



# 4-H Family News

## Oakland County



### Memorable Adventure for the Rocket Club!



On February 21–22, 2026, Oakland County Sport Rocket 4-H Club took a trip to the Armstrong Air & Space Museum — marking their **first-ever overnight field trip** as a club. It sounds like it was a trip to remember. A huge thank you goes out to the dedicated adult chaperones and parent helpers who helped make this experience possible. Your support and willingness to step in wherever needed ensured the trip ran smoothly and that everyone stayed safe throughout the adventure.

We'd also like to recognize the youth and families who participated in their **very first 4-H activity** during this trip.

Great job to the Oakland County Sport Rocket Club on a successful and memorable trip! 🚀

Interested in joining the club, reach out to Jordan at:

[jbschwarz@gmail.com](mailto:jbschwarz@gmail.com).

### CONTACT US

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[Canr.msu.edu/oakland/4-h/](http://Canr.msu.edu/oakland/4-h/)

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## Welcome Sandra Gary!

We are excited to give a warm welcome to our **new AmeriCorps 4-H member**, Sandra Gray! Sandra is currently a graduate student at Wayne State University, where she is pursuing her Master's degree in Community Health. She is passionate about helping marginalized communities become more autonomous and confident in navigating their healthcare, which inspired her to serve through AmeriCorps.

Outside of her academic and professional work, Sandra enjoys taking long walks with her dog, getting lost in a good romance novel, and cheering on her daughters as a proud volleyball mom. She is excited to be part of the 4-H community and looks forward to where this journey will take her in her career.



**Please join us in welcoming Sandra to the team!**

## Exploration Days 2026

Exploration Days is **June 24-26, 2026!** 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. **Registration opens on March 12th at 7:00 pm.** Don't wait until the deadline though, because popular sessions fill up fast!

Questions? Contact Cheyenne Shields at [shield69@msu.edu](mailto:shield69@msu.edu). [More information here!](#)



## 4-H Poultry Fanciers Shine at Tractor Supply Event!



Special thank you to the 4-H Poultry Fanciers club leader, Jessica Moore, and club members Bella, Bailey, and Chloe for representing 4-H and showcasing their club at a Tractor Supply event in Ortonville last month!

## Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp

Registration is now **OPEN** for 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp! Spend the week at Camp Chickagami on beautiful Lake Esau. Learn about the Great Lakes and Michigan's natural resources through experiential learning opportunities, enjoy recreational sessions including swimming, kayaking, archery, outdoor skills, campfires, and more! Camp is open to youth ages 13-15. Learn more and register at [https://www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_great\\_lakes\\_natural\\_resources\\_camp/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_great_lakes_natural_resources_camp/)



## Rabbit & Cavy Showmanship Clinic

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

**April 18, 2026**

Springfield Oaks County Park

Open to beginner through advanced participants, this clinic offers live judge feedback and instruction focused on showmanship, along with animal health, grooming, and record keeping.

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS | MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



### Oakland County 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Showmanship Clinic

📅 April 18 | 11:00 AM–1:00 PM  
📍 Springfield Oaks County Park

Open to beginner through advanced participants, this clinic provides live judge feedback and instruction to help youth build confidence in showmanship. Topics will also include animal health, grooming, and record keeping.

💰 Cost:

- \$5 prior to March 18
- \$10 after March 18

Register: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/RabbitCavySMS/>

Contact Jordan w/ Questions: [Hewittj8@msu.edu](mailto:Hewittj8@msu.edu)

## 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

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



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\\_bOyn5zWORDtTsyfY](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bOyn5zWORDtTsyfY)

Questions? Contact Jordan at [hewittj8@msu.edu](mailto:hewittj8@msu.edu) or David at [lindsa75@msu.edu](mailto:lindsa75@msu.edu).

## Mark Of Excellence

This is a great opportunity for youth to showcase their growth and reflect on what it means to be “Beyond Ready!”

### How to Participate:

Youth may submit either

- a short video or
- a brief journal reflection focused on the theme “Beyond Ready!”

### Who Can Participate:

✓ Youth who are 10 or 11 years old as of January 1, 2026

☀️ Winners will receive a certificate and medal, be featured on Michigan 4-H digital platforms, and earn a special award at Oakland County’s annual awards ceremony.. ☀️

Submit to Cheyenne Shields, shield69@msu.edu by May 1, 2026.



## Discovery Day – April 25, 2026

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. Don’t miss one of our most popular events of the year! **Registration for your club to host a booth has been sent out!**

April 25, 2026

10 AM – 2 PM

Springfield Oaks County Park

12451 Andersonville Rd, Davisburg, MI 48350

Contact Lisa Mazzola at [mazzolal@msu.edu](mailto:mazzolal@msu.edu).

## 4-H DISCOVERY DAY 2026

**Saturday, April 25, 2026 | 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
Springfield Oaks County Park  
12451 Andersonville Road.  
Davisburg, MI 48350

JOIN US FOR A FREE FAMILY EVENT!

- ★ Educational, hands-on crafts and activities
- ★ Live animal presentations
- ★ Learn about free 4-H Club opportunities for youth and exhibiting at Oakland County Fair

All activities provided by local organizations and 4-H Clubs!  
Concessions will be available for purchase.  
Contact: Lisa Mazzola, [mazzolal@msu.edu](mailto:mazzolal@msu.edu), 248-858-0892.

