



4-H Family News

Oakland County



Welcome Jordan Hewitt!



Please welcome Jordan Hewitt as Oakland County's newest 4-H Program Coordinator. Jordan has more than 15 years of experience with livestock management including various experiences with agriculture educational training and instruction with students of all ages and abilities. Previously, Jordan worked with the Bowers Farm in Bloomfield Hills and Kutchey Family Farm in Macomb. She has extensive experience working in the equine industry including providing equine assisted farming demonstrations and stagecoach tours at Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm in Kansas, caring for draft horses at the Kentucky Horse Park and showing a top Percheron hitch at the National level based out of Wyoming. Jordan received a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science with a specialization in Agribusiness Management from Michigan State University. In her spare time, she coaches the softball and equestrian team for Bloomfield Hills High School. On a more personal level, Jordan enjoys kayaking, learning to play hockey and hiking with her mixed breed dog, Em.

Jordan replaced Deb Morgan, who retired at the end of the year. Her office will be located at Tollgate Farm and Education Center in Novi. Jordan can be reached at hewittj8@msu.edu.

CONTACT US

MSU Extension – 4-H Youth
1200 N Telegraph Rd
Building 34 East
Pontiac, Michigan
48341

PHONE & EMAIL:

248-858-0889

msue.4hoakland@campusad.msu.edu

WEBSITE:

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

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer, committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Quentin Tyler, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned.



4-H Open House at Main Street Pontiac!

Main Street Pontiac has partnered with MSU Extension 4-H ♥ Please join us for information about 4-H and opportunities to support Pontiac youth programming.

Pizza and refreshments will be provided! 🍕

Thursday, February 13th, 2025

5:00 - 6:30 PM

73 North Saginaw Street, Pontiac MI 48342

RSVP by February 11:

https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cvFwR8Jk44JBuo6

**4-H Youth Program Leader Call
OPEN HOUSE**
at Main Street Pontiac
73 North Saginaw Street, Pontiac, MI 48342

**Thursday, February 13th, 2025
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM**

Main Street Pontiac has partnered with MSU Extension 4-H! Please join us for information about 4-H and opportunities to support Pontiac youth programming.

Pizza and refreshments will be provided.

For the Love of 4-H

Please RSVP
by February 11th.

MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

Exploration Days 2025

Save the date for Exploration Days 2025! **June 18-20, 2025!** Live like a college student while exploring careers, building skills, and envisioning your future. This three-day pre-college program offers over 100 fun learning sessions across MSU campus led by MSU faculty, 4-H staff, and experts. Ages 12-19. Cost \$250. Scholarships are available. More information to come soon! Questions? Contact Cheyenne Shields at shield69@msu.edu.

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



Horse Program Winter Series

MICHIGAN 4-H HORSE PROGRAM WINTER WEBINAR SERIES

January 15th at 6pm: How to buy a horse with Paula Hitzler
January 29th at 6pm: The basics of Equine Management with David Lindsay
February 5th at 6pm: Equine Nutrition basics with Dr. Christine Skelly
February 18th at 6pm: Being a better boarder and Running a boarding facility with Taylor Fabus
March 12th at 6pm: From the judges' perspective: Showmanship with Dr. Karen Waite
March 26th at 6pm: From the judges' perspective: Ranch Riding with Dr. Alyssa Logan

Any further questions email David Lindsay, Extension Educator at lindsa75@msu.edu

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

MSU is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution. Michigan State University Extension education programs and materials are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

The Michigan 4-H Horse Program is hosting a six-part winter webinar series. The series will focus on an array of topics centered around Youth who are just getting started with horses and the Horse and Pony Project. All webinars start at 6 pm.

February 5th: Equine Nutrition basics with Dr. Christine Skelly, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist

February 18th: Being a better boarder and Running a boarding facility with Taylor Fabus, owner and Manager of Fabus Farms

March 12th: From the judges' perspective: Showmanship with Dr. Karen Waite, multi-carded judge and Associate Professor at Michigan State University

March 26th: From the judges' perspective: Ranch Riding with Dr. Alyssa Logan, multi-carded judge and Assistant Professor at Middle Tennessee State University

Zoom link: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/97121881938>

Password: 4HHORSE

Questions – David Lindsay, lindsa75@msu.edu.



4-H Healthy Horizons Clubs

4-H Healthy Horizons Club 

FREE 12 week Health Education Programming for Youth Aged 8-18!


WHEN: February 6, 2025 – May 1, 2025
Thursdays 4 PM – 6 PM

WHERE: Baldwin Center
212 Baldwin Ave
Pontiac, MI 48342

Weekly Topics –
Series for Mindfulness & Nutrition Programming

Sign up [here!](#)

Contact- Autumn Walton, waltonau@msu.edu or 248-858-0894



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension


4-H Healthy Horizons Club

Free 12-week Mindfulness & Nutrition Programming for Youth Aged 8-18

CONTACT:

Autumn Walton, CHES
4-H HealthCorps AmeriCorps Member
Oakland County MSU Extension
248-858-0894
waltonau@msu.edu

Scan the QR code to sign up:




MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer, committed to nurturing excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.

