



4-H Family News

April 2026

Kalamazoo County

**Beyond
Ready****GROWING TOGETHER
STRONGER THAN EVER****4-H EXPLORATION DAYS 2026****4-H Exploration Days
June 24-26, 2026**

What's It All About?

About 1,000 youth (ages 12-19) and chaperones from across Michigan attend annually. This fun MSU pre-college program could be the highlight of your summer - it could even change your life!

4-H Exploration Days registration has closed. If you would like to be placed on a waiting list, please reach out to 4H.expodays@msu.edu.

Age requirements for sessions are based on your age as of January 1.

https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/

CONTACT US

Veronica Bolhuis
4-H Program Coordinator
(269) 383-8867
bolhuisv@msu.edu

Will Barnwell
4-H Program Instructor
(269) 383-8878
barnwe18@msu.edu

MSU Extension Office Phone & Email-

201 W. Kalamazoo Ave.
Suite 306
Kalamazoo, MI. 49007
269-383-8830
msue.kalamazoo@campusad.msu.edu

WEBSITE-

<http://canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo4H>

Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057507535294#>

Program-122047197873078

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4-H Exploration Days

is an MSU pre-college program designed to:

- Increase responsibility, confidence, independence, accountability, problem-solving, decision-making and time management skills.
- Increase communication, team work, citizenship, and leadership skills.
- Foster ability to meet new people and make new friends from different places and backgrounds.
- Develop and expand career and personal interests.
- Increase college exploration and access to the Michigan State University campus and its resources.
- Develop social and academic skills needed for a successful transition to college and life as an adult.
- Give youth opportunities to try things that aren't available in their county.

What's it like?

- There'll be more than 100 session choices held on and off campus. You'll choose two or three for your three-day stay.
- You'll live in a Michigan State University dorm and eat in the cafeteria—just like MSU students do.
- Sessions are taught by people who know their stuff, including MSU faculty members, 4-H volunteers and staff members and other experts.
- It's not all sessions! There's plenty of time for fun, including skating, souvenir shopping, exploring, basketball—even a great dance Thursday night.
- **The 2026 cost is \$250.** For more information please see the [Registration Information](#) page.
 - The fee includes meals, a shared room in a dorm, sessions and a t-shirt. You may wish to check with your county MSU Extension office to see if scholarship funds are available.
- A registration booklet that shows all of the sessions and details on everything happening during Exploration Days can be found [here!](#)
- Contact the 4-H staff in your [county MSU Extension office](#) for more information on 4-H Exploration Days, and any specific details pertaining to your county's delegation.



Kalamazoo County Parks Department is looking for local groups and organizations to get involved in the 2026 Fair!

Kalamazoo County Parks Department is inviting local groups and organizations to participate in the 2026 County Fair! There are several ways to get involved: hosting a contest at Contest Central, performing on the Community & Cultural Stage, providing a fun or educational display (for non-profits), volunteering, or collaborating on a unique event. Each option is tailored to different group sizes and interests. If you know a group or organization that might be interested in participating, please have them check out the website at www.kalamazoocountyfair.com or reach out to **Mandy Eldred at 269-383-8761 or mandy.eldred@kalcounty.gov for more information.**

Fair Camping



Beginning May 1, you can call and make your camping reservations for the 2026 Fair. Cost is \$189 plus \$5 reservation fee for the week (8/2-8/9). Septic pump-outs will be available on Wednesday 8/5 for \$45. Camping units may be dropped off on Saturday, August 1, but no overnight camping is permitted on Saturday night. All campers must be removed from the grounds by Sunday 8/9 at 12pm. **To make reservations call 269-383-8778. More Information is on next page.**



Hello 4-H families and community partners,

My name is Will Barnwell, and I serve as the 4-H Program Instructor for Kalamazoo County. In this role, I support youth programming, develop hands-on learning experiences, and work alongside families, volunteers, and community organizations to create engaging opportunities for young people to learn, lead, and grow. I'm excited to share several upcoming clubs designed to spark curiosity, build skills, and strengthen our 4-H community this spring.

I want to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who participated in and contributed to our recent Elementary STEAM Experience Club at the Park Trades Center these last few weeks. Your enthusiasm and support made the program a huge success. We deeply appreciate the youth who showed up eager to learn, the families who kept them engaged, and the volunteers and partners who helped bring each session to life.

