



4-H Family News

Oakland County



Discover 4-H

DISCOVER 4-H 2026

Saturday, August 29, 2026
1 - 4 PM



Normandy Oaks Park
4234 Delemere Blvd
Royal Oak, MI 48073



- ★ Live animal presentations
- ★ Educational, interactive games, crafts, and activities for the whole family
- ★ Learn about 4-H club opportunities available for youth



All provided by local organizations and 4-H clubs!
Concessions will be available for purchase.

Contact: **Cheyenne Shields**, shield69@msu.edu



Oakland County Parks

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY | Extension

Royal Oak
PARKS AND
RECREATION

Sponsored by: Oakland County Parks & Royal Oak Parks and Recreation

FREE Family Fun Event!

August 29, 2026, 1 – 4 PM

Normandy Oaks Park – 4234 Delemere Blvd. Royal Oak, MI 48073

Join us for a day of games, hands-on activities, and educational fun for the whole family! Hosted by MSU Extension, 4-H, and local partners, this event is a great way to explore what 4-H has to offer youth and families in your community.

We are looking for vendors and volunteers for this event!
Please contact Cheyenne if interested, shield69@msu.edu.

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Canr.msu.edu/oakland/4-h/

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Expo Days Recap

Oakland County youth experienced college life firsthand during Exploration Days, a three-day event held on the campus of Michigan State University. Participants stayed in residence halls, dined in campus cafeterias, and attended a variety of educational sessions across campus. 🧐 🍀

This immersive experience gave youth the opportunity to build independence, explore future career and personal interests, and gain a glimpse of life as a college student. Along the way, they made new friends from across Michigan, created lasting memories, and returned home inspired, confident, and excited for the future. **4-H Exploration Days 2027 will take place from June 23 to June 25, 2027.**



Oakland County 4-H Youth Shine at the Oakland County Fair

The Oakland County Fair was a tremendous success, highlighting the hard work, dedication, and talents of our 4-H youth. Members proudly exhibited livestock, horses, and still projects while participating in educational contests, showmanship, and judging events.

Whether earning top awards or exhibiting for the first time, members demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship, leadership, and teamwork throughout the week. Thank you to our 4-H members, volunteers, families, and supporters for making this year's fair a memorable celebration of learning, growth, and community. We look forward to another exciting year of Oakland County 4-H! We got so many great pictures sent to us. [Check our Facebook page to view more!](#)



Bowers Farm Progress Showdown

Bowers Farm 4-H Club and FFA youth showcased their hard work and dedication at the annual Progress Showdown. Youth demonstrated their showmanship skills in front of a guest livestock judge, highlighting the growth they have made through months of caring for and working with their animals.

Throughout the year, these young exhibitors have developed valuable skills in animal handling, grooming, and presentation while building responsibility, patience, and sportsmanship. A special thank you to Bowers Farm 4-H Club leaders Kate Bell and Chris McCoy, along with the parents, volunteers, and members of the 4-H and farm community, for making this event possible and for their continued commitment to supporting youth. Congratulations to all of the participants, and best of luck to those exhibiting at the Oakland County Fair!



4-H Flower Bouquet Making Program

Date: August 24

Time: 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Location: The Farm at Trinity Health, Pontiac

Ages: 8–17

Get creative with fresh flowers at the **FREE Build a Bouquet Workshop!** Participants will stroll through the flower fields at The Farm at Trinity Health, learn how to properly harvest blooms, and create a beautiful hand-tied bouquet using a variety of flowers and greenery grown right on the farm. Whether you keep your bouquet or gift it to someone special, you'll leave with a one-of-a-kind floral creation and new gardening skills. Please contact Lisa Mazzola if interested in attending, mazzolal@msu.edu.



Host a table at Tractor Supply

Tractor Supply in Ortonville is looking for Oakland County 4-H clubs or individual 4-H members to help represent 4-H during their upcoming **4-H Animal Days** events. Volunteers will host an informational table, share what 4-H has to offer, and talk with shoppers about their club experiences and projects.

