



NOVEMBER 2026

4-H Family News

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY



November Greetings

Dear 4-H Families,

As November arrives, it's a wonderful time to reflect on all the fun, learning, and growth that make Grand Traverse County 4-H so special! One of the best things about 4-H is that there is something for everyone. From raising and showing animals, gardening, and exploring agriculture to cooking, baking, sewing, crafting, robotics, science, and technology, there are countless opportunities for youth to discover new interests and develop new skills. Through club meetings, workshops, camps, community service, leadership activities, public speaking, and county fair experiences, members build confidence, make lasting friendships, and learn the value of teamwork and responsibility. Whether trying something new or building on an existing passion, 4-H encourages youth to learn by doing, have fun, and grow into confident leaders.

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, November is also a perfect time to reflect on what we are thankful for. We are grateful for our 4-H families who encourage and support their children, our dedicated volunteers and club leaders who generously share their time and talents, and our community partners who help make these opportunities possible. We are also thankful for the friendships formed, the lessons learned through both successes and challenges, and the many ways our 4-H members give back to their communities. Each of you plays an important role in making Grand Traverse County 4-H a welcoming and inspiring place for young people to learn, lead, and thrive.

As we head into the holiday season, I encourage you to celebrate your family's accomplishments, look for opportunities to try something new, and find small ways to spread kindness and gratitude. Thank you for being part of the Grand Traverse County 4-H family and for helping make our program such a wonderful community. Wishing you and your loved ones a happy, healthy, and gratitude-filled Thanksgiving!

Warmly,

Sarah Bye

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IMPORTANT DATES

GRAND TRAVERSE 4-H YOUTH LEADERS ASSOCIATION MEETING
11/19 | 6:30PM | KINGSLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TRAVERSE CITY LIGHT PARADE | 11/21 | 6-8PM | DOWNTOWN TC

PAPER CLOVER CAMPAIGN | 11/27-12/13 | TRACTOR SUPPLY CO.



COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Crystal Woodward-Turner's Last Day: November 13



The lovely Miss Crystal, Grand Traverse County 4-H HealthCorps/AmeriCorps Member, is parting ways with MSU Extension on **November 13**. We're beyond grateful for the time we shared with her. She will be greatly missed but we know she will continue to do amazing things for our community!



Downtown TC Tree Lighting, Light Parade

The Downtown Traverse City Association (DTCA) is expanding its holiday kickoff into a two-day community celebration called Light Up Downtown. The 2026 holiday weekend will feature the Traverse City Tree Lighting on Friday, November 20, followed by the Traverse City Light Parade on Saturday, November 21.

Friday, November 20, 4-6:30PM – Traverse City

Tree Lighting: Festivities begin early evening with event activations like community sing-alongs, treat stations, merchant open houses & events, Santa's official arrival, and the lighting of the downtown holiday tree at Cass and Front Streets. Visits at Santa's House will open immediately following the ceremony.

Saturday, November 21, 6-8PM – Traverse City Light Parade: Produced in partnership with the Festival Foundation, Front Street will light up as local nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and commercial businesses present custom floats, musical acts, and festive vehicles lighting up the heart of downtown.





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Michigan 4-H International Summer IB Program



**Open your
Home and Heart
to a Japanese
Youth this
Summer 2027!**

Contact: Jan Brinn
brinn@msu.edu



  Host a Japanese youth in Summer 2027 through States' 4-H International! Applications to host can also be found at www.states4hexchange.org

The applications opened on **September 1, 2026**, until **June 1, 2027**. A host family needs to complete the States' 4-H International Exchange Programs online application, have a youth to match as a host brother/sister (be within 4 years of age), be Michigan 4-H adult Gold Volunteers, participate in an interview and home visit process.

Returning host families may also find that information from a previous summer application automatically populates the new application, saving them from having to start from scratch.

I want to say thank you to all of you that had submitted photos for the States' 4-H Photo Contest and special "Congratulations" to the Martin family who received second place!

If you do not plan to host in 2027, we would appreciate you promoting this cultural opportunity to anyone that may be interested. As you know - the Summer in Michigan is a great time to share with an international delegate!



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Preparing youth to be Beyond Ready: Developing a growth mindset through 4-H



Beyond Ready

Learning often comes through challenges, mistakes and trying something new. 4-H helps youth develop a growth mindset by encouraging them to persevere, reflect and continue improving their skills over time.

Volunteers can reinforce this by celebrating effort, encouraging problem solving, and helping youth view setbacks as opportunities to learn. When young people learn that success comes from persistence and practice, they gain confidence to tackle future challenges. These experiences help youth become more resilient and better prepared for life beyond 4-H.

#BeyondReady

November 10: Wild Spartans – Migratory Fishes are Amazing!