With that momentum, I'm thrilled to announce an upcoming Introduction to Food Systems SPIN Club! Youth will dive into how food is grown, shared, and sustained while learning about seeds, soil, local food systems, and ecological resilience. **This club isn't taking new enrollments at this time but be on the lookout for a future SPIN club on this same topic coming later this summer or early fall.**

All clubs are open to **4-H and non-4-H youth**. Non-members will be asked to register through **4-H Online** before participating. If you're interested in joining any of these spring clubs or have questions about 4-H opportunities, please contact:

Will Barnwell

4-H Program Instructor, Kalamazoo County

Email: barnwe18@msu.edu

Thank you for being part of the Kalamazoo County 4-H community!





2026 Kalamazoo County Youth Fair Camping Fees & Information

Beginning on May 1, 2026 you must call to make your reservation directly with the Expo Center.

Camping Fees:	Weekly Rate - \$189.00 per week (8/2-8/9) Reservations made after July 24 are \$224 per week
Advance Reservation Fee:	One-time \$5.00 fee will be charged for all reservations
Septic Service:	A dump station with potable water is available on the grounds. On-site septic service will be available by pre-registration with your camping reservation for \$45 per dump. Dumps will be scheduled for Wednesday, August 5.

Call 269-383-8778 for Reservations!

Deadline for Camping Registration

July 24, 2026

Camping units may be dropped off from 9am-3pm on Saturday, August 1.

Overnight camping is NOT permitted on Saturday, August 1.

Overnight camping begins on Sunday, August 2.

All camping units must be removed from the Expo Center by 12:00pm on Sunday, August 9

CAMPING POLICIES:

- Camping will be reserved by campground area at time of reservation (see map for campground areas) and specific site numbers will be emailed out approximately 1 week prior to arrival. We will try to accommodate special requests. All requests will be considered in order by date of reservation.
- Campers may not switch from assigned site number upon arrival. All reservations must be paid by credit card at the time of reservation. There is a non-refundable \$5 reservation fee for each campsite reserved. Most sites offer water and electric hook-up.
- Showers and handicapped-accessible restrooms are available.
- Cancellations will be accepted until July 24, 2026. Reservation fees are non-refundable. If you cancel your reservation by July 24, 2026 your refund will be the camping fees paid less a \$5 cancellation fee. No refunds are available for cancellations after July 24, 2026.
- Campers must comply with all Kalamazoo County Parks & Expo Center Camping Rules.

AS A REMINDER: Golf Carts, Gators, ATV's (4-wheelers), UTV's (side-by-sides), ORV's, mini-bikes, go-carts and similar motorized devices are prohibited. Bicycles and Class 1 E-bikes (pedal assisted, up to 20mph) are permitted in the campground area only. Class 2 and 3 E-bikes and other electric motor devices are prohibited.



There are 4 in person YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) sessions and 1 online version in 2025-2026. This is a requirement for all youth, ages 8-18, who will bring livestock to the Kalamazoo County Youth Fair 2026. There are two options- take 1 of the 5 face-to-face sessions or take the online session. The face-to-face sessions will be a minimum of 1 hour and the cost is \$3.00 per youth. The face-to-face version is meant to include all youth 8 – 18 years old. 19 yr old and above will need to take the online version. The online version is \$12.00 and the curriculum is *age specific*. This certification is good for one year. There need to be a minimum of 5 youth signed up to hold a face-to-face class. The face-to-face sessions will be held on the following dates and times:

April 18 - 10 am
June 4 - 6:30 pm

All certificates are due to the 4-H office no later than noon on July 1, 2026

Youth who would like to take **the face-to-face session** will need to do the following:

- Parents will need to create a **family** profile on <https://yqcaprogram.org/>
- Parents will need to assure each child showing at fair is added and chose the face-to-face training option.
- Pay the \$3.00 registration fee.
- Youth will need to complete the pre-test.
- Once the youth has taken the face-to-face session, staff will mark your session as complete.
- **Youth will need to log back in and take the post test** (found under the child's name and a drop down that says Enrolled ILT trainings).
- Once the post test is complete the youth's certificate will be sent.

