



4-H Family News

Oakland County



Oakland County Showmanship Series 2026



SAVE THE DATES



April
18

**4-H Rabbit & Cavy
Showmanship Clinic**



May
23

**4-H Sheep & Goat
Showmanship Clinic**



May
30

**4-H Horse
Showmanship Clinic**



OAKLAND COUNTY 4-H SHOWMANSHIP SERIES 2026



Extension

Join us for a hands-on experience including live feedback, fitting tips, health considerations, and record-keeping advice to boost your show ring skills. Auditing is welcome for both youth and leaders.

Stay tuned for further details, you won't want to miss it!

- **4-H Rabbit & Cavy Showmanship Clinic** - April 18th
- **4-H Sheep & Goat Showmanship Clinic**- May 23rd
- **4-H Horse Showmanship Clinic**- May 30th

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Congratulations to Ajani Harris!

Huge congratulations to Ajani Harris for receiving the MSU Pre College Scholarship!

Students in 8th to 11th grades who attended an MSU summer pre-college program were eligible to apply for this award. Selection for this scholarship is based on application and student essay. He will be receiving a \$2,000 scholarship to attend MSU in the future!

For more information on these 4-H pre-college programs as well as other MSU pre-college programs, please visit Spartan Youth Programs at <http://www.spartanyouth.msu.edu>.



Oakland County Tack & Craft Sale



Come shop with us for one of a kind unique gifts!!!!
Several new & used vendors!
Admission \$3

Saturday, February 21, 2026

10am -2pm

Oakview Middle School

917 Lake George, Oakland Township, MI 48363

For table reservation or more info, please contact: Michele Honomichl at ochcouncil@gmail.com. Registration must be received by 2/13.

****Hosted by Oakland County 4-H Horse Council****

4-H Hippology Practice Sessions



4-H HIPPOLOGY PRACTICE SESSIONS



Join us for 5 weeks of Hippology Practice Sessions!

Fun, fast-paced virtual learning to build skills for Hippology, Horse Judging, and overall horse knowledge! Open to all youth!

 5 weeks

 30 minute sessions

 Via Zoom

 **FREE** FREE Cost




Each week we'll dive into key equine topics including anatomy, tack & equipment, nutrition, breeds, and horse health.

Contact: Jordan Hewitt
hewittj@msu.edu, 248-347-3860 ext. 279



 Extension



Join us for 5 weeks of Equine Hippology Practice Sessions—fun, fast-paced virtual learning to build skills for Hippology, Horse Judging, and overall horse knowledge!

-  5 Weeks
-  30-minute sessions
-  Via Zoom

Each week we'll dive into key equine topics including anatomy, tack & equipment, nutrition, breeds, judging and horse health.

-  Open to all 4-H youth—beginner to experienced
-  Great prep for contests, horse bowl, and show season

[Register here!](#)

2026 Spark and Share Summit

Reignite your passion for 4-H at the 2026 Spark and Share Summit March 7th 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/SparkShare2026/>.

Registration is \$75 and includes lunch and selection of up to 4 breakout sessions. A link to session descriptions is available through the registration page. The deadline for registration is February 9th.



Discovery Day – Save the Date

Join us for fun games, live animal presentations, and hands-on activities for all ages! Learn about joining 4-H and exhibiting at the Oakland County Fair. Concessions available.

 **April 25, 2026**

 **10 AM – 2 PM**

 **Springfield Oaks County Park**

12451 Andersonville Rd, Davisburg, MI 48350

Don't miss one of our most popular events of the year! 🥳 🌻

World Food Prize Michigan Institute



The World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute is a life changing experience at Michigan State University where students in grades 7-12 engage with leading experts on critical global challenges, participate in engaging activities and tours, and explore exciting ways to make a difference in Michigan and around the world!

