



OCTOBER 2023

# 4-H Family News

Calhoun County



## Introducing Cressie Vargo CC 's New 4-H Program Coordinator



### Fun Facts:

- Lives in Albion
- Has spent many years volunteering with the American Legion Auxiliary
- Is married and has four lively boys
- Attended Mott Community College and Ferris State University earning a B. S. in Criminal Justice.

Cressie Vargo is a Michigan State University Extension 4-H Program Coordinator in Calhoun County and began her new role in the beginning of September.

Camping and hiking are a couple of her favorite activities. She also enjoys geocaching with family and friends. Always up for adventure, she looks forward to encouraging 4-H children to develop their sense of curiosity of the world and give them opportunities to have adventures of their own. In her role as a 4-H Program Coordinator, Cressie provides leadership and management of local 4-H programs, volunteers, and youth participants in Calhoun County. She promotes and strengthens the Calhoun County 4-H program by developing programs and partnerships, evaluating 4-H programs, and recruiting and training volunteers.

Before joining MSU Extension, Cressie was a Family Engagement Specialist for Head Start, working with Community Action Agency in Hillsdale County. Cressie has served in AmeriCorps and VISTA in various counties in the state.

## CONTACT US

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# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 4-H scholarships available!



Outstanding Michigan 4-H members who are involved at county, regional, state, national or international levels are eligible to apply for Michigan 4-H scholarships to help fund their college experience.

A number of scholarship opportunities exist, ranging in value from \$500 to \$10,000 (over the course of four years). Each scholarship has specific eligibility, be sure to read the requirements to see if you qualify.

**All applications are due by November 1.**

Learn more and access applications materials at: [www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_scholarships\\_and\\_recognition\\_program/4\\_h\\_scholarships](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4_h_scholarships).

### October 1-7: National 4-H Week

For over 100 years, 4-H has inspired families, shaped careers, and impacted communities. During this week, celebrate the impact of 4-H during National 4-H Week.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week)

### October 4-15: Fall Tractor Supply Company Paper Clover Campaign

Support 4-H by purchasing a \$1 paper clover at your local Tractor Supply Co. (TSC) store or online!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign)

### October 7: 4-H Day at the Wild Pumpkin

4-H families and friends will receive a discount of \$2 off admission, a fun fall prize, a free donut and cup of cider! Sign up required.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-day-at-the-wild-pumpkin](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-day-at-the-wild-pumpkin)

### October 10: Wild Spartans - Snakes and Frogs: Fieldwork in the Tropics

*Online*

Participants will meet Dr. D. Bruce Means, adjunct professor at Florida State University and biologist with the Coastal Plains Institute and Land Conservancy. Learn about his field work, and the education and career path he followed to get there.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-2023-2024](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-2023-2024)

### October 18: Adulting 101 - Wealth Building

*Online*

This workshop will provide tips, tools and goal-setting strategies. Learn about different types of savings and investment products, evaluate your risk tolerance and explore investment timelines.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting10110-18-23](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting10110-18-23)

### October 23: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series - Helping Youth Find Their Spark

*Online*

Explore ways 4-H volunteers can help youth find their spark within their 4-H experience. This session will be offered twice for the convenience of volunteers.

**12-1 p.m. session:** [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-helping-youth-find-their-spark](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-helping-youth-find-their-spark)

**7-8 p.m. session:** [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-helping-youth-find-their-spark7pm](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-helping-youth-find-their-spark7pm)

## SAVE THE DATE!

### November 10-12: Spectacular Youth Leadership Institute

Youth ages 13-19 are invited to this leadership program that will focus on service, community leadership, global leadership and more. Youth will stay at a Lansing area hotel, attend classes on MSU's campus and take part in service projects around the Lansing area. Registration coming soon.





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## Promote 4-H with the 4-H Creative Campaign Contest

Youth ages 9-19 are invited to create short videos (under 60 seconds) promoting 4-H to their peers. Videos should address the question, “**Why You Should Join 4-H!**” Be a 4-H spokesperson by using your voice and sharing your 4-H story with others!

This contest is open to Michigan 4-H youth. Those not currently registered for 4-H can do so prior to entering this contest. The deadline for registration and video submissions is January 31, 2024.

A total of six prizes will be awarded to the top videos judged by professionals. There will be two age brackets for this competition:

- 4-H ages 9-13 (as of January 1, 2024)
- 4-H ages 14-19 (as of January 1, 2024)

Each age bracket will have three winners, who will receive the following prizes:

- First place prize: \$100 Amazon gift card
- Second place prize: \$75 Amazon gift card
- Third place prize: \$50 Amazon gift card

The 4-H Creative Campaign Contest is sponsored with a grant from the Michigan 4-H Foundation. More information and contest rules can be found online at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-clovers-code/contest/>. For questions, please contact Kathy Jamieson at [jamies13@msu.edu](mailto:jamies13@msu.edu).



