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4-H Family News

Ingham County

OCTOBER 23, 2026

Ingham County 4-H Award Application & Nominations

Submit to office or email by Tuesday, November 24, 2026

Glenda Weiss
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weissgle@msu.edu

Awards and Scholarships
https://shorturl.at/5RVsL

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Experience Costa Rica, or other locations, next summer.

Now accepting applications.
See page 6 for more information.

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How to Register with 4-H: *NEW Family*

1. Visit **mi.4Honline.com.**
2. Create a family account.
3. Answer member questions; click the final SUBMIT button.
4. Use the Add Member button on the Member List page if needed.
5. Membership is approved at the county level. You will receive an email once approved.

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How to Register with 4-H: *Returning Family*

1. Visit **mi.4Honline.com.**
2. Log in to your account.*
3. Click "Enroll Now" for the returning member(s).
4. Update information.
5. Continue until you click the final SUBMIT button.
6. Add members if needed.

*If you need assistance accessing your account, contact your local 4-H staff; do not create a new account.

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BE SCARY TOGETHER!

2027 Summer Host Family Applications are now Open!

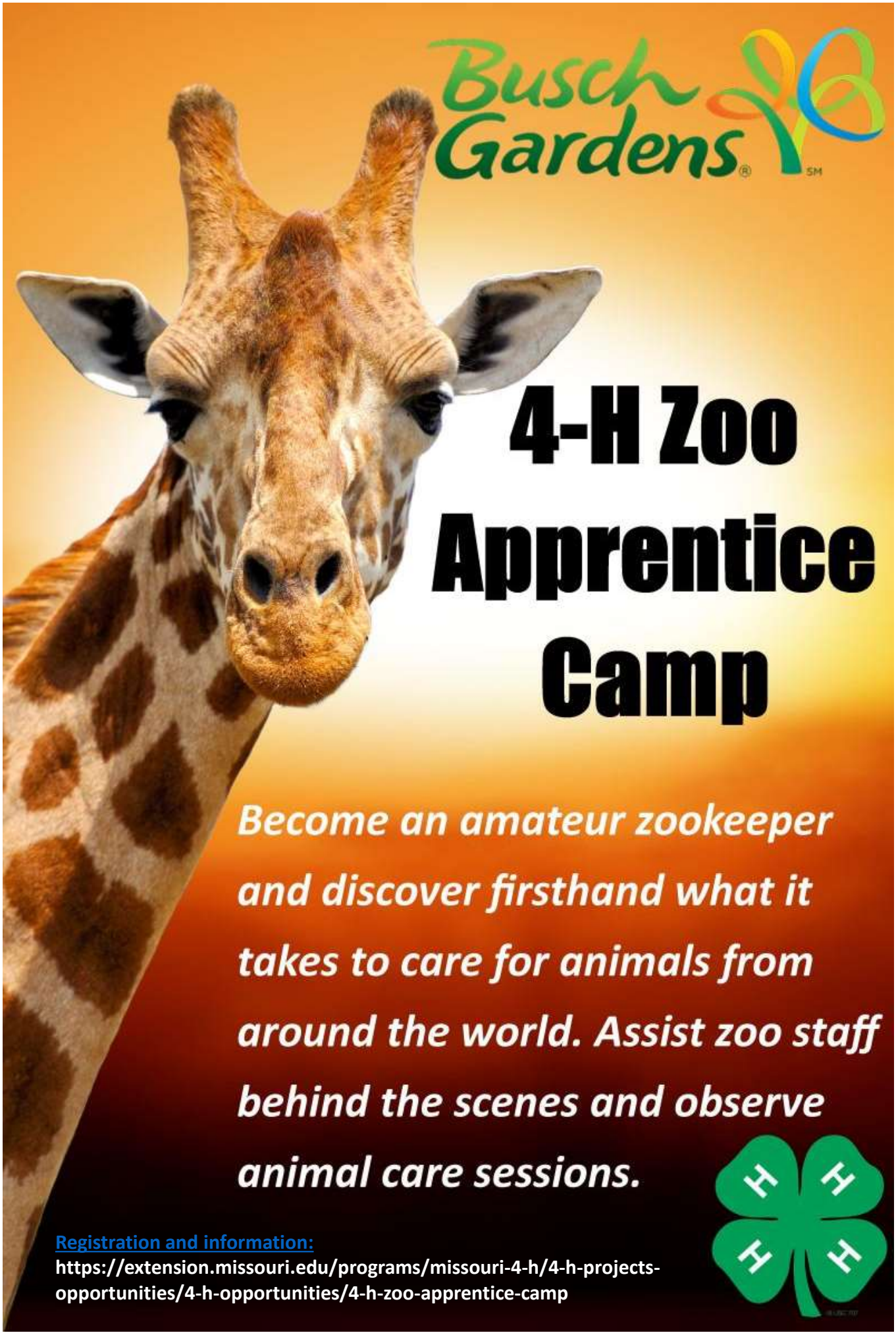
Don't be Scared this Halloween Season and consider the Treat of hosting a Japanese delegate this summer 2027!

