



FEBRUARY 6, 2026

4-H Family News

Ingham County



Join Us Online

WILD SPARTANS

SCIENCE * RESEARCH * CAREERS * CONSERVATION

"WALKING A PATH OF CONSERVATION"

WITH CARLY GRAFF

WESTERN UPPER PENINSULA TRAILS SPECIALIST
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

February 10 | 6:30 PM EST

Registration required:

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/WildSpartansSeriesFall2025Spring2026/>

Michigan 4-H

SPARK & SHARE SUMMIT

Bavarian Inn Lodge and Conference Center
Frankenmuth, MI

March 7, 2026
10:00am

\$75 per person
Includes Lunch

Session Topics:

- Ag in the Classroom
- Garden Inspired Art
- Running Livestock Shows
- Learn to Lincot
- Scratch Coding
- Self Publishing
- Animal Nutrition Basics
- Big Dreams and Future Careers
- Making Yarn on a Drop Spindle

...And More!

REGISTER NOW

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/SparkShare2026/>

Registration closes February 9th.

Ask your County 4-H Program Coordinator about availability of conference scholarships.

Join us for a day full of fun, exploring, learning, and sharing.

Contact Us:

Glenda Weiss

4-H Program Coordinator
weissgle@msu.edu

Michigan State University Extension
Ingham County Hilliard Bldg
121 E. Maple Street, PO Box 319
Mason, MI 48854
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Rachel Ochylski

4-H Urban Program Coordinator
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Michigan State University Extension
Ingham County Human Services Bldg
5303 S. Cedar Street
Lansing, MI 48911
Ph: 517.676.7300

Ingham County 4-H

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/ingham/4-h/>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Ingham4Hyou>

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KIDS ACTIVITIES @QAS

Join us at the Quiet Adventures Symposium on February 28. Lead your own activity or work with Rachel to pick one from our 4-H curriculum.

**FEBRUARY
28**

MSU PAVILION



Contact Rachel
(517) 676-7300
ochylski@msu.edu

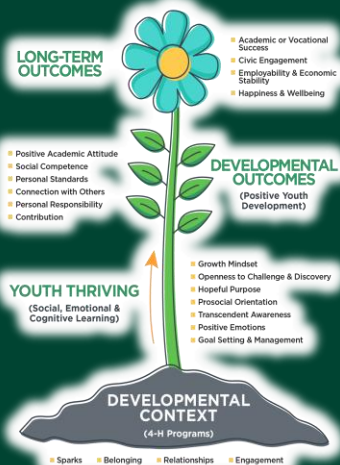


More Information
<https://quietadventures.org>



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development



Building a sense of belonging in our 4-H program has been a long-standing tradition. What does this look like?

It may be a project leader, club leader, or event organizer welcoming you to each meeting or event. It may look like a "roll call" or "ice breaker" at the beginning of a meeting.

The initial welcome allows people to know that they have been seen in the room. So, the next time someone asks you a roll call question of "What's your favorite cheese?", know that there is a reason.

We want to get to know you. We want to hear your voice. We want the ability to start building relationships by finding likenesses among us.

Contact your local 4-H staff for more information.
#BeyondReady

February 10: 4-H Wild Spartans

Online

In this month's session, take a walk through the woods on the wild side with "Walking a Path of Conservation." 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-february

February 11: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series: Building Belonging – Teambuilding Strategies for Stronger 4-H Experiences

Online

Teambuilding isn't just an activity—it's a pathway to deeper belonging and higher engagement in 4-H. This webinar will show volunteers how simple team-building practices can help youth feel included, communicate effectively, work together, and grow their leadership skills.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-building-belonging-teambuilding-strategies-for-stronger-4-h-experiences

February 11: Avoiding Money Mishaps

Online

This webinar will focus on how youth can protect themselves from fraud, scams, identity theft and predatory lending.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/avoiding-money-mishaps-feb11

February 11: 4-H Chef Tasty Dog Treats

Lenawee MSU Extension Demo Kitchen, Adrian

Youth ages 5-11 will prepare delicious treats to bake at home for your dog. Ages 5-7 need adult helper. Registration deadline is February 7.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-chef-tasty-dog-treats

February 19 –March 26: Online Guiding Principles for Highly Successful Parenting Webinar Series

Online

Guiding Principles is a FREE online course for parents of toddlers to teens to learn strategies for helping children, parents and families be successful.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/guiding-principles-for-highly-successful-parenting-webinar-series-february-2026

February 19: Ace the Interview: Skill Building and Practice for Teens

Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office, Ann Arbor

This free workshop will help youth (ages 12-19) confidently handle interview experiences with tips and hands-on practice. Any teen is welcome to attend! Registration deadline is February 17.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/ace-the-interview-skill-building-and-practice-for-teens





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



Participate in the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute

As millions across the globe deal with food insecurity, the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute (WFP MIYI) offers young people an opportunity to be part of the solution. Held May 7 in East Lansing, or by participating from anywhere else using Zoom video/web conference technology, the event seeks to inspire and prepare the next generation of global leaders to end world hunger.

