



4-H Family News

Oakland County



Dog Orienteering Event



OAKLAND COUNTY 4-H DOG ORIENTEERING EVENT

Orion Oaks Dog Park
May 31, 2026
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Grab your dog and your sense of adventure! Join us for a fun, outdoor Dog Orienteering event

- 👤 Open to 4-H youth and adults
- 👥 Participate individually or as a group
- 🐕 Dogs welcome (must remain on leash during the event)

No experience needed—just come ready to explore, learn something new, and have lots of fun with your dog!

Contact: Jordan Hewitt
hewittj8@msu.edu, 248-347-3860 ext. 279

Oakland County Parks Michigan State University Extension
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Grab your dog and your sense of adventure! Join us for a fun, outdoor **Dog Orienteering event at Orion Oaks County Park on May 31st from 11:00 AM–2:00 PM.**

Meet at the pavilion 🐾

10:30 AM – Quick intro to orienteering + how it works

11:00 AM – Register, pick up maps, and hit the course

Open to 4-H youth and adults

Participate individually or as a group

Dogs welcome (must remain on leash during the event)

No experience needed—just come ready to explore, learn something new, and have lots of fun with your dog!

Use this link to register: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/DogOEvent/>

For Questions Contact Jordan: Hewittj8@msu.edu

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Discovery Day Recap

4-H Discovery Day on April 25, 2026, was a tremendous success, thanks to the incredible support from local 4-H clubs and community organizations. Participants enjoyed a wide range of hands-on activities including animal interactions, creative arts and crafts projects, and archery demonstrations. **A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who contributed to making Discovery Day such a special event.**



Strawberry Preservation Workshop

Join us for a hands-on Strawberry Preservation Workshop at beautiful Tollgate Farm & Education Center!

Learn how to make delicious strawberry freezer jam — and take it home! Visit the strawberry patch and learn how to grow your own juicy berries.

When: June 14th | 12–2 PM

Where: Tollgate Farm & Education Center

Who: Kids ages 8–13 with an adult

Teens 14+ may attend on their own

💰 **Cost:** \$20 per child/adult pair or individual

Register now and let the strawberry adventures begin: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/StrawberryWorkshop2/>



Archery SPIN Club

Looking for something new to try this summer? Join the Oakland County 4-H Archery SPIN Club at Independence Oaks County Park!

Dates: June 4, 5, and 11

Time: 5:30–7:00 pm (1.5 hours each day)

Location: Independence Oaks County Park

Ages: 12yrs and up

No experience needed—we'll teach you the basics! Participants must be able to attend all three sessions, and space is limited, so don't wait to sign up.

👉 Register here: <https://pears.io/events/msuext/4620/>

OAKLAND COUNTY ARCHERY SPIN CLUB

June 4, 5, and 11, 2026
5:30 - 7:00 PM
 Independence Oaks County Park

Looking for something new to try this summer? **Join the Oakland County 4-H Archery SPIN Club at Independence Oaks County Park!**

No experience needed—we'll teach you the basics! Participants must be able to attend all three sessions, and space is limited.

Perfect for youth who want to learn a new skill, try archery in a safe setting, and have some summer fun!

Contact: Jordan Hewitt at HewittJ@msu.edu

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4-H Horse Camp

June 21 – 25, 2026. **Four-day horse camp at Springfield Oaks County Park in Davisburg, MI** for 4-H member youth ages 8-19. Four instructional classes with your horse daily include: Fitting & Showing, Western Horsemanship, English Equitation, Dressage, Jumping, Trail, Centered Riding, Bareback, Ranch Riding, In-hand Miniature Horse and Gymkhana.

Contact: Diane Tenerowicz – Camp Director, 313-410-9999
ddkktenerowicz@aol.com



Sheep & Goat Showmanship Clinic

Oakland County 4-H Sheep & Goat Showmanship Clinic

May 23, 2026

Springfield Oaks County Park

Open to beginner through advanced participants, this clinic offers live judge feedback and instruction focused on showmanship, fitting, animal health, and record keeping. Participants may attend half day (one species) or stay for the full day (both species).

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Join us on **May 23 from 10:00 AM–2:00 PM at Springfield Oaks County Park** for a hands-on learning experience designed for youth of all skill levels.

Participants will receive **live judge feedback and instruction** focused on showmanship, fitting, animal health, and record keeping. Attend for a half day (one species) or stay for the full day and gain experience with both sheep and goats.

Cost:

- Half Day: \$20 before April 25 | \$25 after
- Full Day: \$30 before April 25 | \$35 after
- Auditors: \$5 before April 25 | \$10 after

Lunch is included

Register here: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/SheepGoatShowmanship/>

New 4-H Trail Riding Recognition Program

NEW STATEWIDE 4-H TRAIL RIDING RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Michigan 4-H is launching a new **Statewide 4-H Trail Riding Recognition Program** to celebrate youth who participate in trail riding as part of their 4-H horse project.

Trail riding helps youth build:

- ✓ Rider Safety
- ✓ Horse and Rider Bond
- ✓ Rider Confidence

Now those miles earn statewide recognition!

- ✓ Open to all enrolled Michigan 4-H horse project members
- ✓ **Top 5 Junior & Top 5 Senior** riders recognized at the Michigan 4-H State Horse Show

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We're excited to launch the **Michigan Statewide 4-H Trail Riding Recognition Program**. If you're enrolled in a Michigan 4-H horse project, you can participate by logging your trail rides completed between August 1 and July 31.

