



JANUARY 2026

4-H Family News

Huron County



HAPPY NEW YEAR - 2026

4-H RE-ENROLLMENT DEADLINE WAS DECEMBER 1, 2025

If you missed the December 1st re-enrollment deadline and still wish for your youth to participate in the 2025-26 4H program year, please do so ASAP. This will be your FINAL notice and could be your final 4-H newsletter.

Joining 4-H is FREE!! Don't delay as youth and adult volunteer leaders **MUST BE CURRENTLY ENROLLED & APPROVED** in the 4-H Online system if they wish to participate in any 4-H club meetings, 4-H activities and 4-H events. No exceptions due to liability reasons.

To re-enroll, go to <https://v2.4honline.com>. If you have any issues, DO NOT CREATE another family profile. Please contact the MSU Extension Office for further assistance at 989-269-9949.

Paper enrollment forms are also available at the MSU Extension Office for those with older special needs members or have no email.

4-H COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Hannah Booms
- Alyssa Gehring - NEW
- Katrina Gentner
- Jeff Gillig, President
- Kelly Hunsanger, Vice-President
- Erica Karg
- Amanda Murray, Secretary
- Amy O'Connor - NEW
- Cynthia Puvalowski, Treasurer
- Ellexia Puvalowski, Senior 4-H Ambassador
- Rebecca Smalley
- Sandi Smith
- Vivian Thuemmel
- Jack Wasierski, 4-H Teen Representative
- Ashlynn Waugh, 4-H Teen Representative

The next regular 4-H Council Meeting will be Tuesday, January 13, at the MSU Extension Conference Room at 5:15 p.m..



CONTACT US

Patricia Errer
4-H Program Coordinator
Kari VerEllen
4-H Administrative Assistant

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Bad Axe, MI 48413

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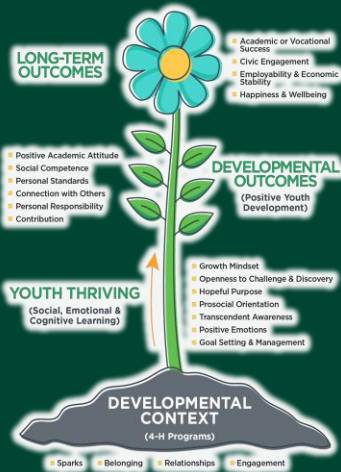
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/Huron/>

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STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H THRIVING MODEL OF POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Relationships are the foundation of a successful 4-H program! These relationships include building friendships with other members and leaders, building great working relationships and trust between program leaders and members, and adult leaders working together to organize great opportunities for youth.

We hope you can find others in the 4-H program in which you can build positive friendships and/or mentorships. Join us for any events and meetings to get to know everyone in the program.

Youth thriving is the first step in building youth who are #BeyondReady! Contact your local 4-H staff for more information.

January 13: Wild Spartans - Online

This month's session is "Nature's Detectives: How Insects Help Solve Crimes Against People, Animals and the Environment through Forensic Entomology." Tiny creatures can tell BIG stories about the world around us: explore creepy-crawly clues and learn how science and nature work together to solve puzzles. Ask questions through a live Q&A. This free virtual series is for youth ages 12-19.

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

January 13: Avoiding Money Mishaps - Online

In today's digital world, young people are increasingly targeted by fraudsters, scammers and predatory lenders. This interactive webinar will empower youth with the knowledge and tools to protect themselves and their personal information.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/avoiding-money-mishaps-jan13

January 21: Adulting 101 – Fraud Fighters: How to Stay Scam-Free - Online

From fake jobs offers to phishing texts, scammers are everywhere. This workshop breaks down the latest tricks and shows you how to guard your info, your credit, and your peace of mind.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-2026>

January 24: 2026 State 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Show and Expo - Farm Bureau Pavilion, Lansing

4-H'ers exhibit rabbit and cavy projects and participate in educational knowledge contests: showmanship, skillathon, breed identification and rabbit hopping. **Register by January 14.**

www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-state-4-h-rabbit-and-cavy-show-and-expo

January 26: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series: Beyond Ready Basics

Every great 4-H experience has a few powerful ingredients—and volunteers play the biggest role in making them happen. Explore the four vital elements that help youth thrive: discovering sparks, feeling a sense of belonging, building developmental relationships, and staying meaningfully engaged.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-beyond-ready-basics-bringing-the-vital-elements-to-life-in-your-4-h-club

February 7: 4-H Winterfest - Eagle Village Retreat Center, Hersey

4-H Winterfest is a hand-on learning camp for youth ages 8-12. Youth pick workshops and participate in team building activities. Come and have fun this winter! **Register by January 23.**

www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-winterfest





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

REGISTER FOR MICHIGAN 4-H CAPITOL EXPERIENCE!



At Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience, teens learn how to change the world for the better through engagement in Michigan's state government and public policy process. The program is scheduled for March 15-17, in Lansing.

The three-day event, open to high-school-aged youth, includes tours of the Michigan Capitol, interactions with state legislators, meetings with state agency staff, lobbyists and state-level experts and learning how policy is made. During the program, youth work in small teams to draft legislation on: agriculture; civil rights and youth advocacy; crime and law enforcement; education and teacher retention; environment and natural resources; health; and jobs, the economy and infrastructure.

The cost to attend is \$365, which includes lodging at the Okemos Conference Center. Please contact your local 4-H program coordinator to inquire about local funding opportunities. To learn more and/or find the link to register, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_capitol_experience/.

EARN PRIZES WITH THE MICHIGAN 4-H CASH COMPOSITION CONTEST

Did you know youth are being targeted by scams too? That's this year's theme for the 2026 Michigan 4-H Cash Composition Contest! Michigan youth aged 9–19 are invited to participate through writing an essay on this year's question.

Top entries receive a \$100 gift card, thanks to contest sponsor, Extra Credit Union. MSU Extension will host two webinars to help with fraud awareness and essay writing. Essays are due by March 1. For contest details and essay submission information, visit: www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/money-smart-kids-contest.

APPLY FOR THE MICHIGAN 4-H STATE AWARDS!

Michigan 4-H true leaders ages 10 and older have an opportunity to be recognized for the great work they do in 4-H and develop their career skills by completing a state award application. A Michigan 4-H State Award is the highest honor bestowed on a Michigan 4-H member and provides an opportunity to receive recognition for their engagement in rich learning experiences that result in outstanding knowledge and life-skill development.

State award applications are divided into four categories: Mark of Excellence contest (10-11 years), junior state award (12-15 years), senior state award (16-19 years) and group awards (13-19 years). An Achievement Award was added last year for 18–19-year-olds. Each application and selection process varies, dependent on the applicant's age.

More information about the Michigan 4-H State Award process and Mark of Excellence Contest can be found online at bit.ly/stateaward. Applications are due April 1. For more information, contact your 4-H program coordinator or email Betty Jo Krosnicki at nashbett@msu.edu or Janice Zerbe at rajzerj@msu.edu.



COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MSU Extension Office Closed for New Year’s Day	01/01/26
Deadline for 4-H Camp Teen Counselor Applications	01/02/26
4-H Camp Teen Counselor Training	01/10/26
Registration Deadline for 4-H Projects Galore Workshop	01/12/26
4-H Council Meeting	01/13/26
RSVP Deadline for 4-H Ice Skating Event	01/15/26
4-H Ice Skating Event	01/18/26
MSU Extension Office Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	01/19/26
Rockin’ Around 4-H Projects Galore Workshop	02/07/26
4-H Council Meeting	02/07/26
MSU Extension Office Closed for Presidents Day	02/16/26
SAVE THE DATE for 4-H Winter Day Camp	02/21/26
2026 Michigan 4-H Cash Competition Essays Due	03/01/26
High School Senior Scholarships Due	03/02/26
4-H Council Meeting	03/10/26
Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience	03/15-17/26
Michigan 4-H State Awards Applications Due	04/01/26
4-H Council Meeting	04/14/26
MSU Extension Office Closed for District 10 All Staff Meeting	04/29/26

4-H Club Pledge:

“I pledge
 My **HEAD**
 To Clearer
 Thinking,
 My **HEART**
 To Greater Loyalty,
 My **HANDS**
 To Larger Service,
 My **HEALTH**
 To Better Living
 For
 My Club,
 My Community
 My Country and
 My World.”





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

TEEN COUNSELORS NEEDED FOR 2026 THUMB AREA 4-H CAMP

Thumb Area 4-H Camp is tentatively planned for Monday-Wednesday, June 15-17, 2026, at Camp Stapleton and teen counselors are NEEDED. **Thumb Area 4-H Camp is NOT possible without teen counselors!**

Thumb Area 4-H Camp offers an opportunity for youth to share experiences in camping with activities including Great Lake Ecology, swimming, archery, team building skills, skits, games, crafts and so much more. 4-H teens who are interested in becoming 4-H camp teen counselors for the 2026 Thumb Area 4-H Camp, please complete the teen counselor application found in this newsletter and return by **Friday, January 2, 2026**.