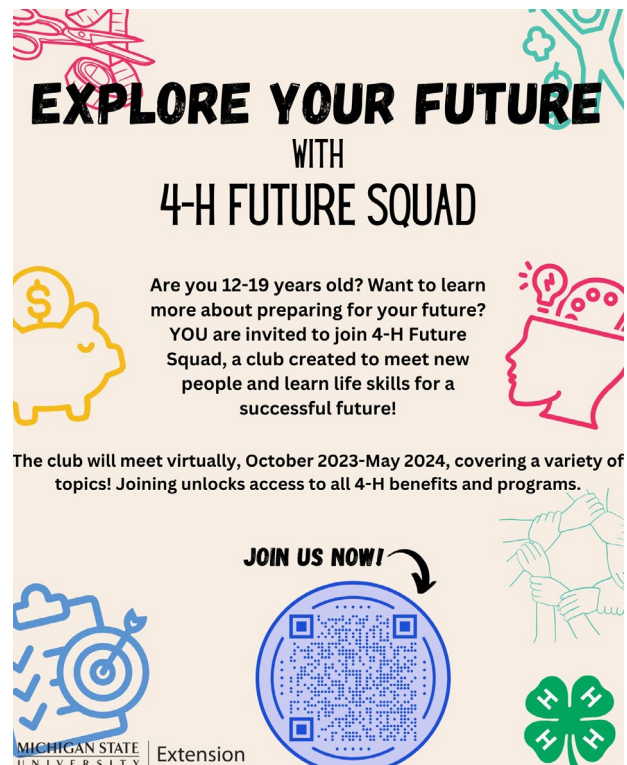
## Join the 4-H Future Squad!

Figuring all this "adulting" out can be hard! If you are a 12-19 year old youth throughout Michigan, join 4-H Future Squad in learning more about important life skills for YOUR future.

4-H Future Squad was inspired by Generation Z youth seeking life skill development for a better future for themselves and their peers. This program is designed to help youth feel prepared and ready to take on the future and adulthood.

The FREE club will meet October 2023 through May 2024. Meetings will involve team-building and will cover areas such as money management, career readiness, stress management, goal-setting, time management, communication, politics, food safety, and basic household tasks. Club meetings will be virtual through Zoom. Club meetings for the 2023-2024 year will take place twice monthly with Monday or Thursday meeting dates on alternating months.

This club can be your primary or secondary club. For more information and to get registered, visit: [www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-future-squad/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-future-squad/).





# Annual Convention & Youth Awards



Merry Mile  
needs  
volunteers!



Lighting up the Calhoun County Fairgrounds with holiday light displays takes a lot of work and if you want to be a part of the creative team of the Merry Mile.

*See times below if you want to help!*



Starting in  
October

Monday & Wednesday

9-11

Saturday 9-1

Sunday 3-6

To Sign-Up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508044FAFAF22A2FC1-43986917-merry>





# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## Wanda and Dan Warner honored as Legends of 4-H



Wanda Warner, Marshall, has been involved with 4-H ever since she was a child and received her Legend of 4-H award and her 50-year pin at the Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> Leaders Banquet. Wanda shares, "It's been a lifestyle, I would say. My husband and I raised our family in 4-H. Both of us had 4-H background ourselves." Her kids, Amber and Aaron, also joined, so much of her family life revolved around 4-H activities. "Always enjoyed it, and at that point in time for country kids, there weren't a whole lot of activities to be involved in, and so we both grew up in the 4-H program and wanted those same benefits for our own children." The most valuable skill she learned and has used throughout her life is sewing. "Another leader taught me to sew, and (that) has enriched my whole life. Even today, I enjoy sewing and quilting and have won numerous awards for it."

Eventually, Wanda and her husband, Dan, became administrative leaders of one of the larger clubs, Happy Harvesters. "We also organized the 4-H Goat Club in the 1970s. That was a fun time, and we had a good group of kids," said Wanda. These days, she has an advisory role, filling in where needed, or leading a workshop when asked. Her one regret is not taking enough pictures of the projects the kids made during those many years. Her advice to other leaders is, "Take lots of pictures, so you can look back and enjoy what the kids have done years later."

## Leaders Banquet



## Great Memories



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**4-H**   
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