



January 2026

4-H Family News

WAYNE COUNTY



**Beyond
Ready**

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Wayne County Upcoming Events

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!!

4-H is the youth development organization of Michigan's 4-H Cloverbud Extension Program and is a

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Wayne County Upcoming Events

Adulting 101

MSU Extension's Adulting 101 program will be starting up again in January. Our FREE monthly series will begin on January 21 at 6:30 pm ET with: "Fraud Fighters: How to Stay Scam Free."

Sign up for this class and many more here:

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

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2026 ADULTING 101



- FRAUD FIGHTERS - JANUARY 21 AT 6:30 PM
- INFORMED RENTER - FEBRUARY 19 AT 5:00 PM
- SLEEP WELLNESS - MARCH 4 AT 5:30 PM
- EAT SMART: HEALTHY MEALS ON A BUDGET - APRIL 13 AT 5:00 PM
- COOKING WITH CONFIDENCE - MAY 18 AT 6:30 PM
- AI AND YOU: SMART, SAFE & SAVVY - JUNE 11 AT 6:00 PM
- THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK - JULY 8 AT 6:00 PM
- ROADMAP TO A SMART USED CAR PURCHASE - AUGUST 12 AT 5:00 PM
- ARE YOU READY? - SEPTEMBER 23 AT 5:00 PM
- MENTAL HEALTH TOOLKIT - OCTOBER 7 AT 6:00 PM
- REALITIES OF ANIMAL CARE - NOVEMBER 12 AT 7:00 PM

*ALL TIMES LISTED ARE EASTERN STANDARD TIME



FREE ON ZOOM





Wayne County Upcoming Events

Avoiding Money Mishaps!

Join us for the Michigan State University Extension 4-H session on Avoiding Money Mishaps!

Dates:

- January 13: 6:00pm - <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/avoiding-money-mishaps-jan13>
- February 11: 6:00pm - <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/avoiding-money-mishaps-feb11>

(Same content offered on both dates – choose the one that works best for you!)

Audience: Youth participants (middle school, high school, and early college)

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.

Participants will explore:

- Common types of fraud and scams
- How to spot and avoid predatory lending practices
- Tips for safeguarding your identity
- Real-life examples and red flags to watch for

This session will help you stay safe and smart!

Bonus for Michigan youth age 9-19 years old: This program will prepare you well for 2026 Cash Composition Contest!

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

Avoiding Money Mishaps Webinar

Learn how to avoid fraud, scams, and identity theft!

January 13th at 6pm EST
February 11th at 6pm EST

Same content will be offered on both dates - choose the one that works best for you!

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Michigan 4-H 2026 Cash Composition Contest

Are you...

- ✓ A Michigan resident?
- ✓ A youth aged 9-19 as of January 1st, 2026?
- ✓ Interested in writing and learning more about money management?
- ✓ Interested in a chance to earn a \$100 gift card?

Thanks to sponsor:
Extra Credit UNION

Join us for the Cash Composition Essay Contest!

Essay Submission Due:
March 1st, 2026
Winners Announced:
April 1st, 2026

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Wayne County Upcoming Events

Drive into the New Year with 4-H!

🌟 Drive into the New Year with 4-H! 🌟

Start 2026 by showing your 4-H pride everywhere you go! The Michigan 4-H specialty license plate is more than just a plate—it's a way to help youth become beyond ready by building leadership, citizenship, and life skills through 4-H.

- Easy to order through the Michigan Secretary of State
- A portion of every plate benefits Michigan 4-H

Make this year count—order your plate today for just \$35 and drive your support forward!

🌐 Learn more at extension.msu.edu/4-Hplate

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Drive into the New Year with 4-H

Purchase your Michigan 4-H license plate today and support 4-H!

Learn more:
extension.msu.edu/4-Hplate



**MICHIGAN 4-H
FOUNDATION**





Member Spotlight- Joshua B.

What are your recent/past 4-H achievements?

Attended Ignite by 4-H, Attended 4-H Exploration Days, and presented at the last Wayne County 4-H Recognition Ceremony.

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

My mom is a 4-H Educator, and she thought that it would be a good idea for me to get involved. I have participated in 4-H off and on since I was 9 years old.

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

It's fun and I get to see my friends.

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

The experience of visiting different places like Washington DC and MSU's campus.

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

You should join because you can do a lot of interesting things and meet new people that you might not have known otherwise.

What is your favorite memory of 4-H?

My favorite memory is going to Ignite by 4-H and taking a night tour of the historical monuments in Washington DC.

What are your plans for the future?

My future plans include continuing in 4-H, graduating high school, and attending MSU majoring in geology and minoring in paleontology.

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

I have made a lot of new friends through 4-H that live all over the state. I look forward to talking to them in group chats and seeing them at 4-H events.





Member Spotlight- Jack M.

What are your recent/past 4-H achievements?

In 2024, I won 1st place in beginner showmanship with my rabbit. I also got best of breed with my mini lop, then went on to win best of show!