Online

Splash into the underwater world to follow fish along their journeys with Karen Murchie, director of freshwater research at the Shedd Aquarium. Learn about her work and the education and career path she followed to get there. Ask questions and learn more through a live Q&A. This free virtual series is open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 12-19 years.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-november

November 12: Adulting 101 – Paws, Claws and Commitment: The Realities of Animal Care

Online

Explore the true costs, responsibilities and lifestyle considerations of caring for animals—from vet bills and training to choosing the right pet for your space and schedule. Learn how to make informed decisions that honor both you and your future pet.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/realities-of-animal-care

November 17: Online Guiding Principles for Highly Successful Parenting Webinar Series

Online

Explore ways to be highly effective in raising kids to be successful in school and in life with this free online series. Parents of kids from toddlers to teens will explore: developing family routines, developing emotional control in your child, being a calm assertive parent, developing consistent rules and relationships, learning from mistakes, developing empathy and the ability to be thankful.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/guiding-principles-for-highly-successful-parenting-webinar-series-nov-dec-2026

November 19: 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series – Growing Money Skills through 4-H

Online

Financial skills are life skills—and they're skills youth can start growing today. Join this webinar to discover easy, engaging ways to plant financial education into your 4-H club meetings, activities and events. Participants will leave with hands-on activities, discussion starters and ready-to-use resources that help youth build money management skills while having fun. Thanks to the support of MSUFCU, randomly selected attendees will receive a free financial education resource for their clubs.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-growing-money-skills-through-4-h

November 27 – December 13: Fall TSC Paper Clover Campaign

Tractor Supply Co. stores statewide

Embrace the holiday spirit and purchase a paper clover at Tractor Supply Co. (TSC)! The Paper Clover campaign will officially launch on Black Friday; support 4-H youth both online or in TSC stores for just \$1!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



Support 4-H with the TSC Paper Clover Campaign

From Nov. 27 – Dec. 13, Tractor Supply Company (TSC) customers across the nation will have the opportunity to support 4-H youth by purchasing a \$1 clover at checkouts when shopping both in stores or online at www.TractorSupply.com. Funds raised will support county, state and national 4-H programming. To learn more, visit www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/cms/4h.

You can also support 4-H by purchasing three special commemorative 4-H holiday ornaments (a beef cow, lamb and dog), now in TSC stores! Proceeds from the sale of ornaments support 4-H.

Michigan 4-H Foundation launches Beyond Ready Campaign to prepare youth for the future

At the Michigan 4-H Legacy Awards Celebration on Saturday, October 3, the Michigan 4-H Foundation announced the public launch of the Michigan 4-H Beyond Ready Campaign, a bold fundraising initiative with a goal of raising \$12 million by 2032 to help prepare Michigan youth for the future.

"Today's youth face a rapidly changing world that requires resilience, adaptability and confidence," said Mary Draves, co-chair of the Michigan 4-H Foundation's Beyond Ready Campaign Committee. "Michigan 4-H is uniquely equipped to support youth in developing these critical skills and more. The Beyond Ready Campaign will provide long-term, stable funding that allows Michigan 4-H to continue offering opportunities and experiences that prepare young people to face challenges and thrive, no matter what the future may bring."

Research consistently demonstrates the positive impact of 4-H participation. Young people involved in 4-H are more likely to develop leadership skills, contribute to their communities and gain confidence in their ability to succeed. The Michigan 4-H Beyond Ready campaign will help ensure future generations of Michigan youth can experience these same benefits by investing in the programs, people and possibilities that bring 4-H to life.

The campaign focuses on five priority areas: **4-H educational opportunities and skills development; Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens; health, well-being and belonging; emerging needs; and endowment investments**, including **county endowments** for localized impact. The campaign also includes a **planned giving goal of securing 40 planned gifts by 2032**, helping to create a lasting legacy of support for Michigan 4-H.

"Today's young people will soon lead our communities, workforce and future," said Joe Hune, Michigan 4-H Foundation trustee and co-chair of the Beyond Ready Campaign Committee. "This campaign will ensure Michigan 4-H can continue to provide life-changing experiences, deliver innovative programs, support diverse learning needs, and help youth from all communities across Michigan become Beyond Ready for future success through 4-H."

The Oct. 3 public launch builds on strong momentum from the campaign's leadership phase. Already \$7.3 million, nearly 62% of the \$12 million goal, has been raised through more than 5,200 gifts from nearly 2,200 donors. Michigan 4-H alumni, volunteers, families, partners and friends are invited to join the effort to help build a generation that is Beyond Ready through Michigan 4-H.

Every gift to the Beyond Ready Campaign is an investment in Michigan youth and their future. There are many ways to participate, including one-time gifts, multi-year commitments, IRA gifts and qualified charitable distributions (QCDs), gifts of stock, planned/estate gifts, or donations of property, grain or other assets. Together, these investments will help expand opportunities, build confidence, spark curiosity and prepare more Michigan youth to be beyond ready for life, leadership and success.

To learn more about the campaign or make a gift to invest in the future of Michigan 4-H, visit www.mi4hfdtn.org/beyondready.