Youth who would like to take **the online session** will need to do the following:

- Parents will need to create a **family** profile on <https://yqcaprogram.org/>
- Parents will need to assure each child showing in the fair is added and chose the online training session.
- Pay the \$12.00 registration fee.
- Youth will then need to complete the course.

Once the youth have completed either the online session or the face-to-face session and have received their certificate, the certificate will need to be emailed to msue.kalamazoo@msu.edu by July 1, 2025.

You can find helpful registration videos and documents here:
https://yqcaprogram.org/local/resources_for_youth_parents.php



2026 4-H Fair Schedule

A more detailed schedule with fun events will be in the fair book

Monday, July 27, 2026

6:00pm Carcass Program Live Animal Evaluation

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

10:00am Carcass Program Test and Results Announcements

Friday, July 31, 2026

7:00pm Dairy Show

Saturday, August 1, 2026

9:00am - 12:00pm Still project judging and display set up
1:00pm cat show

Monday, August 3, 2026

9:00am Horse Showmanship & English
6:00pm Rabbit Showmanship

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

9:00am Horse Dressage and Jumping Classes
8:00am Poultry Show
1:00pm Market rabbit show
5:00pm Rabbit Agility
6:00pm Sheep show
6:00pm Fashion Review, Demonstration and Performances

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

9:00am Horse Western Classes
9:00am Swine Show
4:00pm Feeder Calf show
6:00pm Beef show

Thursday, August 6, 2026

9:00am Horse Versatility & Gymkhana Classes
9:00am Goat show

Friday, August 7, 2026

9:00am Livestock auction
10:00am Horse Costume Class
1:00pm Miniature Horse show

Saturday, August 8, 2026

9:00am Dog Show
10:00am Livestock judging contest
12:00pm Horse Drill Team Demonstration
3:00pm Master Showmanship





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to Our Amazing Volunteers!

**Kim B.
Jennifer B.
Kristen B.
Margaret C.
Bailey F.
Bonnie G.
Danielle J.
Sarah K.
Tara K.
Hollee K.
Wade L.**



**Anna L.
Suzanne M.
Hope M
Jamie P.
Melissa P.
Karolynn S.
Bethany S.
Erika V.
Delores W.
Cory W.
Mark W.**



NEW PROJECT GUIDELINES

We are working hard to add some new projects to our guidelines and the 4-H fair book. When we add new guidelines, we will post them both in the newsletter and on the Kalamazoo County 4-H Facebook page.

In January we added:

- Social recreation guidelines (under youth organizations)
- Languages/passport (under youth organizations)
- Beekeeping (under youth science)

In February we added the following guidelines:

- Backyard BBQ/Grilling (under culinary arts)





Help Us Tell the 4-H Story

Are you a current or former 4-H member? We want to hear from YOU! 4-H youth and alumni — help us share the amazing impact of 4-H by telling your story:

• **Who are you?**

• **What kinds of projects** have you done or are you working on now?

• **Where** has the 4-H program taken you — or where is it leading you?

• **Why** was 4-H important in shaping your goals, your life, or who you are today?

• **When** were you (or are you) part of the program?

We're still collecting and sharing the incredible stories of Kalamazoo County 4-H youth and alumni! Your story helps show how 4-H builds skills, confidence, and leadership — helping you be **Beyond Ready** for anything.

Share your 4-H story here:

https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6DsEDclMZ3PZ3IY



DAIRY CLUB



Meeting at Vlietstra dairy Farm -

Monday April 20

Monday May 18

Meetings will be weekly starting the week of June 8- night *tbd* by club members.

All meetings are at 6:30 -dress for the weather and wear footwear appropriate for being around animals- no sandals . Join the Kalamazoo county 4-H Dairy Club on Facebook for up-to-date information.

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



Calling all Michigan youth ages 13-19!

Get ready for the **Smart Money Missions GooseChase Game** — an interactive scavenger hunt that teaches money skills *while you play!*

April 1-21, 2026

Register by April 20 at 11:45 PM

Play on the **GooseChase app**

Complete fun missions, earn points, and you could win **\$50 gift cards!** A minimum of **\$500 in prizes** will be awarded.