The first teen counselor training is scheduled for **Saturday, January 10, 2026, at the MSU Extension Office, 690 N. Port Crescent Street, Bad Axe (across from the Peppermill Restaurant) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** with lunch provided. The other trainings dates are yet to be determined.

Attendance for all trainings is **REQUIRED** to become a teen camp counselor. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Patti Error at errerp@msu.edu or Kari VerEllen at verelle7@msu.edu or call 989-269-9949.

4-H ICE SKATING EVENT

4-H youth members are invited to a FREE and FUN late afternoon of ice skating on **Sunday, January 18, 2026**, at the Huron County Ice Arena, 170 W. Soper Road, in Bad Axe from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. Check-in will start at 3:30 p.m.

All youth MUST be aged 5 and older by January 1, 2026, and currently enrolled & active in the 4-H Online system to attend this event. Please make sure your youth are currently enrolled in the 4-H Online system. No exceptions due to liability reasons!

PRE-REGISTRATION is REQUIRED by contacting the MSU Extension Office at 989-269-9949 or email verelle7@msu.edu before 4 p.m. on **Thursday, January 15, 2026**, as a head count is needed prior to the event.

2026 4-H PROJECTS GALORE WORKSHOP

Rockin' Around 4-H Projects Galore '26 is an event offering a Round Robin rotation for youth to complete hands-on learning of exciting new projects ready to enjoy, share, and show at the 2026 Huron Community Fair. 4-H Projects Galore is scheduled for **Saturday, February 7, 2026**, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Huron Area Tech Center in Bad Axe.

The registration deadline is Monday, January 12, 2026. Cost of the event is FREE to all currently enrolled and approved 4-H members. Not a current 4-H member, please go to <https://v2.4honline.com> and enroll in 4-H...it's FREE to join. Lunch and refreshments will be provided at the conclusion of the project rotation.

The registration form is attached for your convenience. Please complete a registration form for each 4-H member who plans to participate in the workshop. This workshop is sponsored by the Huron County 4-H Leaders Association and would not be possible without amazing instructors who are willing to share their time and talents with the 4-H youth of Huron County.

SAVE THE DATE - 4-H WINTER DAY CAMP

4-H youth ages 10 to 19, grab your mittens and join us at the frozen frontier day camp for a day full of old-time skills and big-time winter thrills on **Saturday, February 21, 2026**, in Clifford, Michigan. Registration will be coming out in January 2026.

All youth MUST be aged 10 to 19 as of January 1, 2026, and currently enrolled & active in the 4-H Online system to attend this event. Please make sure your youth are currently enrolled in the 4-H Online system. No exceptions due to liability reasons!

2026 HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

There are two local scholarship opportunities for local high school seniors to apply for through the MSU Extension Office. Hard copies of both scholarship applications will be available the MSU Extension Office and at local high schools mid-January 2026. **Deadline for both applications is by 4:00 p.m. Monday, March 2, 2026.**

The Huron County 4-H Council is offering up to four \$500 scholarships. To be eligible for the Huron County 4-H Council Scholarship, students must be a high school senior who is currently enrolled in the Huron County 4-H Program and enrolled in a college/trade school.

Since 1981, the Huron County Dairy Promotions Scholarship Fund has given several \$500+ scholarships awarded annually to Huron County's outstanding college-bound high school seniors. Criteria for this scholarship include high moral character, initiative, and scholastic achievement, as well outstanding achievements in 4-H and/or FFA. Students are only eligible if they will be focusing on a major in agriculture or an ag related field.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



4-H Family News

Huron County

SHOW YOUR 4-H PRIDE WHEREVER YOU GO!

The Michigan 4-H license plate is a simple way to support youth programs while celebrating your connection to 4-H. A portion of every plate purchase benefits Michigan 4-H for young people to learn, lead, and grow through 4-H.

Order yours today for \$35 through the Michigan Secretary of State and drive your support forward! Learn more at extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate.



4-H GROWS HERE

Saturday, February 7, 2026



9:00 a.m. to 12:00 & Lunch

Huron Area Tech Center, Bad Axe

Plan Your February Club Meeting with Us!