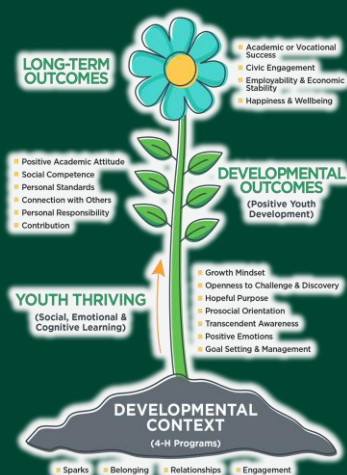
Registration will be open February 1 - March 15, 2026

More information here: [World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute](https://worldfoodprize.org/michigan-youth-institute)



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development



Relationships are the foundation of a successful 4-H program! These relationships include building friendships with other members and leaders, building great working relationships and trust between program leaders and members, and adult leaders working together to organize great opportunities for youth.

We hope you can find others in the 4-H program in which you can build positive friendships and/or mentorships. Join us for any events and meetings to get to know everyone in the program.

Youth thriving is the first step in building youth who are #BeyondReady! Contact your local 4-H staff for more information.

January 13: Wild Spartans

Online

This month's session is "Nature's Detectives: How Insects Help Solve Crimes Against People, Animals and the Environment through Forensic Entomology." Tiny creatures can tell BIG stories about the world around us: explore creepy-crawly clues and learn how science and nature work together to solve puzzles. 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-january

January 13: Avoiding Money Mishaps

Online

In today's digital world, young people are increasingly targeted by fraudsters, scammers and predatory lenders. This interactive webinar will empower youth with the knowledge and tools to protect themselves and their personal information.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/avoiding-money-mishaps-jan13

January 21: Adulting 101 – Fraud Fighters: How to Stay Scam-Free

Online

From fake jobs offers to phishing texts, scammers are everywhere. This workshop breaks down the latest tricks and shows you how to guard your info, your credit, and your peace of mind.

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

January 24: 2026 State 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Show and Expo

Farm Bureau Pavilion, Lansing

4-H'ers exhibit rabbit and cavy projects and participate in educational knowledge contests: showmanship, skillathon, breed identification and rabbit hopping. **Register by January 14.**

www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-state-4-h-rabbit-and-cavy-show-and-expo

January 26: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series: Beyond Ready Basics

Every great 4-H experience has a few powerful ingredients—and volunteers play the biggest role in making them happen. Explore the four vital elements that help youth thrive: discovering sparks, feeling a sense of belonging, building developmental relationships, and staying meaningfully engaged.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-beyond-ready-basics-bringing-the-vital-elements-to-life-in-your-4-h-club

February 7: 4-H Winterfest

Eagle Village Retreat Center, Hersey

4-H Winterfest is a hand-on learning camp for youth ages 8-12. Youth pick workshops and participate in team building activities. Come and have fun this winter! **Register by January 23.**

www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-winterfest





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



Register for Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience!

At Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience, teens learn how to change the world for the better through engagement in Michigan's state government and public policy process. The program is scheduled for March 15-17, in Lansing.

The three-day event, open to high-school-aged youth, includes tours of the Michigan Capitol, interactions with state legislators, meetings with state agency staff, lobbyists and state-level experts and learning how policy is made. During the program, youth work in small teams to draft legislation on: agriculture; civil rights and youth advocacy; crime and law enforcement; education and teacher retention; environment and natural resources; health; and jobs, the economy and infrastructure.

The cost to attend is \$365, which includes lodging at the Okemos Conference Center. Please contact your local 4-H program coordinator to inquire about local funding opportunities. To learn more and/or find the link to register, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_capitol_experience/.

Earn prizes with the Michigan 4-H Cash Composition Contest

Did you know youth are being targeted by scams too? That's this year's theme for the 2026 Michigan 4-H Cash Composition Contest! Michigan youth aged 9–19 are invited to participate through writing an essay on this year's question.

Top entries receive a \$100 gift card, thanks to contest sponsor, Extra Credit Union. MSU Extension will host two webinars to help with fraud awareness and essay writing. Essays are due by March 1. For contest details and essay submission information, visit: www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/money-smart-kids-contest.



Apply for the Michigan 4-H State Awards!

Michigan 4-H true leaders ages 10 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). An Achievement Award was added last year for 18–19-year-olds. 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 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.