



MAY 2026

4-H Family News

Wayne County



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Learn by doing.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

New Date!

EARTH EXPLORERS!

CRAFTS AROUND THE WORLD!

**Thursday, May 21
6-7:30 p.m.**

Greenmead Historical Park's
Friends Meeting House

In just one night, participants will "travel" to multiple countries, discovering unique artistic traditions from around the globe. Through engaging craft projects like Australian dot painting, German potato printing, and more, youth will learn about different cultures, histories, and creative techniques. This interactive workshop fosters creativity, cultural appreciation, and a sense of global connection - one craft at a time!

\$5/Participant
Advance Registration Required
at LivoniaParks.org
Best for participants in grades 3-6



Get ready to travel the globe—without leaving Michigan!

Join us for a fun, hands-on cultural experience where youth will explore art from around the world through creative craft projects. In just one evening, participants will "travel" to multiple countries, learning about different cultures, traditions, and artistic techniques through engaging activities like Australian dot painting and German potato printing. This interactive workshop is designed to spark curiosity, build creativity, and foster a sense of global connection—one craft at a time.

Date: Thursday, May 21
 Time: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Location: Greenmead Historical Park – Friends Meeting House

Address: 20501 Newburgh Rd, Livonia, MI 48152

Ages: Best for youth in grades 3–6

Cost: \$5 per participant

Registration Deadline: May 19 (advance registration required)

What to Expect:

“Travel” to different countries in one evening

Learn about cultures, traditions, and artistic styles from around the world

Build creativity and global awareness through hands-on activities

Register here:

<https://www.livoniaparks.org>

Hosted in partnership with Livonia Parks & Recreation and Michigan State University Extension.



ANNOUNCEMENT

4-H JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

FOR AGES
8-12

STARTING MAY 21ST



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

The Farm
at Trinity Health

Do you know an 8-12-year-old who loves to get their hands dirty in the garden?

Sign up now for the 4-H Junior Master Gardener (JMG) program!

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/washtenawjmg2026/>

The JMG program is designed for youth ages 8 to 12 and provides an interactive, hands-on educational experience in gardening enabling them to achieve a Junior Master Gardener certificate.

Classroom topics include:

Soil, Introduction to Plants, Flowers, Vegetables, Yard and Garden Pests, and Lawns, and Woody Plants. The youth will also have hands on experience in Gardening (planting, tending, and harvesting) in a garden plot. JMG is taught by adult volunteers who are both MSU Extension Master Gardeners and 4-H volunteers.

Thursday classes and work sessions run from May 21st-August 20th at the Farm at Trinity Health, 5557 McAuley Dr., Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Cost: \$60, includes a 4-H JMG Student Guide, class supplies, name tag, and JMG t-shirt. If you are interested in financial aid to cover the cost of participation, please indicate this in your registration and we will contact you for more information.

Questions? Contact Jenny Speyer at speyerje@msu.edu



Member Spotlight- Kaitlyn O.



Where do you volunteer, and how did you get started?

I volunteer at the Wayne county fair grounds. I got started 2 years ago when my daughter joined 4-H.

What has been your favorite or most fulfilling part of volunteering with 4-H?

Getting to work with the youth and watching them learn and grow with there livestock through out the year.

What volunteer projects do you most like to be a part of?

I love fundraising! Helping hosting them, putting them together, and watching them come together for the community!

Do you have any advice for other 4-H volunteers?

If you're thinking about joining do it! It's an amazing thing to be a part of!

Do you want to be featured under our Volunteer spotlight in an upcoming Newsletter? If so, take a moment to complete this form <https://forms.gle/DbH1CYaWRE7bvTUr6>



Member Spotlight- Jennie J.



What are your recent/past 4-H achievements?

Wayne County Jr. Master Stockman, Wayne County Reserve Sr. Master Stockman, President of Ribbon Farms 4-H.

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

When I was in 4th grade, I saw a petting zoo that was affiliated with 4-H, I asked my mom to sign me up and I've been involved ever since.

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

The animals are what caught my eye when I was younger, but the great friendships and networking is what makes me continue to give my best effort into this organization

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

I've gained leadership skills, confidence, and skills in the business industry.

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

I've gained leadership skills, confidence, and skills in the business industry .

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

Go all in. 4-H looks amazing to colleges and employers, it will only help you be more successful.

What is your favorite memory of 4-H?

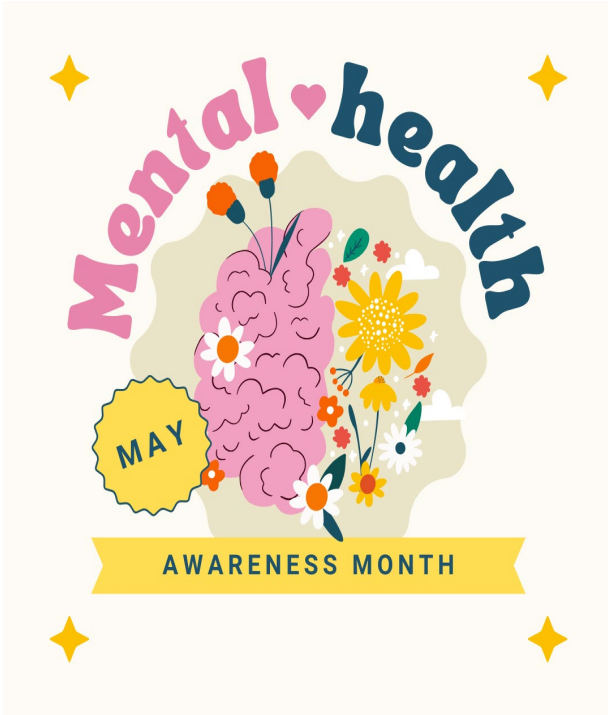
Being invited to show at the Michigan state fair and winning grand champion cow calf.