Rockin' Around 4-H Projects Galore '26

Registration at 8:30 Rockin' Projects 9:00-12:00 Lunch at 12:00 Noon
{extra work time: 12:30-1:30}

Rockin' Around 4-H Projects Galore is an event offering a Round Robin Rotation for youth to complete hands-on learning of exciting new projects ready to enjoy, share, and show at the 2026 Huron Community Fair. Project Galore is for currently enrolled 4-H youth, ages 5 and older, including special needs (as of 1/1/2026). Refreshments and lunch will be provided at the conclusion of the project rotation.

The cost for this event is FREE for currently enrolled 4-H members. Not a current member? Please go to <https://v2.4honline.com> and enroll in 4-H. **It's FREE to join.** Need a Club near you? Call the MSU Extension office, Kari, 989-269-9949, and she'll be happy to assist you.

The registration deadline is Monday, January 12, 2026.

Sponsored by the Huron County 4-H Leaders Association.

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All Cloverbuds - Ages 5 to 7: 4-H youth will be Rockin' Around the rotation to complete 6 projects.

Please choose 6 projects:

- _____ Robin 1: Fairy Garden Jar
- _____ Robin 2: Wood Gathering Basket
- _____ Robin 3: Mosaic Toad House and Water Bath
- _____ Robin 4: Denim Memo Pocket, Notebook
- _____ Robin 5: Bird Seed Ornament and Bird House
- _____ Robin 6: Snowman Fence Picket & Snowman Soup
- _____ Robin 7: Dream Catcher
- _____ Robin 8: Welcome Porch Panel Sign



All Youth - Ages 8 and Up: 4-Her's will be Rockin' Around the rotation to complete projects.

Please select 6 projects for this age group.

- | | |
|---|---|
| _____ Table 1: String Art Heart Design | _____ Table 5: Wood Block Snowman |
| _____ Table 2: Porch Flower Box | _____ Table 6: Easter Rabbit Glass Blocks |
| _____ Table 3: Silk Floral Rain Boots | _____ Table 7: Wood Bead Ornaments |
| _____ Table 4: Cupcakes & No Bakes (nuts) | _____ Table 8: Silverware Wind Chime |

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Rockin' Around 4-H Projects Galore '26 Registration

Name _____ Age _____ 4-H Club _____

Parent Name: _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Please join your youth for lunch.

Registration deadline is Monday, January 12, 2026. Please complete and mail or drop off to the MSU Extension Office, 690 N. Port Crescent, Bad Axe, 48413, or email to verelle7@msu.edu

All Cloverbuds - Ages 5 to 7: Rockin' Around Projects:

- **Fairy Garden Jar** - In this session, youth will create a natural garden with a fairy and fairy lights inside a large jar. The jar will become a home with wooden logs and moss, and a secret door.
- **Wood Gathering Basket** - Youth will create a wood basket with rope handles to gather garden vegetables, chicken eggs, or their favorite toys and books.
- **Mosaic Toad House and Water Bath** - In this session, youth will create a mosaic pattern from a chosen plate they break into tiles, to decorate a toad house and water bath.
- **Denim Memo Packet and Notebook** - In this session, youth will create a 12" hoop wall hanging using an old pair of denim with a back pocket to hold a homemade notebook. **SUPPLIES TO BRING:** good sewing scissors.
- **Bird Seed Ornament and Bird House** - Youth will follow a recipe to make a cookie-cutter bird seed ornament to hang outside. Next, use edible paste and decorate a birdhouse with birdseed, cereal, nuts, and bird-friendly treats.
- **Snowman Fence picket and Snowman Soup** - In this session, youth will paint a fence picket into a snowman with a hat, buttons, and a scarf to stay warm. Youth will decorate a mug and make a "Snowman Soup" treat to take home.
- **Boho or Native Dream Catcher** - Youth will bind three sticks to create a dream catcher base and add torn material strips, ribbon, rope, beads, and feathers to decorate. **SUPPLIES TO BRING: If you have scrap material, ribbons, beads, or feathers you specifically like.**
- **Welcome Panel Porch Sign** - Youth will paint a plank of wood, then stencil "Welcome" with a special "O".