It is not a Trick - Michigan 4-H will have 12 Japanese youth and 1 adult Chaperone availalble!



2026/2027 Online Application to Host Link:

www.states4hexchange.org


Busch Gardens
SM
4-H Zoo Apprentice Camp
Become an amateur zookeeper and discover firsthand what it takes to care for animals from around the world. Assist zoo staff behind the scenes and observe animal care sessions.
Registration and information:
https://extension.missouri.edu/programs/missouri-4-h/4-h-projects-opportunities/4-h-opportunities/4-h-zoo-apprentice-camp

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4-H Future Squad

A Virtual 4-H Club to Grow YOUR Future

Youth aged 12-19 (as of Jan 1, 2027) are invited to join 4-H Future Squad, designed for youth to build skills, confidence, and connections for a successful future.

The club will meet virtually October 2026 – May 2027.

Topics for education include financial literacy, college and career readiness, stress management, building healthy relationships, studying abroad, goal setting, nutrition, and much more... based on the topics you share that will help you be beyond ready for your future!

Current meeting dates and times will be communicated via e-mail and on the Upcoming Programs webpage.

Why Join 4-H Future Squad?

- **Adulthood is a big job — we'll help you get ready!** Learn essential skills alongside new friends and mentors who can guide you toward your goals.
- **Gain access to all 4-H benefits and statewide events** A variety of events will be shared with the group often, and youth are encouraged to participate!
- **Attend as you can!** Join 4-H Future Squad as your primary or secondary club – attend as many sessions as you wish.

Ready to Join?

Scan the QR code below to view the 4-H Future Squad Website and Interest Form

For program support, questions, or assistance with registration, please contact **Laurie Rivetto** at **rivettoL@msu.edu**

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Beyond Ready

STATES' 4-H INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

2027 OUTBOUND PROGRAMS

COSTA RICA · NORWAY · TAIWAN · SOUTH KOREA · JAPAN











OUR MISSION: Enhancing world understanding and global citizenship through high-quality international cultural immersion and exchange programs for 4-H aged youth.

Program Details:

States' 4-H Summer Outbound programs provide American 4-H youth with the opportunity to travel to foreign countries for a cultural immersion experience. Delegates live with volunteer host families and engage in experiential learning about a new way of life. Delegates experience aspects of daily life that allow them to more deeply understand both their host culture and their own culture. Our network of like-minded international partners recruits host families and plans enrichment activities.

2027 PROGRAM DATES*

Costa Rica: June 24-July 23
Norway: June 17-July 17
Taiwan: June 30-July 30
South Korea: July 7-August 6
Japan 4-Week: July 7-August 6
Japan 8-Week: June 9-August 6

*Program dates subject to slight change or modification.