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

I got involved in 2023 when I turned 5. My mom was in 4-H and it sounded like a fun experience.

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

The animals.

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

Friends and more confidence.

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

They should join and just try your best.

What is your favorite memory of 4-H?

Doing archery.

What are your plans for the future?

Keep showing rabbits and maybe a goat and a horse eventually.

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

It is fun to enter things besides animals too. I won a trophy for the ugliest decorated cake last year.





Announcements

Wayne County 4-H Recognition Event

The 2024–2025 Wayne County 4-H Recognition Event is almost here!

When: January 31, 2026

Where: WCCCD Downriver Campus,
21000 Northline Rd, Taylor, MI 48180

Step right up for an unforgettable afternoon as we celebrate the Magic of 4-H! Join us as we honor the incredible achievements of our Wayne County 4-H youth and volunteers—from years of service to outstanding accomplishments that make our program shine.

This year's celebration will be filled with magic tricks, carnival-themed activities, carnival snacks, a silent auction, lunch, awards, and more! Dress in your brightest, most festive Carnival Chic attire to match the fun and vibrant atmosphere.

Don't miss this magical celebration of community, growth, and 4-H spirit!

★ Please RSVP by January 17, 2026: <https://forms.gle/DAy3y2eSKuGQXKhL9>



Silent Auction Fundraiser for Wayne County 4-H

A Silent Auction will be held during the 4-H Recognition Event on Saturday, January 31, 2026, to help raise funds for next year's Recognition Event. Attendees will have the opportunity to bid on a wide variety of exciting items, including sourdough bread, a blind date with a book, Apple iPad (10th generation), art set, MSU 4-H basket, equine therapy basket, healthcare basket, gift cards, and more.

Live bidding will take place throughout the event, with winners announced at the conclusion of the awards presentation. Payment is due at the time of purchase; cash and checks will be accepted.

For questions, please contact Ashleigh Klein at apelashl@msu.edu.



Announcements

Wayne County 4-H Fundraiser!

Join us for a Dine to Donate fundraiser at Texas Roadhouse supporting Wayne County 4-H youth programs. Dine in or take out during the event and 20% of your total food purchase will be donated back to Michigan State University Extension Wayne County 4-H. Bring your family and friends, enjoy a great meal, and help support hands-on learning and leadership opportunities for youth in our community.

Who: MSU Extension Wayne County 4-H

What: Dine to Donate Fundraiser at Texas Roadhouse (20% donation night on dine in or carry out orders)

When: Thursday, January 8, 2026, from 3:00–10:00 p.m.

Where: Texas Roadhouse, 36750 Ford Rd., Westland, MI

Questions? Ashleigh Klein (apelashl@msu.edu)





Announcements

4-H Winterfest 2026

Youth and adults who attend 4-H Winterfest will spend 2 days learning about exciting project areas while meeting youth from around the state. 4-H Winterfest offers participants and chaperones an opportunity to experience Eagle Village in an overnight camp setting. Youth participate in hands on sessions as well as teamwork adventures utilizing the Eagle Village facilities.

Who:

4-H Winterfest is a hands-on educational program that is open to youth ages 8 to 12 years old as of Jan. 1, 2026.

When:

Check In: Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, 10 - 11:00 a.m.

Program Starts: Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, 11:15 a.m.

Program Ends: Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026, 12:00 p.m.

Cost:

\$120.00 - 4-H Members

\$75.00 - Gold Level Volunteer Adults

Includes: food, lodging, Winterfest swag, project supplies, and eagle village adventures.

Scholarships:

Click on this link <https://forms.gle/M52pg15VPF4XKd9AA> for the application for Wayne county participants. Scholarships may be available to Wayne County Participants, please apply via our application, then add the link.

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SAVE THE DATE

4-H WINTERFEST

FEBRUARY 7TH & 8TH 2026

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE: ROCK CLIMBING, MICHIGAN HISTORY, NATURE CENTER, 3 HANDS ON WORKSHOPS, FREE TIME AND FUN IN THE SNOW ACTIVITIES!!

FOR 4-H YOUTH 8-12 YEARS OLD

LOCATION: EAGLE VILLAGE HERSEY, MI

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4-H Winterfest

FEBRUARY 7-8, 2026

COST: \$120 FOR 4-H MEMBERS

LOCATION: EAGLE VILLAGE - HERSEY, MI

REGISTER TODAY:
[HTTPS://4HWINTERFEST2026.4HONLINE.COM](https://4hwinterfest2026.4honline.com)

| Workshop 1 - Saturday | Workshops- Sunday | |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Amaze Your Friends With Magic | Workshop #2 | Workshop #3 |
| Launch into Science | Cat Curiosity | Cat Curiosity |
| Broom Ball | Lego Science | Lego Science |
| Art Explorers: Fun and Easy Crafts | Paper to Pulp | Paper to Pulp |
| Crafts Around the World: North America | Stop Motion Animation | Stop Motion Animation |
| Ice Dyeing | It's a Wrap! Jewelry wire wrapping | It's a Wrap! Jewelry wire wrapping |



Volunteer Tip of the Month

Validate Without Fueling Rumors

Rumors can spread quickly in close-knit groups like 4-H clubs, and how a volunteer responds when a young person brings a concern can make all the difference. Your role isn't to confirm or investigate the rumor—it's to help youth feel heard, stay grounded, and build the confidence to navigate conflict.

