of-the-military-child.html). For more programs and resources available to military families through Michigan 4-H, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/4h\\_military\\_families](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4h_military_families).

# SAVE THE DATE



4H'ers this is your opportunity to meet potential project buyers.

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## Michigan 4-H Animal & Veterinary Science Camp July 6-7 and 8-9, 2026

Michigan 4-H Animal and Veterinary Science Camp is for youth who are interested in exploring animal and veterinary science related projects and activities. Participants must be ages 13 to 17 as of January 1 of the current programming year.

The Michigan 4-H Animal and Veterinary Science Camp is a pre-college program held at Michigan State University (MSU) in partnership with MI 4-H Youth Development, MSU Department of Animal Science and MSU College of Veterinary Medicine. Youth explore fields and careers relating to animal science and veterinary medicine, visit MSU farms and facilities, and participate in numerous hands-on learning activities.



### Items to note:

To better meet demands and engage more youth in this experience, this camp has been shortened and will be offered twice as a two-day day camp. Youth can attend either July 6-7 or July 8-9.

Like in 2024 and 2025, we will not be collecting applications this year. Registration will open on April 1 at noon.

Out-of-state youth can join the waitlist and will be welcome to register if Michigan youth do not fill all the spots by the deadline.

**Cost:** \$120 (includes meals, transportation during camp activities, and camp materials. Lodging is the responsibility of the participant's family.)

### How do I register?

Registration opens on **April 1 at noon** EST and is available on a first come, first served basis.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-animal-and-veterinary-science-camp-2026>



# GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY 4-H YOUTH LEADERS ASSOCIATION ADVISORY BOARD SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM



**ELIGIBILITY:**

To be eligible for this scholarship, applicants must:

1. Be an active 4-H youth member or volunteer in Grand Traverse County.
2. Have a financial need that limits the ability to participation without assistance.
3. Only receive a maximum of 4 scholarships per year, scholarships may be limited based upon available funds.
4. Before the Event: Return completed application to:  

MSU Extension 4-H  
520 W. Front St., Suite A  
Traverse City, MI 49684

Phone: 231-922-4825  
Email: byesarah@msu.edu
5. Within two weeks of the event: submit supporting documents (hotel receipt, agendas, etc.) for reimbursement
6. Share their experience with others by attending the upcoming Grand Traverse County 4-H Leaders Association meeting or send a summary of what they learned through their experience.

**PARTICIPANT:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Years in 4-H \_\_\_\_\_

4-H Club(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Activity Attending \_\_\_\_\_ Date & Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the participant a member of the Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council?     No     Yes

Has the participant applied for any other scholarships for this event?     No     Yes

If yes, list scholarships: \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUTH PARTICIPANTS ONLY:**

Please type or print legibly your answers to the following questions; attach extra pages if necessary.

1. What projects/activities have you participated in while involved with 4-H? Include number of years for each.
  
2. What new skills have you learned in 4-H?
  
3. Why do you want to participate in this activity?
  
4. What do you think you will learn? How will you use that knowledge in your club and community?
  
5. How will you help finance your portion of this opportunity? (examples: child care, lawn mowing, pop cans, etc)

**REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES:**

Registration Fee (eligible for direct activity payment):

- MSU Exploration Days, MSU events & 4-H sponsored events reimbursed up to 50% of the registration fee.
- Additional registration add on items or incentives are not included.

Lodging (reimbursement only):

- Hotel stipend is \$50 per room. An itemized receipt must be provided.
- Activity must be 100 or more miles away (one way) and start before 10:00 a.m. the next morning.
- Activities that include lodging in the price are excluded from additional reimbursement.

**PARTICIPANT:**

	<b>Estimated Total Cost</b>	<b>Scholarship Amount</b>	
Registration Fee	\$ _____	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Request direct activity payment
Lodging	\$ _____	\$ _____	
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>	<b>FINAL APPROVED AMOUNT</b>

**REIMBURSEMENT: Please provide a payee name below. A check will be mailed to the address on file in 4-H Online.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
**Print Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature (person submitting request)                      Date                      Email**

**4-H STAFF USE ONLY**

Approved By & Date:	Check Sent Date:
Supporting Documents – Received Date & Type:	Shared Experience - Type With Date Completed:

**Effective 2/23/2026**



## Grand Traverse County 4-H Program Tractor Supply Company Scholarship Application

The partnership between Tractor Supply and National 4-H Council, the Paper Clover fundraiser, has raised more than \$20 million for 4-Hers across the country thanks to the dedication and in-store involvement of Tractor Supply customers, team members and local 4-H groups. The Paper Clover Campaign is a national in-store fundraiser that is held each spring and fall. The money raised during the event is used to scholarship camp and leadership experiences for youth.

**ELIGIBILITY:**

To be eligible for this scholarship, applicants must:

1. Promote the Paper Clover campaign.
2. Understand that scholarships may be limited based upon available funds.
3. Be an active 4-H youth member in Grand Traverse County and regularly attend 4-H club meetings.
4. Understand that if the participant does not attend the event, the scholarship must be reimbursed to Grand Traverse County 4-H and youth are ineligible for future 4-H scholarships.
5. At least 10 days before the event, return completed application to:
 

MSU Extension 4-H	Phone: 231-922-4825
520 W. Front St., Suite A	Email: byesarah@msu.edu
Traverse City, MI 49684	
6. After the event, write and send (or deliver) a personal thank you card to the Tractor Supply Store in your area

**PARTICIPANT:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Years in 4-H: \_\_\_\_\_ 4-H Club(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Activity Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Date & Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the participant a member of the Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council?     No     Yes

Has the participant applied for any other scholarships for this event?     No     Yes

If yes, list scholarships applied for and amounts requested from each:

\_\_\_\_\_

In what way did you support the Paper Clover campaign?

*The Grand Traverse County 4-H Tractor Supply Company Scholarship will pay up to 50% of the registration fee.*

Estimated Total Registration Fee to attend the event:    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

4-H Tractor Supply Scholarship Requested Amount:    \$ \_\_\_\_\_