Do you want to be featured under our member spotlight in an upcoming Newsletter? If so, take a moment to complete this form <https://forms.gle/U5nBbBYPs3YaNvqZ7>



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Volunteer Tip of the Month:



Be Intentional About Self-Care

May is National Mental Health Awareness Month—a great time to remember that taking care of yourself helps you better support others. As a volunteer, even small moments of self-care can make a big difference.

Simple ways to be intentional about self-care:

- Pause and reset: Try deep breathing, short meditations, or even a “do nothing for 2 minutes” break.
- Move your body: Gentle activities like stretching, walking, or yoga can boost mood and reduce stress.
- Get creative: Journaling, coloring, or doodling can help clear your mind and process emotions.
- Use positive self-talk: Affirmations and laughter can improve mood and help manage stress.
- Take a mental break: Listen to calming music, nature sounds, or watch relaxing visuals.
- Stay connected: Reach out to a friend, colleague, or support system when needed.

Make it personal:

Create your own self-care plan by choosing a few activities that work best for you and revisit them during stressful moments.

Remember, modeling healthy self-care habits not only benefits you—it also sets a positive example for the youth you serve.

Learn more and explore resources:

- Be Intentional About Self-Care: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/be-intentional-about-self-care>
- Planning Your Own Self-Care Worksheet: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/planning-your-own-self-care-worksheet>





Success Story

4-H On the Move: Detroit Cultural Connection Camp

This spring break, Wayne County 4-H gave local youth the opportunity to see their community in a whole new way through the 4-H On the Move: Detroit Cultural Connection Camp (4-H DCCC). Designed as a three-day experience for middle and high school youth, the camp focused on building cultural awareness, empathy, and a deeper understanding of the diverse communities that make up Detroit. For many participants, this was more than just a camp—it was a chance to explore parts of their own community they had never experienced before.

The idea for the camp was inspired by a program that brings rural youth into urban spaces to broaden their perspectives. After learning about that model, Wayne County 4-H adapted the concept to better meet the needs of local families. Many youth in the area do not travel during spring break due to cost, work schedules, or other barriers, and transportation can often limit access to experiences within their own county. This camp was created to help bridge that gap.

The experience began with a day focused on community building and cultural awareness. Through hands-on activities, youth explored their own identities, made global connections, and prepared for the experiences ahead.

On the second day, youth boarded a bus and set out to explore Detroit through the lenses of religion, identity, and art. They visited the Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue, where they learned about Judaism and participated in a mitzvah by packing seeds for a local nonprofit. At the Arab American National Museum, participants took part in a guided tour, enjoyed a traditional meal, and learned cultural dance. The day concluded at Pewabic Pottery, where youth created their own tiles while learning about the organization's deep cultural roots in the city.

For many youth, these experiences were eye-opening. One participant shared, “The Arab American Museum changed the way I see people in my everyday life.” Another reflected, “I learned how much of a problem stereotypes are.”

The final day of camp focused on reflection and connection. Youth discussed what they had learned, how their perspectives had shifted, and how they could carry these lessons forward. As one participant shared, “I will care more about people’s culture and actually get to know them.” Another added, “I will think more openly and be more understanding of others.”

For some, the experience sparked a desire to take action. “Differences are amazing, and I should help my community realize that,” one youth shared, while another noted plans to “teach this information to my friends and teachers so that they do not be disrespectful.”

The camp was made possible through the support of community partners, including the Michigan 4-H Foundation and the City of Westland, which helped remove barriers by providing transportation, space, meals, and scholarships for youth.

Programs like the Detroit Cultural Connection Camp highlight the power of local, hands-on learning experiences. By giving youth the opportunity to explore, reflect, and connect, 4-H is helping them build understanding, confidence, and a sense of belonging—right in their own community.





Fun Stuff



Gardening Tip: Egg Carton Seed Starters (with zero transplant shock)

Instead of buying seed trays, use cardboard egg cartons to start your seeds—and plant the whole thing directly in the ground.

How to do it:

1. Fill each egg cup with soil
2. Plant your seeds (lettuce, herbs, tomatoes, etc.)
3. Water as usual and keep in a sunny window
4. When ready to transplant, cut apart each section
5. Plant the entire cup right into your garden

Why this works:

- The cardboard **biodegrades in the soil**
- Roots grow right through it → **no transplant shock**
- Keeps seedlings organized and spaced

Pro Tip:

Poke holes in the bottom to allow roots to escape more easily.





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.