Whether you enjoy quiet wooded paths or group trail adventures, every mile counts. The top five Junior and top five Senior riders will be recognized at the Michigan 4-H State Horse Show. Start logging your rides today and be part of this statewide celebration of trail riding:

https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bOyn5zWORdTsYfY

Questions? Contact Jordan at hewittj8@msu.edu or David at lindsa75@msu.edu.



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Creating Beyond-Ready Youth Through 4-H Project Learning



Beyond Ready

4-H prepares youth for the world of work by engaging them in high quality, hands-on learning grounded in meaningful project content. When young people apply skills, solve real problems and reflect on their learning, they build confidence and readiness for future careers.

4-H programs intentionally create these opportunities, helping youth practice communication, teamwork, decision making and technical skills that transfer to real world settings. Some ways to deepen project work could include: adding real life tasks, inviting youth to demonstrate mastery or guiding reflection that connects the activity to future workplace expectations. Every project meeting is a chance to help youth become Beyond Ready, capable, and confident.

#BeyondReady

May 4: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series – Supporting Youth Entrepreneurs and Your Role in 4-H Animal Projects

Online

Learn how to support youth in making smart decisions that lead to financial and personal growth using activities from MSU Extension's Youth Business Guide to Success. Discover how you can mentor youth in goal setting, budgeting, marketing and record-keeping for real-world skills.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-supporting-youth-entrepreneurs-your-role-in-4-h-animal-projects

May 5: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project Webinar – Market Mastery

Online

Delve into the five Ps of marketing and explore strategies to elevate your outreach. Learn practical tools and techniques to promote projects successfully, enhance sales and build valuable industry connections.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar-5-5

May 12: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project Webinar – Records to Riches

Online

Learn to keep track of what you spend and earn to make smart choices for market livestock projects. Equip youth with tools to track expenses, set goals and ensure projects are profitable and rewarding.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar5-12

May 14: Online Parent Talk System Webinar Series

Online

A course for caregivers of toddlers to teens to improve communication and provide strategies for raising confident, caring, responsible children. Offered each Thursday from May 14 – June 18.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/the-parent-talk-system-series-may-june-2026

May 18: Adulting 101 Webinar – Cooking with Confidence

Online

Increase your confidence in the kitchen. From reading recipes to mastering kitchen terms, explore simple ways to get creative with ingredients and make tasty meals without stress or waste.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/cooking_with_confidence

May 19: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project – Pitch to Payment

Online

Communication and outreach are important methods to recruit buyers for market livestock projects. Discover how to use social media to promote your project, reach a wider audience and share progress.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar5-19

June 6: Garden Geocache Event

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Cache veterans and new enthusiasts are welcome at this geocaching adventure. Bring your picnic lunch and enjoy a day of caching in the gardens.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/garden-geocache





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Michigan 4-H license plate celebrates first anniversary!

Last April, the Michigan 4-H community celebrated a milestone decades in the making: the launch of the Michigan 4-H license plate. One year later, Michigan 4-H continues to celebrate the plate's existence and the potential it holds for the program. Available through the Michigan Secretary of State, a portion of each 4-H license plate sold and renewed benefits Michigan 4-H Youth Development.

"The Michigan 4-H license plate has been a dream of our 4-H professionals and families for several decades," explained Quentin Tyler, director of MSU Extension. "So, when the plate was launched one year ago, it was a wish come true. But more than being a vision brought to life, the plate is an incredible asset – raising visibility of the 4-H clover while generating additional dollars to support our 4-H program and its emerging needs."



Like other special cause fundraising license plates in the state, the Michigan 4-H license plate costs \$35, with \$25 of the purchase fee benefiting Michigan 4-H Youth Development. A \$10 fee is also be charged to benefit Michigan 4-H when the plate is renewed. License plates may be ordered by visiting Michigan.gov/sos, by mailing in a form or scheduling a visit to any Secretary of State office. The plate will be delivered by mail in two to three weeks. Supporters do not need to wait until their plate renewal period to order the 4-H plate.

To learn more, visit extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate.

Michigan 4-H Foundation opens 2026-27 grant cycle

The Michigan 4-H Foundation has announced grant opportunities of up to \$2,000 to support local 4-H clubs and county programs for the 2026-2027 program year. 4-H volunteer leaders, members and staff are encouraged to apply for these competitive funds. **All grant applications are due June 1, 2026.**

"Local 4-H programs are at the heart of our 4-H programs," says Abbey Miller, director of the Michigan 4-H Foundation. "These mini-grants help 4-H youth, volunteers and staff create hands-on learning experiences that spark curiosity, build confidence and strengthen communities. We're grateful to support the innovative work happening across Michigan."

Opportunities include:

- **Michigan 4-H Legacy Grants of \$1,000.** These grants are awarded to support development of a new program or initiative or to strengthen, enhance or expand a current program that is making a difference.
- **4-H On-Target Grants of \$500.** These grants support 4-H shooting sports programs to enhance existing programs, develop a new program or offer a special experience related to 4-H shooting sports.
- **The Collins 4-H Youth Horticulture Grant of \$600.** This grant is available only to 4-H youth clubs and supports advancement of club work in plant science and horticulture activities.
- **4-H Educational Garden Grants of \$1,000.** These grants support the creation of local 4-H educational gardens in Michigan.
- **The M. Louise Palczewski Therapeutic Horseback Riding Grant of \$2,000.** This grant opportunity is to support the creation and/or operation of new or existing 4-H Proud Equestrian Programs (PEP) located in Michigan.



Learn more or apply online at <http://mi4hfdtn.org/grants>. Questions? Contact the Michigan 4-H Foundation at 517-353-6692.