4-H YOUTH ELIGIBILITY

- 12-18 years old for Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan 4-Week
- 15-18 years old for Costa Rica, Norway, and Japan 8-Week

Applicant must not be in college and 4-H enrollment guidelines and ages vary by state.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

- Contact your State Coordinator and/or reach out to States' 4-H to learn more
- Applications open in Fall 2026

Learn more at www.states4h.org
exchange@states4h.org · (206) 462-2200

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STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Preparing youth to be Beyond Ready: Building leadership skills through 4-H

Beyond Ready

4-H provides youth with opportunities to develop leadership skills in meaningful and age-appropriate ways. Whether leading a club activity, serving as an officer, mentoring younger members, or helping plan an event, youth practice communication, teamwork, decision-making and responsibility.

Volunteers can support leadership development by encouraging youth voice, sharing responsibilities and creating opportunities for members to take ownership of their learning. Every leadership experience helps young people build confidence and prepares them to contribute in school, work and their communities.

How are you helping youth grow as leaders this year?

#BeyondReady

October 3: MSU Tollgate Pumpkinfest
Tollgate Farm, Novi
Pumpkinfest is a family-friendly event at MSU Tollgate Farm. Enjoy a harvest celebration of wagon rides, u-pick pumpkin patch, cider, donuts, food, music and activities on the farm.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/pumpkinfest-2026

October 4-10: National 4-H Week
Nationwide
For over 100 years, 4-H has inspired families, shaped careers, and impacted communities. During this week, celebrate the impact of 4-H in various ways including Go Green Monday, Wheels Up Wednesday, Thankful Thursday and Stay Connected Saturday!
www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week

October 7: Adulting 101—Mental Health Toolkit: Everyday Skills and Resources to Help Care for Your Mental Health
Online
This Adulting 101 session will equip participants with practical tools to support their mental health and emotional wellbeing.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-extension-adulting-101-mental-health-toolkit-everyday-skills-and-resources-to-help-care-for-your-mental-health

October 27: 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Infusing Positive Youth Development into Your 4-H club
Online
Explore simple strategies that foster belonging, build developmental relationships, encourage youth voice, and create engaging experiences where young people can develop confidence, competence, character and caring.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-infusing-positive-youth-development-into-your-4-h-club

October 31: 4-H Animal Science Fall Fest
Anthony Hall, East Lansing
Youth will have the chance to learn about a variety of animal science topics, disciplines and careers from industry experts and Department of Animal Science staff. Open to youth ages 12-19. **Register by October 15!**
www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-animal-science-fall-fest-2026



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STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Nominate a deserving 4-H'er for Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year!



Do you know someone who displayed extraordinary sportsmanship at a recent 4-H animal science program? Perhaps at a club meeting, clinic or the county fair? Nominate them for the 2026 Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year Award!

This annual award recognizes one youth member and one adult 4-H leader who exemplify the definition of sportsmanship and have gone above and beyond to lend a helping hand to those around them during animal science programs. Nominations are due **October 15**. You can find full details, including the nomination form, at: www.canr.msu.edu/resources/competitive_event_resources.



Join the 4-H Future Squad!

Ready to level up your future? Youth ages age 12–19 are invited to join the 4-H Future Squad, a virtual 4-H club focused on life skills, career readiness, financial literacy, Adulting 101 topics and more.

4-H Future Squad was inspired by Generation Z youth seeking life skill development for a better future for themselves and their peers. This will be the sixth year of the program, which is designed to help youth feel prepared and ready to take on the future and adulthood.

The club will meet twice a month October 2026 through May 2027, virtually through Zoom. Meetings will involve team-building and will cover areas such as money management, career readiness, stress management, goal setting, time management, communication, politics, food safety and basic household tasks.

Meeting dates will take place on a variety of days of the week; dates and times will be communicated via email and on the program website. Youth can attend as many of these dates as they wish. 4-H Future Squad can be a primary or secondary club. Learn more and complete the interest form at: www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-future-squad/.

4-H scholarships available!



Outstanding Michigan 4-H members who are involved at county, regional, state, national or international levels are eligible to apply for Michigan 4-H scholarships to help fund their college experience.

A number of scholarship opportunities exist, ranging in value from $500 to $10,000 (over the course of four years). Each scholarship has specific eligibility, be sure to read the requirements to see if you qualify. All applications are due by November 1.

Learn more and access applications materials at: www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4_h_scholarships.