Event Details:

Location: Tractor Supply, Ortonville

Dates: Saturday, August 15, and Sunday, September 13

Whether it's a few members from one club or a group made up of members from several clubs, all are welcome to participate! If you're interested or would like more information, please contact Lisa Mazzola at mazzolal@msu.edu.



Awards Applications Available!

Join us as we recognize the outstanding achievements of Oakland County 4-H youth and volunteers. The 4-H Achievement Awards celebrate the hard work, leadership, dedication, and accomplishments that make our 4-H community stronger every year.

4-H youth are encouraged to apply for awards and be recognized for their achievements!

Award Application Deadline: September 1, 2026

Everyone is welcome to attend! Whether you're receiving an award or simply want to celebrate and support fellow 4-H members, we invite you to join us. It's a wonderful opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of Oakland County 4-H youth. **RSVP information for the ceremony will be sent in September.**



Saturday, November 7, 2026

1:00–3:00 PM

Springfield Oaks Activity Center - Davisburg, MI

[View all award opportunities and apply here!](#)

4-H Nature Art Program

Looking for a fun (and **FREE!**) way for your child to get creative outdoors this summer?

Join us for the Nature Art 4-H Program, a two-session experience where youth will explore Michigan's native plants, learn how to preserve flowers using a flower press, and create their own beautiful pressed floral artwork to take home. Ages 5–19.

- Session 1: Saturday, August 15
Bloomer Park, Rochester
- Session 2: Saturday, August 22
Rochester Hills Public Library



Space is limited! [Register here](#) or contact Lisa Mazzola at mazzolal@msu.edu for more information.

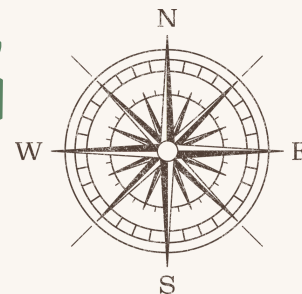
Teens as Teachers



Teens, make a difference in your community! Volunteer as a Teen Teacher and help lead fun, interactive 4-H Healthy Living activities for elementary-aged youth. Build leadership and teaching skills while inspiring healthy habits in younger kids. Join us on **Friday, August 21 from 1:00–3:00 p.m.** at the Rochester Hills Public Library. Registration is free!

Contact Cheyenne, shield69@msu.edu.

BRING ORIENTEERING TO YOUR COUNTY OR CLUB



EXPLORE



NAVIGATE



DISCOVER

WHAT IS ORIENTEERING?

Participants follow a course map to locate a series of checkpoints, called controls, in the correct order. At each control, they verify their location using a punch or electronic timing system. Courses can be designed for beginners, families, clubs, camps, or competitive events.

Looking for a fun, hands-on outdoor program? Orienteering combines map reading, problem-solving, teamwork, and adventure as participants navigate to checkpoints using a map and, for advanced courses, a compass.

We provide:

- ✓ Orienteering equipment and supplies
- ✓ Control markers and timing equipment
- ✓ Course planning and setup support
 - ✓ Participant instruction
 - ✓ Assistance running the event

Your county or club provides:

- ✓ A location or park area to host the event
 - ✓ Local volunteers to assist participants and support the program





STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Building work
readiness skills
through 4-H**



Beyond Ready

4-H programs create intentional opportunities for youth to build essential work readiness skills that prepare them for future success. Through structured, hands-on activities, young people practice communication, collaboration, problem solving and time management. Volunteers play a key role by guiding youth through meaningful tasks, helping them set goals, and encouraging personal responsibility and follow through.

As youth take on leadership roles, complete project work, and participate in real-world or simulated experiences, they begin to demonstrate growth in professionalism, work ethic and organizational skills. Every activity can help youth connect what they are learning in 4-H to what will be expected of them in the workplace.

How is your club helping youth build the skills they need to be work ready?