Download the GooseChase app, create a username using your first and last name, then register at:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/money-smart-mission-goosechase-game>

Sponsored by the Michigan Credit Union Foundation & Michigan 4-H Foundation.



Poultry Project News

With the arrival of spring, birds are migrating again. This means that HPAI is something to be aware of. Take the appropriate precautions to protect your flock!

Now is the time to start thinking about all the possible poultry entries for fair! Be sure to review the list below and acquiring the birds that you want to show. It is also a great time to work on any education exhibits that you desire to do.

BREED

Breed Chickens

- ~Standard Chicken Trio
- ~Bantam Chicken Trio
- ~Cock (1 year or older)
- ~Cockerel (less than 1 year)
- ~Hen (1 year & older)
- ~Pullet (less than 1 year)
- ~Barnyard Poultry Pet Class*

Breed Turkey

- ~Breeding Hen
- ~Breeding Tom

Breeding Waterfowl

- ~Breeding Duck
- ~Breeding Drake
- ~Breeding Goose
- ~Breeding Gander

Exotic Fowl (one of the following)

- ~Peafowl, quail, pheasant, or guinea fowl



SHOWMANSHIP

- ~Chicken
- ~Turkey

MARKET

- ~Roaster Chicken Pen
- ~Broiler_Chicken Pen
- ~Cornish Chicken Pen
- ~Tom Turkey
- ~Hen Turkey
- ~Heritage Tom
- ~Heritage Hen
- ~Heavy Duck Pen
- ~Pekin Duck Pen
- ~Market Geese

Market Journal

- ❖ Poultry ed ex
- ❖ Turkey ed ex
- ❖ Waterfowl ed ex
- ❖ Exotic fowl ed ex

STATIC ENTRIES:

- ~Eggs

If you are in the market project, be sure to print out your market journal and fill in the appropriate details as your birds grow. Those can be found on the 4-H website (link below).

You also should be working on recruiting buyers.

The auction will be on Friday, August 7 at 10 AM.

https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/Project-Guidelines/Small-Livestock

Upcoming Pick up dates:

- Heavy Duck - 5/13
- Roaster - 5/28
- Pekin Duck - 6/10
- Broiler - 6/17
- Cornish - 6/24



Scholarships are Available for Animal and Vet Science Camp

Michigan 4-H is hosting Animal and Vet Science Camp at MSU from July 6-9 and Kalamazoo County Livestock Superintendent Association (LSA) is offering scholarships to help you attend.

Designed for 4-H members ages 13-17, youth will explore fields and careers relating to animal science and veterinary medicine, visit MSU farms and facilities, and participate in numerous hands-on learning activities.

Registration opens April 1 at noon. Learn more

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

LSA is offering 10 \$100 scholarships (camp cost is \$120) to Kalamazoo Co 4-H livestock members who attend.

You can find the application to apply to the scholarship here:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/4-h-member-resources-for



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY®



ADULTING 101



2026 Schedule

- 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

Adulting 101-Eat Smart: Meals on a Budget

April 13, 2026

5-6 pm

Eat Smart: Meals on a Budget - Monday, April 13 at 5 p.m. ET

Think eating healthy has to be expensive? Think again! Learn how to stretch your food budget, score deals on fruits and veggies, and find out if store brands really stack up to name brands. We'll share simple tips to plan meals that save money and taste great — plus how to cook once and eat twice!

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



Use of the 4-H Emblem – Quick Reference

Complete official Emblem rules available online at

http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/emblem/4h_name.htm.

The 4-H Name & Emblem belong to the 4-H Youth Development Program, under the authority of USDA and anyone wishing to use it must obtain permission prior to use.

Requirements

- Clover has four leaves and an “H” on each leaf.
- The numeral “4” separated from a capital “H” with a hyphen (not a dash, slash, or space).
- Clover’s stem **must** point to the right as you look at the image.
- Emblem should appear in specific colors and in its entirety.
- The statement “18 USC 707” **must** legibly appear either to the right of the base of the stem or below the lower right leaf of the clover.
- The Emblem should be kept upright.
- The “18 USC 707” should be the same color as the leaves.
- Clover may be outlined, green outline for white clover or white outline for green clover.

