

Dear School Personnel:

4-H Capitol Experience is an annual four-day conference for teens throughout Michigan who are interested in public policy and government. This year the conference will be held Sunday, March 15 through Tuesday, March 17, 2026 in Lansing. During Capitol Experience, through experiential learning, teens will:

- Discover how to influence public policy decisions
- Explore careers in public policy
- Learn about the public policy process at the state level
- Learn how decisions at the state level influence what happens in local communities
- Network with teens and professionals from across Michigan.

This conference also provides participants the opportunity to visit with representatives from community agencies, state departments, lobbyists, and legislative staff. Participants will also select a public policy issue to focus on throughout the conference.

4-H Capitol Experience is not only a great opportunity for youth to take an active role in state government but the conference also reinforces the concepts taught in high school classes through hands-on activities. The Michigan State Content Standards for Social Studies Education reinforced by 4-H Capitol Experience include the following. C6 almost perfectly describes the program's objectives.

C3. STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- **3.2 Structure and Functions of State, Local, and Tribal Governments –**
 - (3.2.3) Describe how state, local, and tribal governments are organized, their major responsibilities, and how they affect the lives of people residing in their jurisdiction(s).
- **3.3 Additional Actors and Influences in American Civic Society –**
 - (3.3.1) Describe and analyze how groups and individuals influence public policy.
 - (3.3.5) Identify and discuss roles of non-governmental organizations in American civic society.
 - (3.3.7) Analyze the credibility and validity of various forms of political communication.



MSU EXTENSION

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C6. CITIZENSHIP AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- **6.4 Civic Inquiry, Public Policy and Public Discourse –**
 - (6.4.3) Identify and describe a local, state, national, or international public policy issue; research and evaluate multiple solutions; analyze the consequences of each solution and propose, defend, and take relevant action to address or resolve the issue.
 - **(6.4.4)** Equip students with the skills and knowledge to explore multiple pathways for knowledgeable civic engagement through simulations and/or real-world opportunities for involvement.

By emphasizing these standards, 4-H Capitol Experience supports what Michigan students learn in school with hands-on experiences. Plus, it prepares teens to be responsible citizens who use knowledge of government and politics to make decisions about governing their community. We hope that after attending 4-H Capitol Experience, teens will be better able to construct and express their positions on a public policy issue and use their knowledge to make a difference in their communities.

For more information visit the conference Web site at
http://4h.msue.msu.edu/4h/4_h_capitol_experience.

Sincerely,

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