#BeyondReady

July 1 - August 7: Michigan 4-H License Plate Promotion Contest

Online

As part of the Michigan State Fair 4-H and Youth Virtual Showcase, youth ages 8-19 are invited to create a video or non-video promotional piece encouraging others to purchase the 4-H license plate.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-license-plate-promotion-contest

July 1 - August 7: Michigan 4-H Business Pitch Contest

Online

Participants may present a business they already own, currently operate or hope to start in the future, including product, service or community impact ideas. Youth will create a two-minute video pitch introducing themselves, explaining their business idea, identifying the problem they are solving, and sharing why their product or service stands out.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan4-hbusinesspitchcontest

August 12: Adulting 101 – Roadmap to a Smart Used Car Purchase

Online

Are you wanting to purchase a used car, but have no idea where to start? Learn tips, resources and strategies to help you make an informed decision with confidence.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-roadmap-to-a-smart-used-car-purchase

August 13-16: 2025 Michigan 4-H State Horse Show

MSU Pavilion, East Lansing, Mich.

This annual event brings together 4-H members from counties across Michigan. Members are selected by their county 4-H programs to participate; spectators are welcome.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-state-horse-show

August 17-20: 4-H Garden Adventures Summer Camp 2026

Traverse City, Mich.

Join us for fun adventures in nature, nurturing resilience, kindness, community and creativity. This camp is designed to encourage sustainability and growth from the inside out through a fun and engaging hands-on approach. Register by August 17.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-garden-adventures-summer-camp-2026-session-2

September 9: Welcome Back MSU 4-H Alumni Reception

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing, Mich.

Join MSU Extension for the ninth annual Welcome Back MSU 4-H Alumni Reception. If you are a current or former 4-H'er attending MSU this fall, stop by the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. for networking and free dinner!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-welcome-week-4-h-alumni-reception





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Michigan 4-H alumni & supporters invited to get connected by the clover!

As a valuable member of the Michigan 4-H community, you already know the importance of the 4-H connection. We invite those age 18 and older to take that 4-H connection one step further by joining a new statewide community of 4-H supporters: Michigan 4-H Alumni & Friends.

The Michigan 4-H Alumni & Friends database will connect 4-H families, alumni, volunteers, supporters and others across Michigan with one another – connecting them by the clover! We hope you will take a few moments to sign-up for this free community and grow your connection.

As a member of Michigan 4-H Alumni & Friends, you will receive information about opportunities to support 4-H youth and programs; 4-H programming and participants; upcoming events for the Michigan 4-H Alumni & Friends community and more!.

Michigan 4-H Alumni & Friends is open to anyone age 18+ who cares about Michigan 4-H: 4-H parents, staff members, volunteers, grandparents, supporters, partner organization representatives, donors and more. Learn more about Michigan 4-H Alumni & Friends and find the link to join by visiting extension.msu.edu/Michigan4HA&F.

**Join
Michigan
4-H
Alumni &
Friends**



Stay informed. Support youth.
Strengthen communities.
Get connected by the clover today!

Join for free at:
extension.msu.edu/Michigan4HA&F

MICHIGAN STATE
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Going home: Biosecurity tips for animals that travel off the farm

Adapted from: https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/biosecurity_tips_for_animals_that_went_to_the_county_fair.

Animals that are exhibited at the county fair, jackpot shows, and other exhibitions are likely near and dear to their exhibitor's hearts. [Michigan State University Extension](#) offers these biosecurity steps exhibitors can take to protect their show animals and those that were left at home once the event has ended.

- Keep animals that left home separate from animals that did not for a minimum of 14 days. If at all possible, do not allow nose-to-nose contact and provide as much distance between animals.
- Disinfect all buckets, feeders, tools and footwear that left home.
- Throw away any feed or hay that left home.
- Always wear clean clothes and footwear. Boot coverings may be helpful when caring for isolated animals.
- Take care of animals that stayed home from the show first, and animals that were at the show second. Do not go back and forth between animals as this increases the risk of cross-contamination.
- Do not eat or drink in the barn.
- Observe animals daily for signs and symptoms of illness, such as:
 - Obvious pain or discomfort
 - Decrease in appetite and water intake
 - Fever
 - Lethargy
 - Diarrhea or changes in consistency in manure
 - Discharge from nasal cavity or eyes
 - Overall weakness

Care of animals after traveling is just as critical as their pre-show care. Exhibited animals were exposed to new animal populations and fair-goers, and will typically experience a lot of stress during their time away from home. By practicing these biosecurity steps, you can help keep all of your animals safe and healthy.

