



DECEMBER 2025

4-H Family News

GRATIOT COUNTY



Season's Greetings from Gratiot County 4-H

As we move into the season of giving, gratitude, and togetherness, we are reminded of what makes 4-H so special—youth, families, volunteers, and communities coming together to make a positive difference. This time of year encourages us to reflect on what we're thankful for, and we are truly grateful for the dedication and enthusiasm our 4-H members bring to every meeting, project, and event.

In the spirit of giving, Gratiot County 4-H is proud to host our **Food and Personal Needs Drive**, running now through **December 15th**. All donations will help support local families during the holiday and winter season, when the need is often greatest. We appreciate every contribution—big or small—that helps brighten someone's holiday.

As we embrace the winter months ahead, we look forward to all the opportunities 4-H provides for learning, leadership, service, and community engagement. From hands-on workshops to club activities, project learning, and countywide events, 4-H continues to give youth a place to grow, belong, and make meaningful connections.

Thank you for being part of our 4-H family. May this holiday season bring warmth, kindness, and many moments of joy to you and your loved ones. We are excited for the winter adventures ahead and grateful for each of you who help make Gratiot County 4-H strong.

Till next time — head, heart, hands, and health!

Ashley Foster
4-H Program Coordinator

CONTACT US



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Introducing your 2025-2026 4-H Council

ADULT	YOUTH
Kelly Becker (24-26)	Miranda B. (25-26)
Brian Bloomquist (25-27)	Charisma C. (25-26)
Nicole Gorsuch (25-27)	Jake G. (25-26)
John Henry (25-27)	Kaydence S. (25-26)
Karen Reinstra (25-27)	Nora V. (25-26)
Kim Reisterer (24-26)	
Kate Theil (25-27)	

Thank you to everyone that is a part of and supports the 4-H Council. Without all of you the wonderful things we do in Gratiot County 4-H would not be possible.

Everyone is welcome to join us for our monthly meetings on the last Monday of the month at 7pm at the Gratiot MSU Extension office in Alma.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/gratiot>
<https://www.facebook.com/gratiot4hmsue>

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Woodworking Workshop Fun



The Youth in Gratiot County 4-H had the chance to participate in a woodworking workshop where they built their own Christmas trees! We had such an interest we had 3 sessions with a total of 30 youth! Now they will take their base tree home and finish it with paint, stain or whatever their heart desires to make it uniquely theirs.

Thank you to all the parents that helped, brought their youth and let them be part of Gratiot County 4-H!!!

Parliamentary Procedure Training

Ever wondered how to run a smooth, fair, and efficient 4-H meeting? That's where parliamentary procedure comes in! It's the set of rules that helps groups make decisions together — teaching leadership, organization, and respect for everyone's voice.

Date: December 10 Time: 6:00 PM Location: Emerson Township Hall. 2976 N Baldwin Rd. Ithaca.

Who's Invited: All 4-H members and adult volunteers Cost: FREE!

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/ParliProTraining>

Come learn how to make motions, debate respectfully, and vote with confidence — skills that strengthen your 4-H club and build your leadership potential for life!

Don't miss this fun, hands-on training for youth and volunteers alike.

Winter Coloring Fun!



Let's have some fun! Gratiot County 4-H Youth show your creativity by coloring our 4-H Winter coloring page and submitting it to the MSU Gratiot County Extension Office by Wednesday, December 17th at 4pm. Hard copies are available at the office, or you can print your own from [HERE](#). We would love to line our walls and front doors with your beautiful coloring pages.

Each coloring page submitted will be able to have a chance at winning some goodies. We will contact those that are chosen on Friday December 19th and you can pick them up in the office by Tuesday, December 23rd



GRATIOT COUNTY 4-H

Cookie Decorating Workshop Date Added

**GRATIOT 4-H
COOKIE DECORATING
WORKSHOP**

4-H Youth ages 5-19 are invited to learn basic cookie decorating techniques and express their creativity through colorful designs. Each participant will decorate and take home a plate of their own hand-decorated sugar cookies.

Cost is \$5 and must be sent/brought into the Gratiot MSU Extension Office by December 15.

Registration is required and can be done at <https://bit.ly/4HCookieDecorating>

DECEMBER 17TH & DECEMBER 18TH (CLOSED) 6PM AT THE GRATIOT EXTENSION OFFICE

The Cookie Decorating Class on December 18th is FULL!!

But we have added a class for the day prior on December 17th if your interested in still joining us!

Make sure you register NOW so you don't miss out. There will not be another class offering added after this! Space is limited.

<https://bit.ly/4HCookieDecorating>

Save the Date for Teen Fun Night

🌟 CALLING ALL GRATIOT COUNTY 4-H TEENS....LET'S HAVE SOME FUN! 🌟

Mark your calendars for **January 30th, 6-9 PM**—it's **Gratiot County 4-H Teen Fun Night!**

🎉 Get ready for an evening packed with energy, laughs, and all the good stuff:

- ➡ **FREE event**
- ➡ **Open to all 4-H enrolled youth ages 12-19**
- ➡ **Snacks, games, music, activities & more!**
- ➡ **Location to be determined ASAP**
- ➡ **Register HERE <https://bit.ly/4HFunNight>**

A great chance to meet new friends and hang out with fellow 4-H'ers! Whether you're into board games, active challenges, or just chilling with friends and food, there's something for everyone. Come kick off the new year 4-H style—with fun, friendship, and plenty of excitement!



We can't wait to see you there! Invite your 4-H friends and spread the word! 🎉

**Gratiot 4-H
Teen Fun Night**

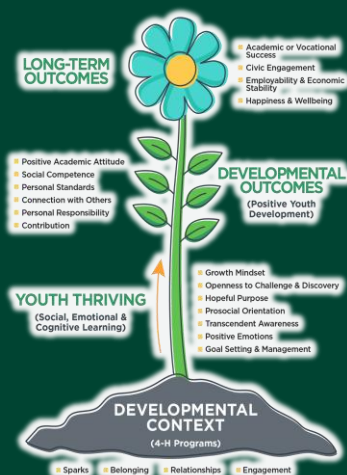
Gratiot 4-H Youth ages 12-19 are welcome to join us for a fun night of games, activities, snacks and more!

JANUARY 30TH 6-9PM
Gratiot MSU Extension Office (as of now)



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development



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 Thriving 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.

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.