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Nov 2026

4-H Family News

Kalamazoo County

Beyond Ready

Kalamazoo Maple Hill Holiday Parade November 21st

Who- all 4-H youth and their families are encouraged to participate. Youth under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent
What – Kalamazoo Holiday Parade
When – November 21, 2026, parade starts at 11:00AM and ends at approximately 12:30PM
Why – to promote 4-H to those attending the parade and have fun together
Where – The location and time to me will be determined as the location for our float has not been received yet.

Additional details:
-Theme – Farm animals, please come dressed in holiday attire or a farm animal costume. Small animals (dogs/goats/etc.) are welcome to walk in the parade
-Following the parade guidelines **NO Santa** costumes are allowed.
-The parade is approximately 2 miles long, wear comfortable shoes
-Please bring candy to hand out during the parade
-Contact Leslie Lindenberg for more information - lmlindenberg@gmail.com



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Help Kalamazoo 4-H Climb the Rankings!

The 2026 Tractor Supply Paper Clover Campaign runs
November 27-December 13
and we need your help!

During the spring campaign, Kalamazoo County ranked 8th in Michigan. Let's see if we can move even higher this fall!

Did you know that 60% of all Paper Clover donations come back to Kalamazoo County 4-H? Many of these funds help ensure more youth can take part in life-changing 4-H experiences, such as Exploration Days, by providing financial assistance for leadership and educational opportunities.

We're looking for 4-H clubs and families (adults must be gold level volunteers) to represent 4-H at the Shaver Road and Gull Road Tractor Supply stores. Ideas include:



- ✓ Educational displays
- ✓ Bake sales
- ✓ Animal education stations
- ✓ Interactive activities
- ✓ Any creative way to promote 4-H and engage customers

Research has shown that Tractor Supply stores with a 4-H presence often see increased customer engagement and sales, making this a win for everyone!

As a thank you, any club or family that participates for at least one hour and shares photos from their time with 4-H staff will be entered into a prize drawing.

Let's show our community the impact of 4-H while supporting opportunities for youth across Kalamazoo County!

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Want to learn more about Bee's and what it takes to start a hive?

The Kalamazoo Bee Club will be speaking at :

Richland Presbyterian Church
Sunday December 13th 3:00
R.S.V.P. To Email myrichland4h@gmail.com

YOUR Kalamazoo 4-H NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteering can be both beneficial for the volunteer but especially for the youth involved.
It creates a safe space for youth to try out new ideas, be creative, build relationships and learn what to do when things don't work out.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a 4-H volunteer to lead one of these projects, please apply online at *Become a 4-H Volunteer*.
(https://www.canr.msu.edu/becoming_a_4_h_volunteer/)

Your time spent as a volunteer can be as little as a few hours a year to a few hours a week.

Happy Birthday to Our Amazing Volunteers !



Carrie C	Tasha W
Susan L	Mike G
Jerry C	Rhonda C
Morgan	Laura V
Rod D	Tod K
Thomas H	Dara R
Stewart D	David N
Justin T	Wendy H
Tammy W	

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The Great Holiday Decorate Off

JOIN US AS WE LEARN TO DECORATE FANCY HOLIDAY COOKIES AND ENJOY A HOT CHOCOLATE STATION

December 5th, 2026 10am - 12pm

New Hope Church, 9300 E. D Ave.,
Richland MI, 49083

Register using the link below or the QR code
https://pears.io/events/msuext/11110/

$5.00 per person (youth and adults invited)

Youth 5-8 must have an adult helper attend with them



Calling All Kalamazoo County 4-H Youth!

Show off your creativity and help represent our county's biggest event!
Create an original design for the 2027 Kalamazoo County Fair Book Cover and you could have your artwork featured on the official 4-H fair book.

Open to all Kalamazoo County 4-H Youth

✅ Include:

- Kalamazoo County Fair
- 4-H events - July 31 - August 7
- FairEntry opens April 14 & closes June 15
- 4-H Clover
- Beyond Ready Logo

✅ Original artwork only
✅ Artwork should celebrate the spirit of 4-H, learning, leadership, agriculture, creativity, and community.

Deadline submission: November 15, 2026

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Here is your last chance!!