Validation is key. This means acknowledging a young person's emotions without adding to gossip.

Simple phrases like:

- “That sounds upsetting. I’m glad you talked to me.”
- “It makes sense you’d feel that way.”
- “Let’s figure out what you can do next.”

These responses show empathy without reinforcing misinformation.

Stay neutral, ask thoughtful questions, and empower youth to decide their next steps. Encourage them to use “I” statements, seek facts when appropriate, and remember they can only control their own response—not others’ behavior.

By modeling calm, respectful communication and fostering an inclusive club culture, volunteers help youth develop lifelong skills in resilience, problem-solving, and conflict management.

✉️ **Read the full article here:**

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/validating-without-fueling-a-volunteer-s-role-in-rumor-management>





Fun Stuff

Winter

SCAVENGER HUNT

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Animal tracks in the snow</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>a pine cone</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>A bird sitting in a tree</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Something shaped like a heart</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>A patch of ice</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>A tree with no leaves</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>A squirrel or rabbit</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Berries still growing in winter</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Something green</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Snow that sparkles in the sunlight</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>A cozy blanket</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Something that smells like winter</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>A warm drink</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>A pair of fuzzy socks</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Something you made yourself</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>A winter book or movie</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Something that makes you think of 4-H</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Something in the shape of a clover</u> |

TAKE PHOTOS AND EMAIL YOUR COMPLETED SCAVENGER HUNT TO
SYSOLHO1@MSU.EDU FOR A SMALL PRIZE



Fun Stuff

CLOVERATZQPW
MROBOTHJKLNI
RESOLVEBYUIN
SNOWFLAKEEXT
ZSERVICEXXGE
BIRDXXXXGXOR
PQLEADERMNAS
COOKINGYUTSH
LVXPQZBCDEFG
STEMHOLDABCK
NOPVOLUNTEER
ABGOALZXYKMN

Words to find

- CLOVER
- ROBOT
- RESOLVE
- SNOWFLAKE
- SERVICE
- BIRD
- LEADER
- COOKING
- STEM
- VOLUNTEER
- GOAL
- WINTER



Fun Stuff

Fun Fact

Did you know... January is one of the biggest “goal-setting months” in 4-H?

Studies show that youth involved in 4-H are **nearly four times more likely** to make healthy choices and set personal goals. January is the perfect time for 4-H'ers to use their **Head, Heart, Hands, and Health** to start a new project, learn a new skill, or plan a service activity for the year ahead!

💡 Try This: Set one 4-H goal in each “H” this month — you’ll be amazed at how much you can accomplish in 2026!

Did you know... 4-H clubs used to meet mostly in the winter because farm kids were less busy?

In the early 1900s, winter was the prime time for 4-H learning — kids gathered inside to practice cooking, sewing, woodworking, and science. Today, 4-H members still use the winter months to explore new projects, build skills, and get ready for a great year ahead!

💡 Try This: Pick one indoor project to start this month — like baking, coding, crafting, or photography — and watch your skills grow all winter long!

At Home Activities

- **Pick an animal native to Michigan, and research how it survives in the winter.**

4-H Monthly Club Meeting Ideas/Community Service

- **Write cards for seniors in a senior center**
- **Trail or park clean-up (weather permitting)**
- **Coat/glove donation box**

Trivia

Which of the following was one of the original early 4-H project areas?

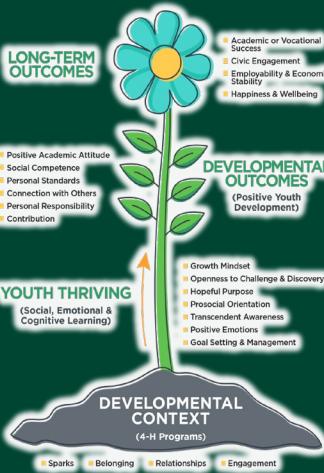
- A) Robotics
- B) Photography
- C) Corn growing
- D) Environmental science

Answer will be revealed next month. Send your correct answer to sysolho1@msu.edu for a small prize



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

Capitol Experience

COMING
SOONMARCH 15-17TH, 2026Cost \$365
Scholarships may be available
through your local 4-H office!

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.

Extra Credit



2026 Michigan 4-H Cash Composition Contest

Write a brief 300 word essay addressing fraud and scams, and have the chance to earn a \$100 gift card!

Essays Due: March 1st, 2026
Winners Announced: April 1st, 2026

See website for contest details and requirements!

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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.