Colors of Emblem

- Clover is 100% PMS 347 green, H’s reversed out to the color of the paper on which the emblem is printed. *This is the official and preferred color of the Emblem.*
- Clover can be green and H’s can be white, metallic gold, or black.
- Clover can be black and H’s can be white or black.
- Clover can be white and H’s can be white, green, or black.
- Clover can be metallic gold and H’s can be white or black.
- **One color printing** – green or black only accepted colors

Do NOT

- Flip, rotate, or turn image on its side
- Place over or obscure the emblem with a photo, drawing, symbol, word or other figure or object.
- Place text over on top of Emblem
- Superimpose an image over the top of one or more of the leaves
- Use to imply endorsement of any product or material



Appropriate Use



Appropriate Use



Inappropriate Use



Inappropriate Use



Spring International Pen Pal Program

We are happy to announce that this spring States' 4-H are offering another round of the **Spring Pen Pal Program!** They are currently working to recruit international youth, but please mark your calendar for the below dates.

- **Program Dates**
 - **March 1:** US registration opens
 - **April 1 - June 1:** Pen pal program runs with weekly emails
- **Age:** Participants must be between the ages of 9 – 18 as of April 1, 2026.
- **Frequency:** participants will be expected to send one email/letter weekly for the duration (approximately 10 emails/letters). There will be weekly discussion topics to help get the conversation going, but these are only suggestions.
- **Regular Email Schedule Between Participants:** For example, international students send emails to their U.S. partners every Monday, and U.S. students reply every Friday.
- **Cost:** \$10 USD that can be paid online only.
- **Registration deadline:** Friday, March 20, 2026, or when all spots are filled.

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

•Youth who participate will earn a scholarship to Exploration Days and \$100.00 after teaching their first session.

Want to know more?

Learn more and register here:



<https://events.anr.msu.edu/register.cfm?eventID=0035887EF7B36417C9FE2F1F67ADB67DE5AFC2FCB42E4107841B259E86FE37A3®isProcessID=AFA1CCA327BB0978F6C70D75CF73DECC5D2959163F8101E360B92EACEEFA8E0>

Starting a School or Community Garden this Spring? MSU Extension Can Help!



Starting a School or Community Garden: Essential Steps for Success Online Course



Learn from MSU Extension educators about the essential steps to starting a successful and sustainable school or community garden. Through online activities and assignments, explore garden management topics and apply knowledge to your own garden project.

Starting a School or Community Garden: In-Person Workshops

Join MSU Extension to learn more about starting a school or community garden. These two-part workshop series will include discussion, group activities, and demonstrations.

Flint

Dates: March 27 & April 10, 2-4pm

Location: Crim Fitness Foundation



Kalamazoo

Dates: March 28 & April 25, 10am-12pm

Location: Kalamazoo Valley Community College Food Innovation Center



Contacts:

Mariel Borgman

Community Food Systems Educator

Email: mborgm@msu.edu

Barslund Judd

Consumer Horticulture Educator

Email: juddbars@msu.edu

Kelly McClelland Horton

Community Food Systems Educator

Email: mccle100@msu.edu

Questions?

810-244-8555

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4-H Future Squad

A Virtual 4-H Club to Grow YOUR Future

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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Youth aged 12-19 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 2025 – May 2026.

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.



Beyond Ready





We are excited to share that we have a new look for our project guidelines!

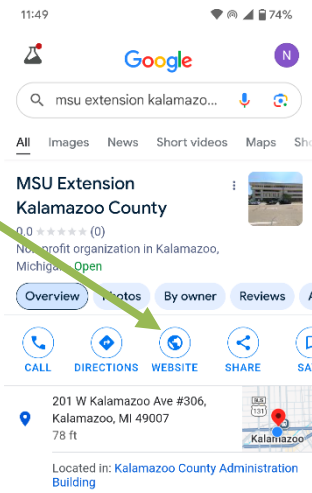
Finding the guidelines on a mobile device has some extra steps.