We still have a few things left for sale from the Food Booth.
If anyone is interested - Please contact the 4-H office.

One 18 qt roaster - $50.00

Two 7 qt electric skillets - $20.00 each

One nacho machine - $50.00





+ Add

$99.99

Oster 18-Quart Roaster Oven with Self-Basting Lid, Black





Paragon 2030 Nacho Cheese Dispenser w/ Pus...

$452.49



Gold Medal 5345 - El Nacho Grande Bag Cheese...

$464.99





Bestseller

$59.99

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YQCA

(YOUTH FOR THE QUALITY CARE OF ANIMALS)



Register for one of the following Dates



December 9, 2026, 6:30PM
January 14, 2027, 6:30PM
February 20, 2027,10:00 AM
March 17, 2027, 6:30PM
April 28, 2027 (limited to 16 youth), 6:30PM



Register at https://yqcaprogram.org/
Cost - $3.00 for the face to face class
$12.00 for the online class

Required for all youth ages 8-18 bringing livestock to the Kalamazoo County Fair,

19 years olds must complete the online class

Certificates are due to the 4-H office no later than July 1, 2027





MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER. SEE MSU'S NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION, ANTI-HARASSMENT AND NON-RETALIATION.

Ready to level up your future?

4-H Future Squad is a virtual 4-H club for youth ages 12-19 focused on life skills, career readiness, financial literacy, Adulting 101 topics, and more. Whether you're new to 4-H or already a member, there's a place for you on the squad! Find out more and fill out the interest form at: https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-future-squad/





GO GLOBAL THIS SUMMER!! *For Summer 2027 Michigan 4-H International Exchange Programs is offering youth ages 12-18 the opportunity of a lifetime spending the summer with a host family.*

States' 4-H International Outbound (OB), we will be offering both Japan programs (4 & 8-Week), as well as Taiwan, South Korea, Costa Rica, and Norway. Discover new traditions, experience authentic culture, and make lifelong friends. Applications are now open for summer 2027!

Michigan 4-H Deadline to apply: December 1, 2026

Learn more & apply: *https://www.canr.msu.edu/internationa.../traveling-outbound/*

States 4-H website: https://states4h.org/

Questions? Janis Brinn brinn@msu.edu

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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.


Appropriate Use



Appropriate Use

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



Inappropriate Use

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


Inappropriate Use

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/the_clover_the_4_h_emblem_and_how_to_use_correctly_part_1

And Remember-

It is ALWAYS

4 - dash - capital H

Never 4H or 4h

Always 4-H

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STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Preparing youth to be Beyond Ready: Developing a growth mindset through 4-H

Beyond Ready

Learning often comes through challenges, mistakes and trying something new. 4-H helps youth develop a growth mindset by encouraging them to persevere, reflect and continue improving their skills over time.

Volunteers can reinforce this by celebrating effort, encouraging problem solving, and helping youth view setbacks as opportunities to learn. When young people learn that success comes from persistence and practice, they gain confidence to tackle future challenges. These experiences help youth become more resilient and better prepared for life beyond 4-H.

#BeyondReady

November 10: Wild Spartans – Migratory Fishes are Amazing!
Online
Splash into the underwater world to follow fish along their journeys with Karen Murchie, director of freshwater research at the Shedd Aquarium. Learn about her work and the education and career path she followed to get there. Ask questions and learn more through a live Q&A. This free virtual series is open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 12-19 years.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-november

November 12: Adulting 101 – Paws, Claws and Commitment: The Realities of Animal Care
Online
Explore the true costs, responsibilities and lifestyle considerations of caring for animals—from vet bills and training to choosing the right pet for your space and schedule. Learn how to make informed decisions that honor both you and your future pet.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/realities-of-animal-care

November 17: Online Guiding Principles for Highly Successful Parenting Webinar Series
Online
Explore ways to be highly effective in raising kids to be successful in school and in life with this free online series. Parents of kids from toddlers to teens will explore: developing family routines, developing emotional control in your child, being a calm assertive parent, developing consistent rules and relationships, learning from mistakes, developing empathy and the ability to be thankful.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/guiding-principles-for-highly-successful-parenting-webinar-series-nov-dec-2026

