



# 4-H Family News

## WAYNE COUNTY

February 2026



**Beyond  
Ready**

### February Newsletter Contents:

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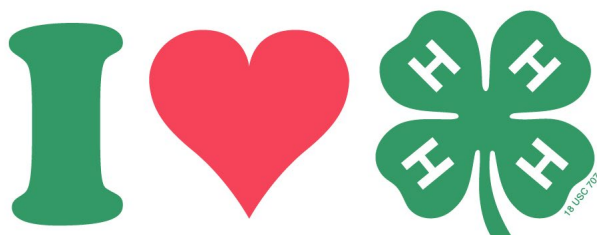
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# Wayne County Upcoming Events

## Hearts in Action: Wayne County Horse and Pony Vision Session

You're invited to the WCHP Vision Planning Session, an inclusive, hands-on evening for ALL youth and adults. Over pizza and guided conversation, participants will identify priorities, set measurable goals, and build connections that strengthen our programs heading into 2026.

### Details:

February 17, 2026 · Pizza 6:30 PM · Planning 7:00 PM

Wayne County Fairgrounds – Dining Hall, 10871 Quirk Rd, Van Buren Township, MI 48111

Door prize: Drawing for a \$25 gift card for every 10 attendees, the more in attendance the more prizes!

Questions: Ashleigh Klein · [apelashl@msu.edu](mailto:apelashl@msu.edu) · 734-727-7408



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## 4-H 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.

Scholarships to attend may be available. For Wayne County please fill out the application form to be considered for a scholarship to attend <https://forms.gle/offuc6q2Ly3PnPnQ9>



### 4-H Spark & Share Summit

A conference for 4-H volunteers and teens

**March 7, 2026**  
Bavarian Inn Lodge and Conference Center  
Frankenmuth, Michigan  
9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.  
\$75 (includes lunch)

Register by February 9th:  
<https://events.anr.msu.edu/SparkShare2026>

Participants may select up to 4 sessions from topics including science, arts and crafts, leadership, animal science, global education, and much more!!



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension



# Wayne County Upcoming Events

## 4-H On the Move: Detroit Cultural Connection Camp

Registration is now open! Join us for a Spring Break Alternative Camp for Teens!

4-H On the Move: Detroit Cultural Connection Camp is a three-day day camp for youth ages 13–19 designed to build cultural awareness, empathy, and a deeper understanding of Metro Detroit's diverse communities. The centerpiece is a full-day, guided bus tour through Metro Detroit with hands-on cultural activities and community engagement—supported by a pre-tour preparation day and a post-tour reflection day to help youth process what they learn and consider how to foster positive, inclusive change in their own communities.

### Program Snapshot:

- **When:** March 30–April 1, 2026
- **Who:** Youth ages 13–19 (as of Jan 1, 2026)
- **Where:** Stationary sessions and bus pick-up/drop-off at Jefferson Barnes Community Vitality Center 32150 Dorsey St, Westland, MI 48186
- **Cost:** \$55 per participant (full camp value \$255), thanks to generous support from the Michigan 4-H Foundation and the City of Westland.

### Fee includes:

- Full-day Metro Detroit bus tour
- Pre- and post-tour sessions
- Hands-on workshops & activities
- Lunch each day
- 4-H camp T-shirt

### Scholarships (Financial Assistance)

The City of Westland is offering scholarships to help make this experience accessible.

Apply before registering: Apply here:

<https://forms.gle/yyUVD73pfzrs8ccZA>

**Important:** Reimbursements will not be issued after payment. Scholarship recipients will receive a coupon code to apply at checkout.

**Register By March 9th, 2026!** Registration link and more info:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-cultural-connection-camp>

Questions can be directed towards Ashleigh Klein (apelashl@msu.edu or 734-727-7408)

**4-H ON THE MOVE:**

**DETROIT CULTURAL CONNECTION CAMP**

Discover, connect, and explore Detroit's diverse cultures in a three-day 4-H day camp, featuring a hands-on cultural bus tour!

**MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup> - APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2026**

Includes: 3 days of camp, Metro Detroit bus tour, meals, workshops & activities, and a T-shirt

Youth Ages 13-19 as of Jan 1, 2026  
 Contact: Ashleigh Klein (apelashl@msu.edu or 734-727-7408)  
 For more info & registration, visit:  
[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-cultural-connection-camp](https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-cultural-connection-camp)

**\$55**  
 REGISTRATION FEE



# Wayne County Upcoming Events

## **Ace the Interview: Skill Building and Practice for Teens**

Teens are invited!