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## Open Your Heart and Home This Summer!

**Open your Home and Heart to a Japanese Youth this Summer 2026!**

Contact: Jan Brinn  
[brinn@msu.edu](mailto:brinn@msu.edu)

Invite an international youth into your home for three and a half weeks and share an American experience. Expand your family’s cultural understanding, learn about new foods and customs, and possibly learn a new language while sharing your own. Your children will build lifelong friendships and gain new perspectives on their country, too!

2026 Online Applications to host can be found at:  
<https://www.states4hexchange.org/apply/host/>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Janis Brinn at [brinn@msu.edu](mailto:brinn@msu.edu) or visit the States 4-H International Exchange Programs website: <http://www.states4hexchange.org> or Email: [exchange@states4h.org](mailto:exchange@states4h.org)



# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Preparing youth  
to be  
Beyond Ready*



**Beyond  
Ready**

4-H's approach to readiness begins with participation in high-quality positive youth development programs.

4-H has historically helped young people prepare for work and life through the development of competencies, skills and tangible assets, resulting in youth who are healthy, productive and engaged.

The complex landscape youth face today calls us to go a step further in preparing them to navigate their readiness pathway during and after their 4-H experience.

Is your club intentionally preparing youth to be Beyond Ready for the changing world? Watch here for tips to use with your club.

#BeyondReady

## **March 5: Future Ready – Exploring College and Career Paths Workshop**

*Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office, Ann Arbor*

This workshop will feature an interactive panel discussion about the variety of opportunities available for high school graduates in college, trades and more. Ideal for youth ages 12-19.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/future-ready-exploring-college-and-career-paths-workshop](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/future-ready-exploring-college-and-career-paths-workshop)

## **March 10: 4-H Give Green Day**

*Online*

Help us reach our goal of raising \$5,000 in a 24-hour period on Give Green Day to support learning experiences for Michigan 4-H youth.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4h-give-green-day](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4h-give-green-day)

## **March 10: 4-H Wild Spartans - The Lands Has a Story to Tell – But Are We Listening?**

*Online*

Explore the stories that nature and humans weave with Zach Wilson, forest ecologist for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Learn about his career and education, and ask questions via a live Q&A. Suited for youth ages 12-19.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-march](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-march)

## **March 25: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Using AI Responsibly in 4-H**

*Online*

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming the way we learn, work and interact. Learn what AI is, how it impacts youth development, and how to use it responsibly within 4-H. Explore MSU Extension guidance, discuss ethical considerations, and share tips for supporting youth navigating technology.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-from-sparks-to-skills-using-ai-responsibly-in-4-h](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-from-sparks-to-skills-using-ai-responsibly-in-4-h)

## **March 30- April 1: 4-H on the Move: Detroit Cultural Connection Camp**

*Detroit*

An unforgettable spring break alternative! Build cultural awareness, empathy, and a deeper understanding of Detroit's diverse communities through guided tours, hands-on activities, and an opportunity to make a positive impact.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-cultural-connection-camp](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-cultural-connection-camp)

## **April 1: Smart Money Missions Goosechase Game**

*Everywhere*

This fun money management scavenger hunt game is played on the Goosechase app and is open to youth 13-19 years old residing in Michigan.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/smart-money-missions](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/smart-money-missions)





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## Open your home to a student with the 4-H International Exchange Program!

Invite an international youth (ages 12-17 years) or adult chaperone into your home and share an American experience! Michigan 4-H is looking for host families interested in opening their homes and hearts this summer. Consider sharing the clover and giving a lucky Japanese youth and your family the experience of a lifetime!

The Japanese delegation will arrive in Grand Rapids mid-July and depart mid-August, meeting their hosts 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 three years of age) be Michigan 4-H adult Gold volunteers, and participate in an interview and home visit process.



Online applications to host can be found at: <https://www.states4hexchange.org/apply/host/>. For more information, contact Michigan 4-H International Exchange Program Coordinator Jan Brinn [brinn@msu.edu](mailto:brinn@msu.edu).

## Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers



## Get your tickets for Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers

Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at Comerica Park to watch the Detroit Tigers take on the Miami Marlins on Sunday, April 12. Michigan 4-H will be honored as the Group Charity of the Game. To celebrate, 4-H youth, volunteers, staff and their families will enjoy a discounted ticket to the game, as well as:

- Access to a pre-game, on-field opportunity. Michigan 4-H youth are invited to take a lap around the warning track of Comerica Park before the game.
- A portion of each ticket sold donated to Michigan 4-H.

There are several ticketing options available this year, in three main locations, ranging in price from \$33-54. In addition, each ticket purchased through the Michigan 4-H link will have the opportunity to purchase an exclusive co-branded Michigan 4-H and Detroit

Tigers bucket hat (while supplies last). Hats can only be purchased by purchasing a ticket through the Michigan 4-H link; however, there is an option to buy tickets without the purchase of a hat.

Learn more at [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers).

## 4-H Youth in Action Program applications open

Apply now for the 2027 4-H Youth in Action Awards! This program recognizes four confident young leaders with diverse backgrounds and unique perspectives who are making a difference in their communities. Winners will have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share their stories along with unforgettable experiences, celebration on the national stage, recognition in the media and a \$5,000 college scholarship.

This opportunity is open to youth ages 14-19. The deadline to apply is April 13. Learn more and apply at <https://4-h.org/programs/4-h-youth-in-action-program/>.