November 19: 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series – Growing Money Skills through 4-H
Online
Financial skills are life skills—and they're skills youth can start growing today. Join this webinar to discover easy, engaging ways to plant financial education into your 4-H club meetings, activities and events. Participants will leave with hands-on activities, discussion starters and ready-to-use resources that help youth build money management skills while having fun. Thanks to the support of MSUFCU, randomly selected attendees will receive a free financial education resource for their clubs.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-growing-money-skills-through-4-h

November 27 – December 13: Fall TSC Paper Clover Campaign
Tractor Supply Co. stores statewide
Embrace the holiday spirit and purchase a paper clover at Tractor Supply Co. (TSC)! The Paper Clover campaign will officially launch on Black Friday; support 4-H youth both online or in TSC stores for just $1!
www.canr.msu.edu/events/tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign



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STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



Support 4-H with the TSC Paper Clover Campaign

From Nov. 27 – Dec. 13, Tractor Supply Company (TSC) customers across the nation will have the opportunity to support 4-H youth by purchasing a $1 clover at checkouts when shopping both in stores or online at www.TractorSupply.com. Funds raised will support county, state and national 4-H programming. To learn more, visit www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/cms/4h.

You can also support 4-H by purchasing three special commemorative 4-H holiday ornaments (a beef cow, lamb and dog), now in TSC stores! Proceeds from the sale of ornaments support 4-H.

Michigan 4-H Foundation launches Beyond Ready Campaign to prepare youth for the future



At the Michigan 4-H Legacy Awards Celebration on Saturday, October 3, the Michigan 4-H Foundation announced the public launch of the Michigan 4-H Beyond Ready Campaign, a bold fundraising initiative with a goal of raising $12 million by 2032 to help prepare Michigan youth for the future.

"Today's youth face a rapidly changing world that requires resilience, adaptability and confidence," said Mary Draves, co-chair of the Michigan 4-H Foundation's Beyond Ready Campaign Committee. "Michigan 4-H is uniquely equipped to support youth in developing these critical skills and more. The Beyond Ready Campaign will provide long-term, stable funding that allows Michigan 4-H to continue offering opportunities and experiences that prepare young people to face challenges and thrive, no matter what the future may bring."

Research consistently demonstrates the positive impact of 4-H participation. Young people involved in 4-H are more likely to develop leadership skills, contribute to their communities and gain confidence in their ability to succeed. The Michigan 4-H Beyond Ready campaign will help ensure future generations of Michigan youth can experience these same benefits by investing in the programs, people and possibilities that bring 4-H to life.

The campaign focuses on five priority areas: **4-H educational opportunities and skills development**; **Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens**; **health, well-being and belonging; emerging needs**; and **endowment investments**, including **county endowments** for localized impact. The campaign also includes a **planned giving goal of securing 40 planned gifts by 2032**, helping to create a lasting legacy of support for Michigan 4- H.

"Today's young people will soon lead our communities, workforce and future," said Joe Hune, Michigan 4-H Foundation trustee and co-chair of the Beyond Ready Campaign Committee. "This campaign will ensure Michigan 4-H can continue to provide life-changing experiences, deliver innovative programs, support diverse learning needs, and help youth from all communities across Michigan become Beyond Ready for future success through 4-H."

The Oct. 3 public launch builds on strong momentum from the campaign's leadership phase. Already $7.3 million, nearly 62% of the $12 million goal, has been raised through more than 5,200 gifts from nearly 2,200 donors. Michigan 4-H alumni, volunteers, families, partners and friends are invited to join the effort to help build a generation that is Beyond Ready through Michigan 4-H.

Every gift to the Beyond Ready Campaign is an investment in Michigan youth and their future. There are many ways to participate, including one-time gifts, multi-year commitments, IRA gifts and qualified charitable distributions (QCDs), gifts of stock, planned/estate gifts, or donations of property, grain or other assets. Together, these investments will help expand opportunities, build confidence, spark curiosity and prepare more Michigan youth to be beyond ready for life, leadership and success.

To learn more about the campaign or make a gift to invest in the future of Michigan 4-H, visit www.mi4hfdtn.org/beyondready.