 **Ace the Interview: Skill Building and Practice for Teens**

 **Date:** Thursday, February 19, 2026

 **Time:** 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

 **Location:** Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office  
705 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

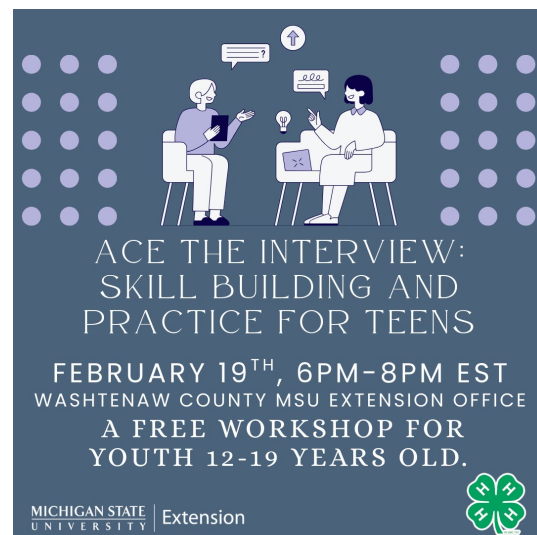
Ready to land that job, internship, or college opportunity?  
Join MSU Extension Educator Laurie Rivetto for an interactive workshop designed to help teens shine in interviews!

-  Learn strategies to answer common questions
-  Showcase your strengths and make a great first impression
-  Practice with real-time feedback

Registration closes February 17 at midnight!

 <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/ace-the-interview-skill-building-and-practice-for-teens>

Questions? Contact Jenny Speyer at [speyerje@msu.edu](mailto:speyerje@msu.edu)



## **Avoiding Money Mishaps Webinar**

 **Protect Yourself from Scams!** 

Join MSU Extension 4-H for Avoiding Money Mishaps – an interactive webinar on frauds, scams, and identity theft.

 **Feb 11, 2026 | 6:00–7:00 PM EST**

 **Zoom**

 **For youth: middle school, high school & early college**

**Learn how to:**

- ✓ Spot scams & fraud
- ✓ Avoid predatory lending
- ✓ Safeguard your identity

**Register now and stay safe!**

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/avoiding-money-mishaps-feb11>







# Wayne County Upcoming Events

## Michigan 4-H Cash Composition Contest

Michigan Youth!

Are you between ages 9–19? Here's your chance to win a \$100 gift card, thanks to sponsor Extra Credit Union!

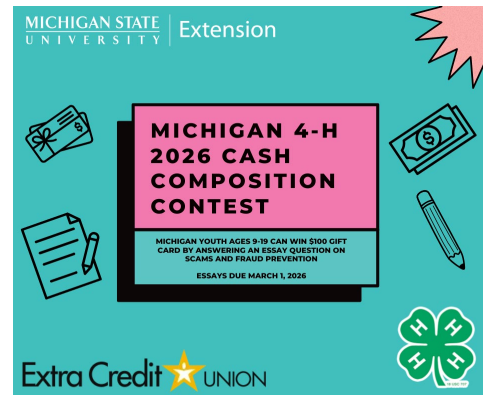
Write a short essay (300 words or less) answering this year's Michigan 4-H Cash Composition topic on scams and frauds.

**Deadline:** March 1, 2026, by 11:59 PM ET

Share your tips, warning signs, and lessons learned!

Resources and details at:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/money-smart-kids-contest>



## Money Smart Missions GooseChase Game

Calling all Michigan youth ages 13–19!

Get ready for the Money Smart Missions GooseChase Game — an interactive scavenger hunt that teaches money skills while you play!

April 1–21, 2026

Register by April 20 at 11:45 PM

Play on the GooseChase app

Complete fun missions, earn points, and you could win \$50 gift cards! A minimum of \$500 in prizes will be awarded.

Download the GooseChase app, create a username using your first and last name, then register at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/money-smart-mission-goosechase-game>

Questions? Contact Laurie Rivetto (rivettoL@msu.edu) or Kathy Jamieson (jamies13@msu.edu).

Sponsored by the Michigan Credit Union Foundation & Michigan 4-H Foundation.



## Future Ready: Exploring College & Career Paths!

Calling all youth ages 12–19!

Not sure what comes after high school? Want to learn about college, the trades, and other exciting opportunities? Join us for an interactive panel discussion designed to help you explore your options and plan your future with confidence!

What you'll learn:

Different paths after graduation

How to choose what fits your goals

Scholarships and tips for being ready for the next step

Where: Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office

705 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

When: Thursday, March 5, 2026

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM EST

Free & in-person! Bring your questions and your curiosity!