When?
February 6, 2025 - April 24, 2025
Thursdays
4 PM - 6 PM

Where?
Baldwin Center
212 Baldwin Ave., Pontiac, MI 48342

Weekly Topics

- Week 1: Replace Sugary Drinks
- Week 2: MyPlate
- Week 3: Reading Nutrition Facts Labels
- Week 4: Eat More Whole Grains
- Week 5: Healthier Food - Fast
- Week 6: The Power of Eating Breakfast
- Week 7: Yoga
- Week 8: Positive Relationships - Affirmations
- Week 9: Mindful Eating
- Week 10: Naming Feelings/ Mood Management
- Week 11: Mood Management
- Week 12: Stress Management/The Gift of Presence



Oakland County 4-H Tack Sale



**Oakland County
4H TACK SALE**
SATURDAY, FEB 22, 2025
Waterford Oaks Event Center
10am - 2 pm
Details in the comments
Hope to see you there!

Come shop with us for one of a kind unique gifts!!!!
Several new & used vendors!
Admission \$2

Saturday, February 22, 2025
10am -2pm
Waterford Oaks Event Center
2800 Watkins Lake Rd, Waterford MI 48328



For table reservation or more info, please contact: Michele Honomichl at ochcouncil@gmail.com. Registration must be received by 2/14. **Hosted by Oakland County 4-H Horse Council**

Spark and Share Summit!

Reignite your passion for 4-H at the 2025 Spark and Share Summit March 8th at the Bavarian Inn Lodge and Conference Center in Frankenmuth!!

4-H Volunteers and teens can register for this 1-day conference where they can learn new projects and information that they can take back to teach and share in their local 4-H program at: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/SELeaderMeet2025/>.

Registration is \$50 and includes lunch and selection of up to 3 breakout sessions. A link to session descriptions is available through the registration page. The deadline for registration is February 8th. Scholarships available if needed. Please contact the 4-H office.



Michigan 4-H

Spark and Share Summit

FRANKENMUTH, MI

BAVARIAN INN LODGE AND CONFERENCE CENTER
MARCH 8, 2025
9AM -5:30PM

\$50 includes Lunch




- Animal Science
- Science of Gardening
- Paper Art
- Engaging Meetings
- Mindfulness
- Rocketry
- Marketing your Project
- Youth-Adult Partnerships
- Teaching Science
- Vermicomposting
- Spa Day

Register by February 8th: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/SELeaderMeet2025/>

Thanks to a generous donation by Michigan 4-H Foundation Program Committee, the price for this training has been reduced.



4-H Capitol Experience

Do you want to make our state a better place? 4-H Capitol Experience is now open for registrations! Join us at the Michigan Capitol March 16-18 to learn more about state government, and how your voice can make an impact! More information available on our website at https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_capitol_experience/

MARCH 16-18, 2025

4-H CAPITOL EXPERIENCE

COST \$365

OPEN TO HIGH SCHOOL AGE YOUTH EXPERIENCE STATE GOVERNMENT IN ACTION AND LEARN HOW TO INFLUENCE POLICY ISSUES. INTERACT WITH LEGISLATORS, STATE AGENCY STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND OTHER RESOURCE PEOPLE!

PLEASE REGISTER BY MARCH 1ST AT: [HTTPS://EVENTS.ANR.MSU.EDU/CAPITOLEXPERIENCE2025/](https://events.anr.msu.edu/capitolexperience2025/)

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Mark Of Excellence 2025

Mark of Excellence

...
DUE APRIL 1

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

4-H GROWS HERE

“Because of 4-H I can...” Apply for the 4-H Mark of Excellence Award today! Tell us how 4-H has helped you to become “Beyond Ready.” Open to 4-H youth ages 10-12.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/.../4-h.../Youth-Recognition/index>

🌟Winners: Selected winners will receive a certificate and medal. Submissions may be posted on the Michigan 4-H section of the MSU Extension website and promoted digitally in newsletters and social media. You will also receive another special award at Oakland County's annual awards ceremony. 🌟

Submit to Lisa Mazzola at mazzolal@msu.edu by April 1, 2025.

International Exchange Program

Celebrate the New Year Across Different Cultures by applying to Host a Japanese youth this summer in Michigan! Online Host Family Applications are open! Michigan 4-H will have 10 Japanese youth and one Chaperone available in 2025 for interested families opening their homes and hearts by hosting! They are scheduled to arrive in Grand Rapids, MI, in mid-July and depart in mid-August to meet host families for a 3.5-week stay. A host family must complete the States' 4-H International Exchange Programs online application, have a youth to match as a host brother/sister (within 3 years of age), be Michigan 4-H adult Gold Volunteers, and participate in an interview and home visit process.