To participate, youth should be in grades 7-12 and register by the March 15 deadline. As part of the registration process, youth are required to prepare a three- to five-page research paper about a developing country and one of 22 key factors that affect food security. At the event, youth present and discuss their papers with other attendees and research and industry experts.

The top performing students at the WFP MIYI will be selected to attend the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute in Des Moines, Iowa, in October. For more information, visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/wfpmiyi/>. Registration opens February 1 and closes March 15.

Tickets now available for Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin

Join MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H on March 1 for the 20th celebration of Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin! This fun family event will be held at the Jack Breslin Student Events Center as the MSU Women's Basketball team takes on the Ohio State Buckeyes!

Those interested in attending can purchase tickets at a price of \$7.50 plus fees. This is a discounted rate available to the Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension communities; complimentary tickets are no longer available due to the rising popularity of college sports. MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H youth, volunteers, partners, stakeholders, alumni, staff and their families are all encouraged to attend.

Tickets can be purchased through a two-step process. First, guests should register at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HBreslin2026/>. Within one week, registrants will receive a custom purchase link to the email provided in registration. Attendees must then use this custom link to purchase tickets for the event. Additional ticketing information is available on the registration website. Registration will close on February 17.

Tip-off for the game is scheduled for 12 p.m. Gates to the Breslin will open at 10:30 a.m., with a variety of pre-game activities hosted by MSU Extension professionals around the concourse. Participants are encouraged to show their pride and wear green and white 4-H or MSU Extension apparel. Families for whom cost is a barrier should contact their local 4-H program coordinator.



Show your 4-H pride wherever you go!

Did you know you can make a difference for 4-H every time you hit the road? By purchasing the Michigan 4-H specialty license plate, you're not only showing your 4-H spirit—you're helping fund programs that empower young people across the state. A portion of each plate sale and renewal benefits Michigan 4-H, supporting hands-on learning experiences that help Michigan youth become beyond ready for the future.

Whether you're a current member, alumni, volunteer, or simply a proud supporter, this is an easy way to give back and keep 4-H growing strong. Ordering is simple through the Michigan Secretary of State.



Drive your support forward—get your 4-H plate today and help create opportunities for the next generation of Michigan 4-H youth! Learn more at extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate.

2026 ADULTING 101



- FRAUD FIGHTERS - JANUARY 21 AT 6:30 PM
- INFORMED RENTER - FEBRUARY 19 AT 5:00 PM
- SLEEP WELLNESS - MARCH 4 AT 5:30 PM
- EAT SMART: HEALTHY MEALS ON A BUDGET - APRIL 13 AT 5:00 PM
- COOKING WITH CONFIDENCE - MAY 18 AT 6:30 PM
- AI AND YOU: SMART, SAFE & SAVVY - JUNE 11 AT 6:00 PM
- THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK - JULY 8 AT 6:00 PM
- ROADMAP TO A SMART USED CAR PURCHASE - AUGUST 12 AT 5:00 PM
- ARE YOU READY? - SEPTEMBER 23 AT 5:00 PM
- MENTAL HEALTH TOOLKIT - OCTOBER 7 AT 6:00 PM
- REALITIES OF ANIMAL CARE - NOVEMBER 12 AT 7:00 PM

*ALL TIMES LISTED ARE EASTERN STANDARD TIME



FREE ON ZOOM



Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin

Tickets now available!

March 1, 2026

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



2026 Money Smart Mission GooseChase Game



Who: Michigan residents aged 13-19

What: Fun online missions to show your money smarts and learn about finances and entrepreneurship!

When: 4/1/26 - 4/21/26

How: Register online to access contest



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Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

April 12



reversible bucket hat with purchase

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

MICHIGAN 4-H 2026 CASH COMPOSITION CONTEST

MICHIGAN YOUTH AGES 9-19 CAN WIN \$100 GIFT CARD BY ANSWERING AN ESSAY QUESTION ON SCAMS AND FRAUD PREVENTION

ESSAYS DUE MARCH 1, 2026

Extra Credit UNION



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Avoiding Money Mishaps



Protect yourself from frauds, scams and identity theft.