Register at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/future-ready-exploring-college-and-career-paths-workshop>





## Member Spotlight- Xavier K.

### What are your recent/past 4-H achievements?

I have gotten first place in pig showmanship a couple years in a row.

### How and when did you get involved with 4-H?

I got involved in 4-H when I was around 5 or 6. I got involved because my uncle is the pig barn supertendent. He was also a past 4-H member.

### What drew you to being a part of the 4-H program?

My uncle had us start 4-H and we liked it; I will never quit.

### What have you gained from being a part of 4-H?

I gained responsibility, volunteering, and community from doing 4-H.

### What advice would you give someone else in 4-H or thinking about joining 4-H?

If it's your first time don't give up if you didn't do well. Remember it's your first time doing this.

### What is your favorite memory of 4-H?

The water balloon fights we would have water ballons and golf carts so we would drive them around while throwing balloons at people.

### What are your plans for the future?

I want to save the money I get so can buy a car.

### Is there anything else you want to share about yourself, 4-H, or recent experiences that we may include?

"I had a friend that gave up his first year because he didn't get a trophy. "





## Member Spotlight- Lakota K.



**What are your recent/past 4-H achievements?**

I won Grand Champion, Reserve Champion and 1st in Archery over the years.

**How and when did you get involved with 4-H?**

My uncle got me into it when I was 5 years old.

**What drew you to being a part of the 4-H program?**

Raising the animals for market sale.

**What have you gained from being a part of 4-H?**

Strength, trust and responsibility.

**What advice would you give someone else in 4-H or thinking about joining 4-H?**

I would ask them to try 4-H because you learn a lot about animals and gain a lot experience.

**What is your favorite memory of 4-H?**

When we played Messy Kickball.

**What are your plans for the future?**

To buy and show more animals.

**Is there anything else you want to share about yourself, 4-H, or recent experiences that we may include?**

I was the prince of fair, which was fun.





# Announcements

## 4-H Mark of Excellence Contest

It's that time of year—grab your pen and spark your imagination! ✨

The 4-H Mark of Excellence Contest is officially open!

This year, youth can choose to submit either a video or a short journal reflection based on the theme “Beyond Ready!”

- 📌 Eligibility:
- ✓ Must be a current 4-H member
- ✓ Ages 10 or 11 as of Jan. 1, 2026
- ✓ Each county may select up to TWO winners

📌 Submission Options:

- 📺 Video (max 2 minutes, mp4 or YouTube link)
- 📝 Journal reflection (500 words or fewer; handwritten or typed)

Entries are due to Ashleigh Klein or LaToya Cain-Jones by May 1, 2026 to be eligible for submission to Wayne County 4-H.

For more information, check out:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_scholarships\\_and\\_recognition\\_program/4-h-awards-and-recognition-program/youth-recognition/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4-h-awards-and-recognition-program/youth-recognition/)

Share how 4-H is helping you be beyond ready for the future!







# Volunteer Tip of the Month

## Invite Youth to the Decision-Making Table

Including young people in leadership and advisory roles strengthens both youth development and the organizations they serve. When youth are invited to participate in decision-making—especially on issues that directly affect them—they bring fresh perspectives, creativity, and authentic insight that adults alone may not fully capture. Youth are often willing to think outside the box, challenge assumptions, and propose innovative solutions.

Youth involvement also supports more diverse and inclusive leadership while helping young people build skills such as communication, teamwork, confidence, and civic engagement. At the same time, organizations benefit from stronger connections to youth communities, increased trust, and more meaningful outreach.

Adults play a critical role in making youth voice meaningful and effective. Strong youth–adult partnerships are built intentionally and with mutual respect.

### Try This: Ways Adults Can Support Youth Voice

- Invite youth to serve on committees, planning teams, or advisory groups.
- Ask for youth input before decisions are made—and follow up on how their ideas were used.
- Create safe, welcoming spaces where youth feel comfortable sharing their opinions.
- Mentor youth by explaining processes, expectations, and decision-making steps.
- Encourage youth to speak up, even when their perspectives differ from adults.

Creating space for youth voice leads to better decisions today and helps build a pipeline of informed, engaged leaders for the future. For more information and practical insights, read the full article at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/youth-participation-in-advisory-boards-offers-fresh-perspectives-and-long-term-benefits> .





# Success Story

## Celebrating Christmas the Norwegian Way

On Saturday, December 20, 2025, youth gathered at the Jefferson Barns Community Center for a Holidays Around the World workshop focused on Christmas traditions in Norway. The goal of the program was to spark curiosity, build cultural awareness, and help young people appreciate traditions from around the world.