Beyond Ready 4-H Club Activity Planning Tool

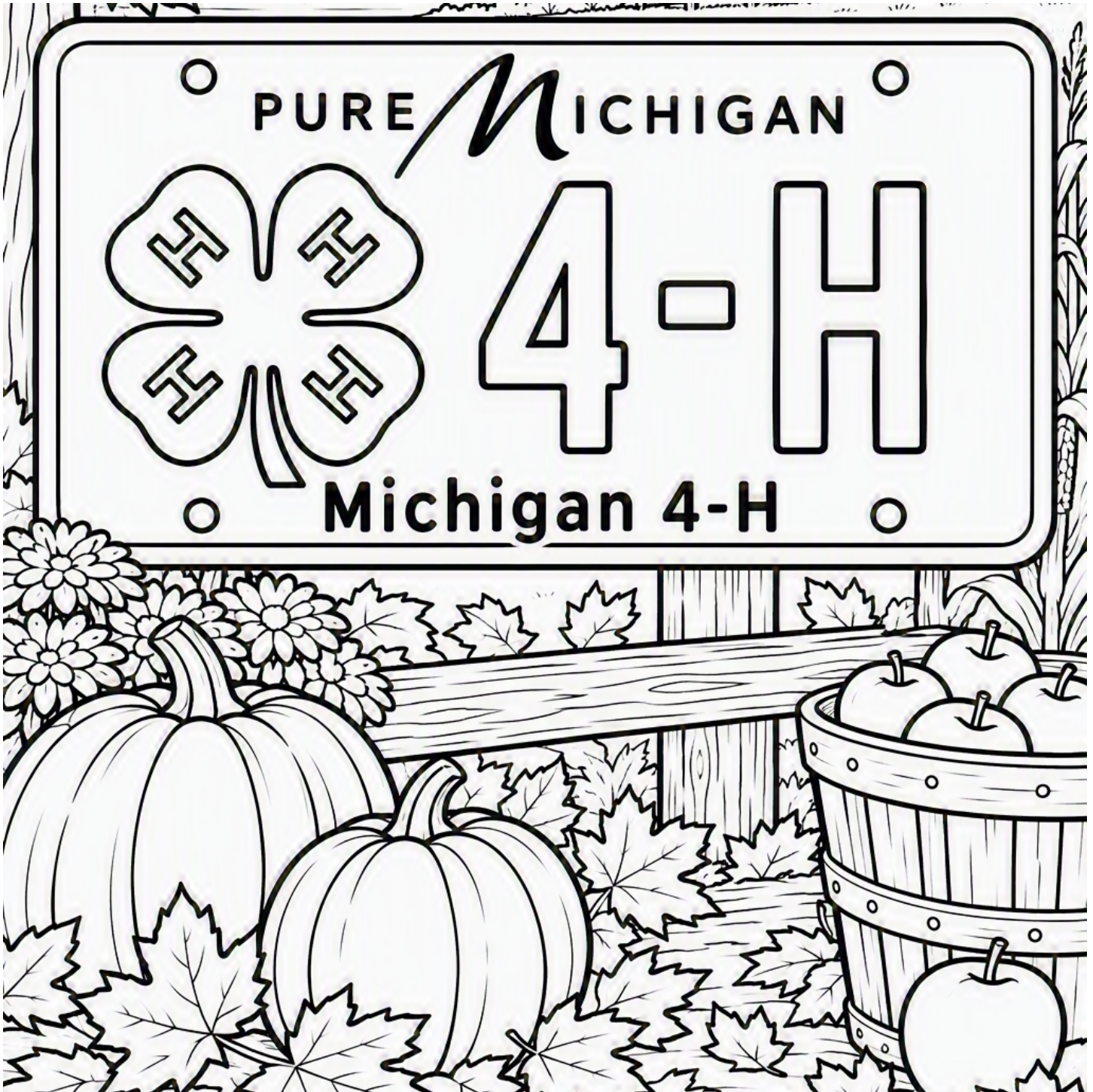
Our 4-H Activity: What are we doing?	
Spark: How can youth connect this experience to something they care about or are excited about?	
Belonging: How will every young person feel welcomed, included, and valued?	
Developmental Relationships: How will youth connect with caring adults and other youth?	
Engagement: Where will youth have a voice, choice, or meaningful leadership?	
Beyond Ready: What knowledge, skills, confidence, relationships, or experiences can youth carry beyond this activity?	
Youth Voice: What meaningful decisions can youth make?	
Reflection: What question(s) will I ask after that will help youth understand how this activity relates to other parts of their lives?	

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For additional information, visit extension.msu.edu/4-Hplate



The Michigan 4-H license plate is a simple way to support youth programs while celebrating your connection to 4-H. A portion of every plate purchase benefits Michigan 4-H, helping young people to learn, lead and grow through 4-H. Order yours today for \$35 through the Michigan Secretary of State and drive your support forward!

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