Below are some screenshots and directions:

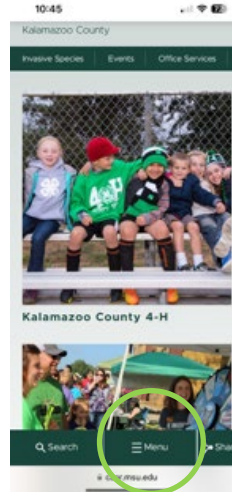
- 1 – Search MSU Extension Kalamazoo County
- 2 – Click on website <https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/index>
- 3 – Click on Kalamazoo County 4-H
- 4 - Click on menu at the bottom of your screen which will bring up the next screen
- 5 - Click on project guidelines
- 6 – Search for the project that you are looking for. Each set of guidelines is labeled to match the fair book.

For example, the member record book in the fair book is under Department 82. Educational projects.

1 & 2



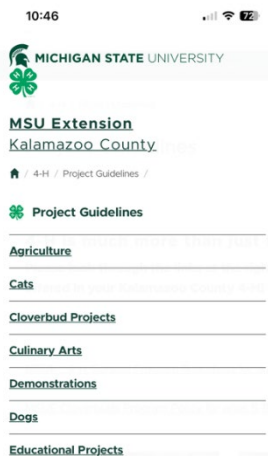
3 & 4



5



6



We are still working on updating some of the guidelines. If they don't have a green border at the top with a list of the project objectives and life skills, they will be updated soon!



Michigan 4-H Youth Code of Conduct



The opportunity to participate in or attend 4-H activities is a privilege. All 4-H participants – youth, families, volunteers, and Extension staff who participate in or attend any activity or event sponsored by the Michigan State University Extension 4-H Youth Development Program are expected to uphold the values of the Michigan 4-H program.

All 4-H youth participants must conduct themselves according to the following standards that apply to all Michigan 4-H programs, including virtual programs, and interactions such as social media and internet engagement-

- 1. Create a Welcoming Environment for All.** Encourage everyone to fully participate in 4-H. Recognize that all people have skills and talents that can help others and improve the community. Though we will not always agree, we must disagree respectfully. When we disagree, try to understand why. Our first priority is to create a safe, inclusive space for learning, sharing and collaboration that is welcoming to people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives. Diversity includes, but is not limited to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.
- 2. Bring Your Best Self.** Conduct yourself in a manner that reflects honesty, integrity, self-control, and self-direction. Accept the results and outcomes of 4-H activities and programs with grace and empathy for other participants. Accept the final opinions of judges and evaluators. Be open to new ideas, suggestions, and opinions of others.
- 3. Obey the Law.** Obey the laws of the locality, state and nation and Michigan State University and Extension policies and guidelines. Commit no illegal acts. Do not possess, offer to others, or use alcohol, illegal drugs, marijuana, or tobacco products, which include e-pens, e-pipes, e-hookah, e-cigars, JUULs, vapes, vape pens or other electronic nicotine delivery systems. Do not attend 4-H activities under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances. Do not possess or use weapons or firearms except as expressly permitted as part of supervised 4-H shooting sports programming. This includes dangerous or unauthorized materials such as explosives or similar items.
- 4. Honor Diversity – Yours and Others'.** Respect and uphold the rights and dignity of all persons with whom you interact as part of Michigan 4-H.
- 5. Create a Safe Environment.** Be kind and compassionate toward others. Be considerate and courteous of all persons and their property. Do not carelessly or intentionally harm or intimidate anyone in any way (verbally, mentally, physically, or emotionally). Do not insult, harass, or bully others or engage in other hostile behaviors, including sexual harassment, sexual assault or sexual abuse. Abstain from sexual behavior and intimate physical/sexual contact in either public or private situations at an MSU Extension youth 4-H activity or event.
- 6. Be a Team Player.** Work cooperatively with all individuals involved in 4-H programs and activities. Be responsive to the reasonable requests of the person in charge such as volunteers and staff. Respect the integrity of the group and the group's decisions.
- 7. Humane Treatment of Animals.** Treat animals humanely and provide appropriate animal care.
- 8. Participate Fully.** Participate in and contribute to planned programs, be on time and follow through on assigned tasks/responsibilities in a manner that fosters the safety, well-being, and quality of the educational experience for self and others.

Have fun!



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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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/.



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/.

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. For more programs and resources available to military families through Michigan 4-H, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4h_military_families.