Participants explored Norwegian holiday customs such as the Julenisse, a mischievous Christmas gnome, and julegrøt, a creamy rice porridge traditionally enjoyed during the season. Youth compared Norwegian and American holiday traditions, discovering both familiar themes and unique cultural differences.

Hands-on learning was at the heart of the workshop. Youth crafted their own Julenisse, cooked and tasted julegrøt, and decorated cookies inspired by Norway's tradition of baking seven varieties during Christmas. While the activity was simplified, it still honored the spirit of the tradition. The 2.5-hour workshop welcomed five youth—two of whom traveled from other counties—along with several parents who joined in the fun.

One memorable moment came when a participant who was initially hesitant to try the rice porridge bravely stepped outside her comfort zone and ended up loving it. This small moment perfectly captured the power of cultural experiences to build confidence and openness.

The workshop created a welcoming environment for learning and exploration. Youth gained cultural knowledge, practiced empathy, and built confidence by trying new foods and activities. Parents described the event as “fun and educational,” and youth shared how much they enjoyed learning about another country's traditions. The fact that families traveled from outside the county highlights the value placed on these experiences.

Cultural education programs like Holidays Around the World do more than teach traditions—they inspire curiosity, encourage openness, and strengthen community connections. Participants left with new knowledge, a sense of accomplishment, and lasting memories from a joyful and meaningful day.





## Fun Stuff

**February is the month that recognizes cardiovascular health, and 4-H likes to promote healthy living habits during this month.**

**Here are some healthy habits you can implement into your everyday lives:**

- Drink a glass of water with every meal
- Get 30 minutes of movement (walk, dance, play outside)
  - Eat a fruit or vegetable you don't usually choose
  - Go to bed 15 minutes earlier
  - Do something kind for someone else
  - Take a screen break and stretch
- Practice deep breathing for 2 minutes







# Fun Stuff

## Simple Do at Home STEM Experiment

### **You'll Need:**

- **A bowl or clear cup**
  - **Water**
  - **Black pepper**
  - **Dish soap**
- **Cotton swab or your finger**

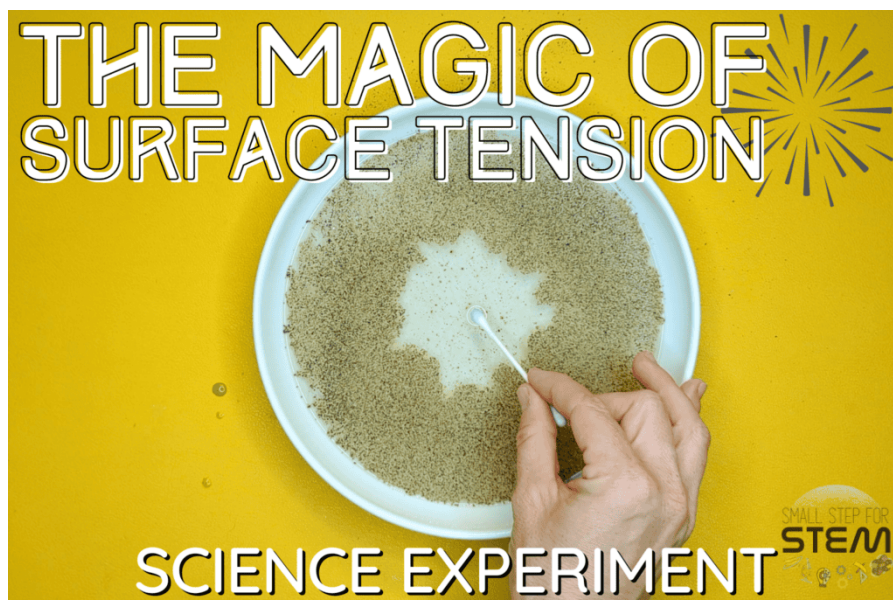
### **What to Do:**

- **Fill the bowl with water.**
- **Sprinkle pepper on the surface of the water.**
- **Dip the cotton swab (or your finger) into dish soap.**
- **Touch the soapy swab to the center of the water.**

### **What Happens?**

### **Why It Works:**

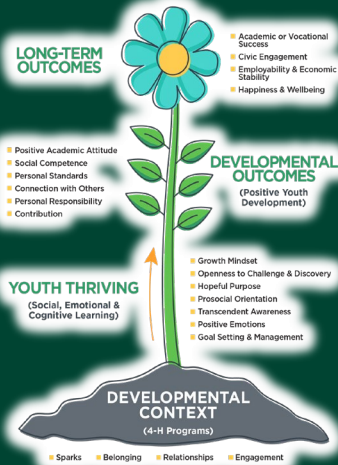
**Dish soap breaks the surface tension of water**





# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development



Building a sense of belonging in our 4-H program has been a long-standing tradition. What does this look like?

