



Michigan 4-H and Youth Program Project Areas and Definitions

Purpose

This document provides standardized Michigan 4-H project areas and definitions for use in enrollment, program delivery, reporting, and evaluation across all MSU Extension reporting systems.

The project areas are designed to group related learning experiences, promote consistency across counties, and help youth explore interests while developing life skills and subject-matter knowledge. If you have questions about what project areas to connect to a program, please contact the 4-H Online Data System Manager.

Note: Within 4-H Online, county-level project aliases may be created to further refine the standard project areas. Only create new county-level project aliases with the approval of the 4-H Online Data System Manager.

Animal Sciences: programs, activities, and projects related to care, management, evaluation, and study of domesticated animals

Alpacas & Llamas	alpaca and llama care, management, fiber production, showing
Animal Evaluation & Judging	showmanship, animal judging, carcass evaluation, animal product evaluation
Beef Cattle	beef cattle care, management, breeding, meat production, showing
Cats	cat care, management, behavior, training, showing
Dairy Cattle	dairy cattle care, management, breeding, milk production, showing
Dogs	dog care, management, behavior, training, showing
Goats	goat care, management, breeding, meat and fiber production, showing
Horse & Pony	horse care, management, breeding, riding, training, showing
Horse & Pony + Proud Equestrian Program	Horse & Pony project area + adaptive riding for members with disabilities Note: This project area can ONLY be offered and led by active gold volunteers who are Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructors.
Horseless	horse knowledge, hippology, horse bowl, stick-horse
Pocket Pets	small companion animals, care, management, handling, showing
Poultry & Birds	poultry, pigeons, waterfowl, care, management, breeding, production, showing
Rabbits & Cavies	rabbit and cavy care, management, breeding, showing
Sheep	sheep care, management, breeding, meat and fiber production, showing
Swine	swine care, management, breeding, meat production, showing

To contact an expert in your area, visit extension.msu.edu/experts or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464)

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Biological and Physical Sciences: programs, activities, and projects related to organisms, plants, animals, ecosystems, agriculture, natural resources, and physical systems

Agronomy	crop production, weeds and pest management, sustainable practices
Aquatic Science	oceans, lakes, rivers, streams, aquariums, aquaculture, fisheries
Bees & Insects	insects, pollinators, beekeeping, insect identification, insect life cycles
Biological Science	living organisms, life processes, genetics, biological systems
Environmental Science	ecosystems, stewardship, wildlife, geology, conservation
Horticulture	flowers, vegetables, herbs, houseplants, gardening, trees, plant science
Meat & Food Science	meat science, carcass evaluation, animal products, food processing, safe food
Physical Science	chemistry, physics, astronomy, mathematics, non-living systems
Soil Science	soils, soil health, conservation, growth improvement, land management
Veterinary Science	animal health, disease prevention, treatment, animal care

Citizenship and Community Engagement: programs, activities, and projects related to citizenship, service, cultural awareness, and civic responsibility

Civic Engagement	citizenship, public policy, government, community involvement
Community Service	volunteer service, community improvement, reflection, civic responsibility
Global & Cultural Exploration	cultures, global awareness, cultural understanding, international experiences

Communication and Expressive Arts: programs, activities, and projects related to creative expression, communication, and the arts

Crafts & Creative Making	jewelry, basketry, paper crafts, wood burning, folk arts, upcycling, decor
Communication Arts	public speaking, writing, demonstrations, journalism, media communication
Fiber & Textile Arts	sewing (other than clothing), knitting, crochet, weaving, embroidery
Performing Arts	music, dance, theater, clowning, puppetry, storytelling
Visual Arts	drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, photography, digital media

Family and Consumer Sciences: programs, activities, and projects related to family life, clothing, food, and consumer skills

Child Care & Development	child development, caregiving, babysitting, parenting, family relationships
Clothing	clothing design, construction, material selection, fashion revue
Financial Literacy	budgeting, saving, investing, credit, consumer decisions
Food & Nutrition	cooking, baking, decorating, nutrition, food preservation

Health and Fitness: programs, activities, and projects related to physical, mental, and personal well-being

Leisure Education	low-impact recreation, hobbies, collections, healthy free-time use
Mental Health & Wellness	emotional wellness, resilience, stress management, healthy coping skills
Safety & Emergency Aid	personal/equipment safety, emergency preparedness, CPR/First Aid
Sports & Fitness	team sports, exercise, agility, conditioning, physical wellness



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Leadership and Personal Development: programs, activities, and projects related to leadership, career readiness, personal growth, and life skills

Business & Entrepreneurship	business planning, marketing, sales, fundraising, entrepreneurship
Career Exploration & Workforce Preparation	careers, job skills, resumes, interviewing, workplace readiness
Character Development	personal responsibility, ethics, decisions making, self-awareness
College & Independent Living Readiness	post-secondary education, independent living, financial and personal preparedness
Introductory 4-H Projects	4-H exploration, project discovery, beginner learning experiences
Leadership Development	communication, teamwork, decision-making, goal setting, leadership

Outdoor Recreation and Shooting Sports: programs, activities, and projects related to camps, exploration, recreation, adventure, shootings sports

Outdoor Education & Recreation	outdoor skills, nature exploration, adventure recreation, paddle sports, camping, environmental interpretation
Shooting Sports: Archery (3-D) Archery (target) Coordinators (adults) Hunting & Wildlife Muzzleloader Pistol (air) Rifle (.22) Rifle (air/pellet) Rifle (BB) Shotgun (trap & skeet)	archery, firearms safety, marksmanship, sportsmanship, personal responsibility Note: These project areas can ONLY be offered and led by active gold volunteers who hold an active Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports Certification in the project area discipline.

Technology and Engineering: programs, activities, and projects related to design, innovation, engineering, transportation, and technology

Aerospace	flight, aviation, weather, atmosphere, space exploration
Digital Technology	computers, digital tools, coding, mobile technology, technology applications
Engineering	design process, problem solving, prototyping, structural design, innovation
Engines & Transportation	engines, vehicles, tractors, equipment operation, transportation systems
Mechanics & Fabrication	machinery, fabrication, tool use, technical design, repair skills
Robotics	robot design, building, programming, automation, engineering challenges