February 11 from 6-7pm EST
Free webinar for youth/young adults



Capitol Experience

COMING
SOON



MARCH 15-17TH, 2026

Cost \$365

Scholarships may be available
through your local 4-H office!



MI 4-H DAIRY CONFERENCE

COWS ON CAMPUS

Session Topics Include:

- Tour of the new MSU Dairy Cattle Teaching & Research Center
- Tour of the MSU Meat Lab
- Nutrition Workshop
- Dairy Judging
- Dissections
- & More!

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

FEBRUARY 27TH-MARCH 1ST, 2026

OPEN TO ANY MI 4-H YOUTH AGES 12-19



Registration is now **OPEN!**

Beyond
Ready

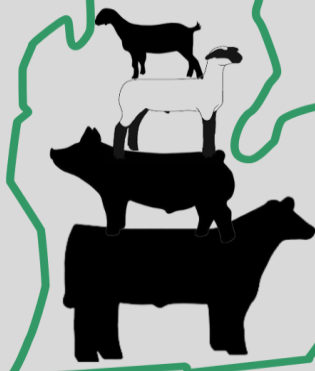
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2026

Michigan 4-H
Spring
Livestock
Workshop



March 7, 2026



**NEW at Ignite 2026:
Animal Science!**

Hands-on workshops. Become career-ready.



March 25 - 29, 2026 | Washington, D.C. | Washington Hilton

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY | Extension

MICHIGAN 4-H VOLUNTEER
WEBINAR

**BUILDING BELONGING:
TEAMBUILDING STRATEGIES
FOR STRONGER 4-H
EXPERIENCES**

February 11th at Noon



Beyond
Ready





MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension

CONTACT US:

For more information and to register, go to:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/volunteering/mi-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series>



For questions, please contact:

Christine Heverly

sisungch@msu.edu

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2026 Michigan 4-H Volunteer Winter/Spring Webinars

This webinar series will provide Michigan 4-H volunteers with a variety of learning opportunities to help them grow as a Michigan State University and Michigan 4-H volunteer.

All webinars take place at 12pm (noon) EST. Registration is required for each individual webinar- registration is free! Recordings will be posted on the website for later viewing.

Sessions include:

January 26, 2026: Beyond Ready Basics: Bringing the Vital Elements to Life in Your 4-H Club: Every great 4-H experience has a few powerful ingredients—and volunteers play the biggest role in making them happen. In this session, we'll explore the four Vital Elements that help youth thrive, discovering sparks, feeling a sense of belonging, building developmental relationships, and staying meaningfully engaged.

February 11, 2026: Building Belonging: Teambuilding Strategies for Stronger 4-H Experiences: Teambuilding isn't just an activity—it's a pathway to deeper belonging and higher engagement in 4-H. This webinar will show volunteers how simple team-building practices can help youth feel included, communicate effectively, work together, and grow their leadership skills.

March 25, 2026: From Sparks to Skills: Using AI Responsibly in 4-H: This webinar will help volunteers understand what AI is, how it impacts youth development, and how to use it responsibly within the 4-H program. We'll explore practical guidance from MSU Extension resources, discuss ethical considerations, and share tips for supporting youth as they navigate this evolving technology.

April 22, 2026: Let's Talk It Out: Handling Conflict with Ease: Conflict happens—even to the best volunteer groups. This laid-back session is all about learning how to handle tough conversations without the stress.

May 4, 2026: Supporting Youth Entrepreneurs: Your Role in 4-H Animal Projects: Learn how to support youth in making smart decisions that lead to financial and personal growth using activities from MSU Extension's curriculum *Youth Business Guide to Success*.