2025 Online Applications to host can be found at: <https://www.states4hexchange.org/apply/host/>
Questions? Contact Cheyenne Shields at shield69@msu.edu.

Ring in the New Year!

Celebrate the New Year Across Different Cultures by applying to Host a Japanese youth this summer!



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Get free tickets for Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin!



Make plans for a fun day in East Lansing on March 1! Join with other members of the 4-H community for 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 Minnesota Golden Gophers.

In addition to the game, attendees will also enjoy 4-H activities around the concourse. Doors will open at 12:30 p.m., with tip-off scheduled for 2 p.m. Participants are encouraged to show their pride and wear green and white 4-H or MSU Extension apparel.

Tickets are free to 4-H youth and their families as well as 4-H volunteers and their families. For more information and to order tickets, visit www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-day-at-the-Breslin.

A member of the 4-H alumni community? Consider also stopping by the 4-H Alumni Tip-Off Reception on March 1! More information and registration at www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-alumni-tip-off-reception.

February 4: Crash Course: Credit Survival 101

Online

Youth learn the basics of credit: advantages and disadvantages, credit vs. debit, credit scores, interest, and tips to managing credit wisely.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/crashcreditcoursefeb-4

February 11: 4-H Wild Spartans – The Relationship Between Tribes and Fish

Online

Plunge into the world of Great Lakes fisheries and meet Jason Smith, Great Lakes fisheries assessment biologist for the Bay Mills Indian community. Learn about his work, and the education and career path he followed to get there. Ask questions to learn more through a live Q&A. Open to youth ages 12-19 years.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-monthly-wildlife-fisheries-webinar-series-february-2024-2025

February 12: Online Parent Talk System Webinar Series

Online

A course for caregivers to improve communication and provide strategies for raising confident, caring, responsible children. This weekly series will be offered Wednesdays from Feb. 12 – Mar. 19 at no cost.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/the-parent-talk-system-series-february-march-25

February 13: Ace the Interview: Tips to Land Your Dream Job

Online

Through the partnership of Toyota and Michigan 4-H, youth will explore a variety of career paths in the automotive industry as well as build workforce readiness skills to take on their goals. This second offering in the five-part webinar series will focus on tips for a successful interview.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/ace-the-interview

February 15: 4-H Animal Science Career Quest 2025

Online

A career exploration program for youth ages 12-19 interested in pursuing a career in animal science. Learn about everything animal science has to offer and many career skill-building activities through hands-on sessions. Register by Feb. 3.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-animal-science-career-quest-2025

February 25: 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series; Facilitation Skills for 4-H Clubs

Online

Gain essential facilitation skills to engage every voice and increase efficiency in your 4-H club. This session offers tools to create inclusive, dynamic discussions, making sure all members feel heard while streamlining club activities. This webinar will be offered at two different times:

12 p.m. www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-engaging-every-voice-facilitation-skills-for-dynamic-4-h-clubs-noon

7 p.m. www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-engaging-every-voice-facilitation-skills-for-dynamic-4-h-clubs-7pm





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



Apply for the Michigan 4-H State Awards!

Michigan 4-H true leaders ages 11 and older have an opportunity to be recognized for the great work they do in 4-H and develop their career skills by completing a state award application. A Michigan 4-H State Award is the highest honor bestowed on a Michigan 4-H member and provides an opportunity to receive recognition for their engagement in rich learning experiences that result in outstanding knowledge and life-skill development.

State award applications are divided into four categories: Mark of Excellence contest (10-11 years), junior state award (12-15 years), senior state award (16-19 years) and group awards (13-19 years). Each application and selection process varies, dependent on the applicant's age.

More information about the Michigan 4-H State Award process and Mark of Excellence Contest can be found online at <http://bit.ly/stateaward>. Applications are due April 1. For more information, contact your 4-H program coordinator or email Betty Jo Krosnicki at nashbett@msu.edu or Janice Zerbe at rajzerj@msu.edu.

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 8 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 Feb. 1 and closes Mar. 15.



Seeking outstanding agricultural 4-H volunteers

The Michigan 4-H Foundation is seeking nominations of remarkable agricultural 4-H volunteers for the Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) 4-H Excellence in Agriculture Award. This award recognizes outstanding 4-H volunteers that have exhibited excellence in 4-H youth education and leadership development in the areas of 4-H beef cattle; dairy cattle; goats; horses; horticulture, crops and soils; poultry; rabbits; sheep; swine; and veterinary science.

Up to five MFB Excellence in Agriculture Award honorees are recognized each year. Selected recipients will be recognized by both Michigan 4-H and MFB. In addition, honorees receive a \$1,000 grant they designate to a 4-H agricultural program of their choice. The award is supported by an endowment with the Michigan 4-H Foundation that was established by MFB.



Nominations for the MFB Excellence in Agriculture Award should be submitted by March 15. To nominate a deserving individual or learn more about the 4-H Excellence in Agriculture Award, visit <https://mi4hfdtn.org/grants-scholarships/mfb-4-h-excellence-in-agriculture-award/>.