All Youth Ages 8 and Up: Rockin' Around Projects:

- **String Art Heart** - In this session, youth will outline a heart shape with nails on a block of wood and use red, pink, white or purple string to create a string heart pattern. **Bring a hammer.**
- **Porch Flower Box** - Youth will follow plans to build a flower box ready for plants and flowers this spring to put on their porch.
- **Silk Floral Rain Boots** - Youth will work with silk florals, ribbon, and a rain boot planter to create an indoor or outdoor decoration for this spring.
- **Cupcakes and No Bakes (Nuts/Red 3*)** - In this session, youth will learn hands-on how to frost and decorate 3 cupcakes as well as mix up some no-bake (NUTS) cookies. **SUPPLIES TO BRING: a 6-12 cupcake baking pan to carry treats home.**
- **Wood Block Snowman** - Youth will pick wood block snowballs for the body, head, and hat to build their snowman. Paint the blocks, coal, buttons, and a carrot nose. Add a scarf and top with the hat.
- **Easter Rabbit Glass Block** - Paint a bunny face on your glass block, add ears, paws, a tail, and a bow. Fill the glass block with tulle and lights to bring your Easter Rabbit to life.
- **Wood Bead Ornaments** - Use wood beads and letter beads to make wreath ornaments of colorful beads and holiday joy.
- **Antique Silverware Windchime** - In this session, youth will choose an antique kitchen item (grater, colander, masher), then hammer silverware flat to hang with wire and beads from it to create a windchime. **SUPPLIES TO BRING:** Feel free to bring your own kitchen item that has holes to attach silverware to.

Tools will be used in many projects today. To minimize sharing time among 4-H youth, feel free to pack a tote bag with a hammer, scissors, wood glue/liquid nails, E6000, pencils, and a ruler.

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THUMB AREA 4-H CAMP TEEN COUNSELOR APPLICATION

Teens Aged 15-19 by June 14, 2026

Name: _____

Age as of January 1, 2026 _____

Age as of June 14, 2026 _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Zip: _____ Teen email: _____

Teen cell phone: _____ Texting? Yes No

T-shirt Size: S M L XL 2XL Facebook: Yes No

Are you currently a 4-H member? Yes No What county? _____

(Non-members can apply to be counselors and are welcomed. Non-members are encouraged to join the Thumb Area 4-H Camp Club (under Huron County) as a member, by enrolling for FREE in 4HOnline at <https://v2.4honline.com>.)

Name of Club(s): _____

Parent name(s): _____

Parent email: _____ Parent phone number: _____

Texting? Yes No

Please share why you would like to be a counselor: _____

Please share what qualities you would bring to the 4-H Camp staff: _____

Please list your experiences working with children 9 to 14 years old: _____

Have you attended Thumb Area 4-H Camp before as a camper? Yes or No

If yes, what year(s)? _____

Have you served as a Teen Counselor at a 4-H Camp? Yes or No

What year(s)? _____

(OPTIONAL) – Attach your resume to this application

As a camp counselor, I commit myself to:

- ◆ Being a good role model and example at all times. Being interested in all activities.
- ◆ Get to know the members of my group, the best I can. Help them get acquainted with one another. Treat all campers the same. Respect differences.
- ◆ See that all members of my group become involved or have a part in each activity.
- ◆ Be willing to assist those in charge of the camp in any way I can. Be prompt for all meetings, meals, and activities.
- ◆ Give up my personal interests, so that the needs and interests of the campers can be met, realizing that the campers come first. Be available to the campers at all times.
- ◆ Not to hesitate to ask an adult for advice if I have a situation that I do not understand or need assistance with.
- ◆ Try my best to create an atmosphere of fun and fellowship so strong that everyone in my group will want to attend camp again next year. Keep good spirit, cheerful and positive attitude.

I understand that my typed name below designates my signature.

Signature of Teen: _____

*You are **REQUIRED** to attend Camp Counselor Training sessions in order to be considered as a counselor. It is your responsibility to let us know if you cannot attend a training prior to the scheduled date; either by contacting the MSU Extension Office in your county or emailing Kari (see below for email address).*

ALSO completing this application **does not** guarantee you a spot as a teen counselor. Teen counselors are selected based on their application, leadership qualities, maturity, and participation in training opportunities.

2026 TRAINING DATES:

Saturday, January 10, 2026 - Initial Teen Counselor Training (10 am to 2 pm at the MSU Extension Office, 690 N. Port Crescent Street, Bad Axe)

April TBD - 4-H Teen Counselor Retreat at TBD

Sunday, June 14, 2026 - Final 4-H Counselor Training before Thumb Area 4-H Camp

Monday-Wednesday, June 15-17, 2026 - Thumb Area 4-H Camp at Camp Stapleton, Lexington

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS BY: Friday, January 2, 2026

Please return completed application to:

MSU Extension-Huron County

690 N. Port Crescent Street

Bad Axe, MI 48413

Phone: (989) 269-9949

Email: verelle7@msu.edu (preferred in a pdf format)