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2026 Calendar of Statewide Animal Science Events

4-H Animal Science Staff

Autumn Converse

4-H Livestock and Veterinary
Science Educator
conver20@msu.edu

David Lindsay

4-H Equine Educator
lindsa75@msu.edu

Kendra Van Order

4-H Dairy Educator
vanorde4@msu.edu

Jermo Reese

4-H Animal Science Program
Instructor
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Jacob Stieg

4-H Poultry Point of Contact
stieg@msu.edu

Kat VanDouser

4-H Dog Point of Contact
krollkat@msu.edu

Glen da Weiss

4-H Rabbit & Cavy Point of Contact
weissgle@msu.edu

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January 24	4-H State Rabbit Show
Feb. 27- March 1	4-H Dairy Conference
March 7	4-H Spring Livestock Workshop
March 14	4-H Horse Communications Contest
March 21-22	Norma Agnew 4-H Hairy Horse Show
March 21	4-H Rabbit and Cavy Workshop
March 22	4-H Rabbit and Cavy Quiz Bowl
April 11	4-H & FFA Horse Judging State Contest
April 12	4-H Hippology State Contest
May 13	4-H & FFA Meats Judging State Contest
June 16-17	Michigan Youth Livestock Judging Camp
June 27	4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl
July 1	4-H & FFA Livestock Judging State Contest
July 6-7 & 8-9	4-H Animal and Veterinary Science Camp
July 13-16	4-H Youth Dairy Days
August 13-16	4-H State Horse Show
September 19	4-H State Dog Show



Scan me for more
information about these
programs!

JOIN THE
MICHIGAN 4-H

TEENS AS TEACHERS

HEALTHY LIVING PROGRAM

The Michigan 4-H Teens as Teachers Healthy Living Program seeks teens who want to take an active role in promoting health, wellness, and leadership within their communities.

The program empowers teens to serve as peer educators and role models who help younger youth make informed, healthy choices while developing their own character, confidence, and leadership skills.

Through the Teens as Teachers program, teens will receive leadership and facilitation training that prepares them to lead 4-H Healthy Living programs focused on:

- Mental health and emotional wellness
- Physical fitness and healthy lifestyles
- Substance use prevention and positive decision-making

Teens will receive a variety of benefits through their participation in the program, including:

- A scholarship to attend [Michigan 4-H Exploration Days](#) on the campus of Michigan State University (valued at \$250)
- A \$100 stipend after teaching their first lessons
- An official "Teens as Teachers" Shirt
- Materials and supplies to use while teaching
- Increased leadership and careers skills that can be used on application for scholarships, higher education, and jobs

The Teens as Teachers program is open to all Michigan youth ages 13-19 (no previous experience with 4-H is needed) and there is no cost to participate, but space is limited.



SIGN UP >>

<https://bit.ly/4r8lbPp>



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HOW TO PARTICIPATE

1 SIGN UP!

To get started, teens must sign-up to participate by going to <https://bit.ly/4r8lbPp>. The deadline to sign-up is April 15, but sign-up will end early if our maximum registration is reached sooner.

2 GET TRAINED!

Program orientation and initial trainings will be done online during live, interactive Zoom sessions. All Teen Teachers will attend 4-H Exploration Days in East Lansing, MI for in-person training.

2026 Training Schedule

- **April 21 @ 6:30 - 8:00 pm (Zoom)**
 - Program Orientation for teens and parent(s)/guardian(s)
- **May 19 @ 6:30 - 7:30 pm (Zoom)**
 - Training Session #1
- **June 16 @ 6:30 - 7:30 pm (Zoom)**
 - Training Session #2
- **June 24-26 - (In-person)**
 - A Teens as Teachers training will be held as part of 4-H Exploration Days in East Lansing, MI. Lodging and meals will be provided for participants on the campus of Michigan State University.

3 GO TEACH!

Working with other teen teachers in their community, and with continued guidance and support from 4-H staff, Teen Teachers will plan and lead educational workshops focused on healthy living for peers and younger youth.

Teen Teachers will continue to meet at least once per month from July-December for additional training and support. Meetings will be via Zoom with options for in-person, local gatherings with other Teen Teachers and 4-H staff.



For more information contact:

Kea Norrell-Aitch

Extension Educator
Michigan State University Extension
kea@msu.edu


Brian Wibby

Extension Educator
Michigan State University Extension
wibby@msu.edu



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FISHING - WOODS - WATER 4-H WORKSHOPS

Make an Ice Fishing Jigging Rod
Fly Tying
Learn about wildlife - snakes and mussels

FEBURARY 4 & 10 2026
 6:00-7:30PM

Thomas Township Nature Center



WORLD FOOD PRIZE

MICHIGAN YOUTH INSTITUTE

AT MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

May 7, 2026

Contact: Jan Brinn
brinn@msu.edu

4-H International Exchange Program

"Open your Home and Heart, become a host family today, and create memories that will never fade away!"




July 23-August 18

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension

Beyond Ready

2026 4-H OUTDOOR EDUCATION Workshop

April 25-26, 2026
at Camp Newaygo




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