It may be a project leader, club leader, or event organizer welcoming you to each meeting or event. It may look like a “roll call” or “ice breaker” at the beginning of a meeting.

The initial welcome allows people to know that they have been seen in the room. So, the next time someone asks you a roll call question of “What’s your favorite cheese?”, know that there is a reason.

We want to get to know you. We want to hear your voice. We want the ability to start building relationships by finding likenesses among us.

Contact your local 4-H staff for more information.  
#BeyondReady

### February 10: 4-H Wild Spartans

Online

In this month’s session, take a walk through the woods on the wild side with “Walking a Path of Conservation.” 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-february](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-february)

### February 11: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series: Building Belonging – Teambuilding Strategies for Stronger 4-H Experiences

Online

Teambuilding isn’t just an activity—it’s a pathway to deeper belonging and higher engagement in 4-H. This webinar will show volunteers how simple team-building practices can help youth feel included, communicate effectively, work together, and grow their leadership skills.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-building-belonging-teambuilding-strategies-for-stronger-4-h-experiences](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-building-belonging-teambuilding-strategies-for-stronger-4-h-experiences)

### February 11: Avoiding Money Mishaps

Online

This webinar will focus on how youth can protect themselves from fraud, scams, identity theft and predatory lending.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/avoiding-money-mishaps-feb11](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/avoiding-money-mishaps-feb11)

### February 11: 4-H Chef Tasty Dog Treats

Lenawee MSU Extension Demo Kitchen, Adrian

Youth ages 5-11 will prepare delicious treats to bake at home for your dog. Ages 5-7 need adult helper. Registration deadline is February 7.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-chef-tasty-dog-treats](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-chef-tasty-dog-treats)

### February 19 –March 26: Online Guiding Principles for Highly Successful Parenting Webinar Series

Online

Guiding Principles is a FREE online course for parents of toddlers to teens to learn strategies for helping children, parents and families be successful.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/guiding-principles-for-highly-successful-parenting-webinar-series-february-2026](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/guiding-principles-for-highly-successful-parenting-webinar-series-february-2026)

### February 19: Ace the Interview: Skill Building and Practice for Teens

Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office, Ann Arbor

This free workshop will help youth (ages 12-19) confidently handle interview experiences with tips and hands-on practice. Any teen is welcome to attend! Registration deadline is February 17.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/ace-the-interview-skill-building-and-practice-for-teens](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/ace-the-interview-skill-building-and-practice-for-teens)





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



## 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 7 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 February 1 and closes March 15.

## Tickets now available for Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin

Join MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H on March 1 for the 20th celebration of 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 Ohio State Buckeyes!

Those interested in attending can purchase tickets at a price of \$7.50 plus fees. This is a discounted rate available to the Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension communities; complimentary tickets are no longer available due to the rising popularity of college sports. MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H youth, volunteers, partners, stakeholders, alumni, staff and their families are all encouraged to attend.

Tickets can be purchased through a two-step process. First, guests should register at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HBreslin2026/>. Within one week, registrants will receive a custom purchase link to the email provided in registration. Attendees must then use this custom link to purchase tickets for the event. Additional ticketing information is available on the registration website. Registration will close on February 17.

Tip-off for the game is scheduled for 12 p.m. Gates to the Breslin will open at 10:30 a.m., with a variety of pre-game activities hosted by MSU Extension professionals around the concourse. Participants are encouraged to show their pride and wear green and white 4-H or MSU Extension apparel. Families for whom cost is a barrier should contact their local 4-H program coordinator.



## Show your 4-H pride wherever you go!

Did you know you can make a difference for 4-H every time you hit the road? By purchasing the Michigan 4-H specialty license plate, you're not only showing your 4-H spirit—you're helping fund programs that empower young people across the state. A portion of each plate sale and renewal benefits Michigan 4-H, supporting hands-on learning experiences that help Michigan youth become beyond ready for the future.

Whether you're a current member, alumni, volunteer, or simply a proud supporter, this is an easy way to give back and keep 4-H growing strong. Ordering is simple through the Michigan Secretary of State.



Drive your support forward—get your 4-H plate today and help create opportunities for the next generation of Michigan 4-H youth! Learn more at [extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate](https://extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate).