



4-H Family News

MARCH 2026

Grand Traverse County



Growing for the Future

Happy March, 4-H Friends!

4-H in Grand Traverse County continues to thrive, offering meaningful opportunities for youth and families to grow, lead, and give back. Our clubs reflect both tradition and innovation, from multigenerational groups to new clubs inspired by last year's Education Expo. One especially inspiring example is *Hearts Helping Hands*, a club founded by a former 4-H member who wanted to continue making an impact by supporting youth with disabilities. We are also seeing past members return as volunteers, eager to invest in the same program that once helped shape their own futures.

This spirit of growth and connection will be on full display at the upcoming **Education Expo**, where youth will reunite with friends they haven't seen since fair week, explore new project areas, and utilize the skills they're learning. The Expo offers a chance for members to build confidence, take responsibility, and learn from one another in a vibrant, supportive environment.

Meanwhile, **Future-Ready Fridays** are helping youth take important steps toward their futures by exploring careers, trades, summer employment, and college opportunities. Scholarships and resources continue to empower members to dream bigger and plan ahead. As we count down to the Northwestern Michigan Fair, August 9–15, excitement is building for another summer of learning, leadership, and personal development. We look forward to seeing you at the Education Expo and celebrating all that our 4-H youth continue to achieve.

Warm regards,

Sarah Bye

IMPORTANT DATES

Future-Ready Fridays: 2/27, 3/6 & 3/13 @ 6PM, Kingsley United Methodist Church

Education Expo: 3/1 @ 9AM, Grand Traverse Resort

Livestock Council Membership Meeting: 3/2 @ 6:30PM, Redeemer Lutheran Church of Interlochen

Final registrations for Lambs, Goats, Poultry, Dairy Beef and Jr. Beef DUE 3/2 @ 11:59PM

Leaders Association Meeting: Tuesday 3/17 @ 6:30PM, MSU Extension Office

CONTACT US

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

Future-Ready Fridays



Our **SECOND** Future-Ready Friday is **THIS FRIDAY, 2/27!**

RESUMES THAT ROCK

- ✓ Volunteering with 4-H translated into job experience
- ✓ Meet local business owners seeking employees
- ✓ Use a template to complete a resume

6-8pm at the Kingsley United Methodist Church. For ages 14-19.

FREE Event - Dinner provided

Future-Ready Fridays are geared toward teens who would like help with resume writing, filling out job applications, applying for scholarships, and more!

Don't miss out on this **FREE**, 4-week series. You may attend any but we recommend them all, since you will be learning a new skill at each session.

Exploration Days Scholarships

Did you know we have scholarships available? Not just for secondary education, but also for 4-H events. To be eligible for the event scholarships, applicants must be an active 4-H youth member or volunteer in Grand Traverse County, and have a financial need that limits the ability to participate without assistance. Each scholarship also has additional, specific requirements, as outlined in the applications. Scholarship applications are attached to the end of this newsletter! Events & Scholarships Page: https://www.canr.msu.edu/grand_traverse/grand_traverse_county_4_h/4-h-events-and-scholarships

Education Expo

March 1, 2026
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Grand Traverse Resort & Spa
100 Grand Traverse Village Blvd., Acme, MI, 49610

Sponsored by Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council. This is our annual Livestock Education Expo open to all youth ages 5 to 19, where youth can earn the two (2) required education credits for Northwestern Michigan Fair participation as well as expand their knowledge into other areas of livestock interest.

A **FREE** pizza lunch will be provided to youth who are registered. For parents and non-registered youth, pizza and drink will be available at an additional cost.

Save time in line the day of the event and pre-register for your sessions! If you do not pre-register, please arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the session start time to complete your registration at the event.

Cost: FREE

Register: <http://events.anr.msu.edu/2026EducationExpo/>





STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Preparing youth
to be
Beyond Ready*



**Beyond
Ready**

4-H's approach to readiness begins with participation in high-quality positive youth development programs.

4-H has historically helped young people prepare for work and life through the development of competencies, skills and tangible assets, resulting in youth who are healthy, productive and engaged.

The complex landscape youth face today calls us to go a step further in preparing them to navigate their readiness pathway during and after their 4-H experience.

Is your club intentionally preparing youth to be Beyond Ready for the changing world? Watch here for tips to use with your club.

#BeyondReady

March 5: Future Ready – Exploring College and Career Paths Workshop

Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office, Ann Arbor

This workshop will feature an interactive panel discussion about the variety of opportunities available for high school graduates in college, trades and more. Ideal for youth ages 12-19.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/future-ready-exploring-college-and-career-paths-workshop

March 10: 4-H Give Green Day

Online

Help us reach our goal of raising \$5,000 in a 24-hour period on Give Green Day to support learning experiences for Michigan 4-H youth.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4h-give-green-day

March 10: 4-H Wild Spartans - The Lands Has a Story to Tell – But Are We Listening?

Online

Explore the stories that nature and humans weave with Zach Wilson, forest ecologist for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Learn about his career and education, and ask questions via a live Q&A. Suited for youth ages 12-19.

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

March 25: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Using AI Responsibly in 4-H

Online

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming the way we learn, work and interact. Learn what AI is, how it impacts youth development, and how to use it responsibly within 4-H. Explore MSU Extension guidance, discuss ethical considerations, and share tips for supporting youth navigating technology.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-from-sparks-to-skills-using-ai-responsibly-in-4-h

March 30- April 1: 4-H on the Move: Detroit Cultural Connection Camp

Detroit

An unforgettable spring break alternative! Build cultural awareness, empathy, and a deeper understanding of Detroit's diverse communities through guided tours, hands-on activities, and an opportunity to make a positive impact.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-cultural-connection-camp

April 1: Smart Money Missions Goosechase Game

Everywhere

This fun money management scavenger hunt game is played on the Goosechase app and is open to youth 13-19 years old residing in Michigan.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/smart-money-missions





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Open your home to a student with the 4-H International Exchange Program!

Invite an international youth (ages 12-17 years) or adult chaperone into your home and share an American experience! Michigan 4-H is looking for host families interested in opening their homes and hearts this summer. Consider sharing the clover and giving a lucky Japanese youth and your family the experience of a lifetime!

The Japanese delegation will arrive in Grand Rapids mid-July and depart mid-August, meeting their hosts for a 3.5-week stay. A host family must complete the States' 4-H International Exchange Programs online application, have a youth to match as a host brother/sister (within three years of age) be Michigan 4-H adult Gold volunteers, and participate in an interview and home visit process.



Online applications to host can be found at: <https://www.states4hexchange.org/apply/host/>. For more information, contact Michigan 4-H International Exchange Program Coordinator Jan Brinn brinn@msu.edu.

Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers



Get your tickets for Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers

Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at Comerica Park to watch the Detroit Tigers take on the Miami Marlins on Sunday, April 12. Michigan 4-H will be honored as the Group Charity of the Game. To celebrate, 4-H youth, volunteers, staff and their families will enjoy a discounted ticket to the game, as well as:

- Access to a pre-game, on-field opportunity. Michigan 4-H youth are invited to take a lap around the warning track of Comerica Park before the game.
- A portion of each ticket sold donated to Michigan 4-H.

There are several ticketing options available this year, in three main locations, ranging in price from \$33-54. In addition, each ticket purchased through the Michigan 4-H link will have the opportunity to purchase an exclusive co-branded Michigan 4-H and Detroit

Tigers bucket hat (while supplies last). Hats can only be purchased by purchasing a ticket through the Michigan 4-H link; however, there is an option to buy tickets without the purchase of a hat.

Learn more at www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers.

4-H Youth in Action Program applications open

Apply now for the 2027 4-H Youth in Action Awards! This program recognizes four confident young leaders with diverse backgrounds and unique perspectives who are making a difference in their communities. Winners will have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share their stories along with unforgettable experiences, celebration on the national stage, recognition in the media and a \$5,000 college scholarship.

This opportunity is open to youth ages 14-19. The deadline to apply is April 13. Learn more and apply at <https://4-h.org/programs/4-h-youth-in-action-program/>.



**SESSIONS
HELD AT:**

**Kingsley United
Methodist Church**
113 Blair St,
Kingsley, MI

Future-Ready Fridays

FOR YOUTH AGES 14-19
FOUR FRIDAYS — ATTEND AS MANY AS YOU CAN
6-8PM
FREE DINNER INCLUDED*

***IF YOU HAVE A FOOD ALLERGY, PLEASE CONTACT GRETCHEN SAUVAGE (231) 883-3378**

IDENTIFYING YOUR SKILL SETS 2.20

- Activities to help you discern the right summer job or career for you
- Help with filling out a job application
- Applications from local employers will be provided
- Identifying your skill sets

4-H HAS MADE YOU BEYOND READY 3.6

- Understand your soft and hard skills
- Get to know yourself assessment
- Learn how your life experiences can build a strong resume or scholarship essay

RESUMES THAT ROCK 2.27

- Volunteering with 4-H translated into job experience
- Meet local business owners seeking employees
- Use a template to complete a resume

FILLING OUT YOUR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 3.13

- Learn from experts on local scholarship boards what they have seen and appreciate in winning applications
- Make connections between 4-H and skills you've learned to earn a scholarship
- Get hands-on assistance with filling out scholarship for 4-H statewide events such as Exploration Days, as well as post-secondary education.



NORTHWEST MICHIGAN 4-H
LIVESTOCK COUNCIL



EDUCATION EXPO 2026



Pre-Registration Now OPEN!

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/2026EducationExpo/>

- ✓ Please arrive 15 minutes early if you didn't pre-register
- ✓ The Education Expo is your one stop shop! All sessions are youth oriented, and 4-H Focused.

March 1st
9am- 4pm

The Grand Traverse
Resort & Spa
100 Grand Traverse Village
Blvd.
Acme, MI 49610

- ✓ NWMI Livestock 4-H members are required to complete 2 education credits for the current year.
- ✓ Lunch provided for youth who are registered for free (pizza and drink). Pizza and drink are available at an additional cost for all others.

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

2026 NWMI Education Expo Attendance Tracking

How To Guide

General Attendance

1. 4-H Youth & Families will check in at the main table at the front of the Education Expo with 4-H Staff to be marked attended on their pre-registration forms.
2. **If a youth/family did not pre-register**, they will do so at the main table.
3. **Parents MAY register their child(ren) without them present, while their children attend education sessions (unless the child is legal age 18 – then the participant must register themselves as a legal adult)**

This first check-in allows 4-H Staff and the NWMI Board to confirm whether a youth was physically present at the event.

Room/Session Attendance

1. There will be one (1) QR Code for each room.
2. Youth and Families will have 45 minutes from the start of each session to scan the QR Code and enter youth's First & Last Name into the form.
3. The form allows for up to four (4) youth names to be entered at a time.
4. The code can be scanned again to enter more youth names if needed.
5. ONLY YOUTH names need to be entered into the Attendance form.
6. After 45 minutes, 4-H Staff will close attendance tracking for the current session and roll it over for the upcoming session.
7. After it has rolled over, scan the QR Code in the room again and it will begin tracking for the next session assigned to that room.

*This secondary check-in confirms that youth attended their education sessions and **will be the primary source** used to assign education credits after the Expo has ended.*

The image displays a mobile application interface for attendance tracking. On the left, a smartphone screen shows the top of the form with the Michigan State University logo, session details for "Session 1: Industry Cuts of Meat - Jason Rutters", and a text input field for "Enter Youth First & Last Name". On the right, a larger view of the form shows a scrollable list of four identical text input fields for entering youth names, followed by a "Next page >" button and a "Powered by Qualtrics" logo.

A screenshot of what the attendance form will look like on mobile. There will be four (4) slots to enter youth names when you scroll down. Click "Next Page" to submit for the session.



April 10th, 2026 | 10:00AM to 2:00PM | \$10/person

**Subsidized by Michigan PLT*

CURIOSITY COACH WORKSHOP

Nature in Action: Build Your Environmental Education Toolbox with Project Learning Tree & Project WILD

HANDS-ON

An efficiently-paced, interactive workshop packed with ready-to-use Project Learning Tree and Project WILD activities.

IMMERSIVE

Experience nature-based learning firsthand and discover ways to take education outdoors or bring the outdoors in.

NETWORKING

Connect with passionate educators to share ideas, and grow your environmental education community.



Located at: Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park
1490 Red Dr., Traverse City, MI 49684
<https://thebotanicgarden.org/events/>





**GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY 4-H YOUTH LEADERS ASSOCIATION
ADVISORY BOARD SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM**



ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for this scholarship, applicants must:

1. Be an active 4-H youth member or volunteer in Grand Traverse County.
2. Have a financial need that limits the ability to participation without assistance.
3. Only receive a maximum of 4 scholarships per year, scholarships may be limited based upon available funds.
4. Before the Event: Return completed application to:

MSU Extension 4-H Phone: 231-922-4825
520 W. Front St., Suite A Email: byesarah@msu.edu
Traverse City, MI 49684

5. Within two weeks of the event: submit supporting documents (hotel receipt, agendas, etc.) for reimbursement
6. Share their experience with others by attending the upcoming Grand Traverse County 4-H Leaders Association meeting or send a summary of what they learned through their experience.

PARTICIPANT:

Name _____ Years in 4-H _____

4-H Club(s) _____

Activity Attending _____ Date & Location: _____

Is the participant a member of the Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council? No Yes

Has the participant applied for any other scholarships for this event? No Yes

If yes, list scholarships: _____

YOUTH PARTICIPANTS ONLY:

Please type or print legibly your answers to the following questions; attach extra pages if necessary.

1. What projects/activities have you participated in while involved with 4-H? Include number of years for each.

2. What new skills have you learned in 4-H?

3. Why do you want to participate in this activity?

4. What do you think you will learn? How will you use that knowledge in your club and community?

5. How will you help finance your portion of this opportunity? (examples: child care, lawn mowing, pop cans, etc)

REIMBURSEMENT GUIDELINES:

Registration Fee (eligible for direct activity payment):

- MSU Exploration Days, MSU events & 4-H sponsored events reimbursed up to 50% of the registration fee.
- Additional registration add on items or incentives are not included.

Lodging (reimbursement only):

- Hotel stipend is \$50 per room. An itemized receipt must be provided.
- Activity must be 100 or more miles away (one way) and start before 10:00 a.m. the next morning.
- Activities that include lodging in the price are excluded from additional reimbursement.

PARTICIPANT:

	Estimated Total Cost	Scholarship Amount	
Registration Fee	\$ _____	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Request direct activity payment
Lodging	\$ _____	\$ _____	
TOTAL COST	\$ _____	\$ _____	FINAL APPROVED AMOUNT

REIMBURSEMENT: Please provide a payee name below. A check will be mailed to the address on file in 4-H Online.

Name _____ Phone _____
Print Name

Signature (person submitting request) Date Email

4-H STAFF USE ONLY

Approved By & Date:	Check Sent Date:
Supporting Documents – Received Date & Type:	Shared Experience - Type With Date Completed:

Effective 2/23/2026



Grand Traverse County 4-H Program Tractor Supply Company Scholarship Application

The partnership between Tractor Supply and National 4-H Council, the Paper Clover fundraiser, has raised more than \$20 million for 4-Hers across the country thanks to the dedication and in-store involvement of Tractor Supply customers, team members and local 4-H groups. The Paper Clover Campaign is a national in-store fundraiser that is held each spring and fall. The money raised during the event is used to scholarship camp and leadership experiences for youth.

ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for this scholarship, applicants must:

1. Promote the Paper Clover campaign.
2. Understand that scholarships may be limited based upon available funds.
3. Be an active 4-H youth member in Grand Traverse County and regularly attend 4-H club meetings.
4. Understand that if the participant does not attend the event, the scholarship must be reimbursed to Grand Traverse County 4-H and youth are ineligible for future 4-H scholarships.
5. At least 10 days before the event, return completed application to:

MSU Extension 4-H	Phone: 231-922-4825
520 W. Front St., Suite A	Email: byesarah@msu.edu
Traverse City, MI 49684	
6. After the event, write and send (or deliver) a personal thank you card to the Tractor Supply Store in your area

PARTICIPANT:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Years in 4-H: _____ 4-H Club(s): _____

Activity Attending: _____

Date & Location: _____

Is the participant a member of the Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council? No Yes

Has the participant applied for any other scholarships for this event? No Yes

If yes, list scholarships applied for and amounts requested from each:

In what way did you support the Paper Clover campaign?

The Grand Traverse County 4-H Tractor Supply Company Scholarship will pay up to 50% of the registration fee.

Estimated Total Registration Fee to attend the event: \$ _____

4-H Tractor Supply Scholarship Requested Amount: \$ _____



Children and Youth Institute
Michigan 4-H Youth Development

Request for Official Approval to Establish a Michigan 4-H Youth Group

Chartering is the process by which Michigan State University Extension recognizes a group as belonging to Michigan 4-H Youth Development and grants it authority to use the 4-H name and emblem as long as its goal is to provide a positive, experiential and educational opportunity for and with the group's members.

INSTRUCTIONS: To apply for a 4-H Charter, the organizational leader of a potential 4-H group must submit this form to the 4-H program coordinator in the county Extension office. Groups meeting the following minimum requirements will be granted a Charter.

The undersigned certifies the following group will:

- Be open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, or veteran status.
• Provide a welcoming and safe environment to all members.
• Agree to follow state and county 4-H policies and procedures, and state and national 4-H guidelines for using the 4-H name and emblem.
• Have at least 5 members from 2 or more families.
• Have at least two active gold-level volunteers.
• Be appropriately structured, with a leadership team of officers.
• Have a calendar of planned educational programs and activities.
• Follow all financial guidelines for 4-H groups outlined in the Michigan 4-H financial manuals including preparing and providing to the county 4-H Extension staff an Annual Financial Summary Report for any funds raised or collected in the name of 4-H including account numbers and balances.
• Complete an annual enrollment process for 4-H members and volunteers.
• In the case of group disbandment, complete the Disbanding Checklist, and the final Annual Financial Summary Report, and turn over all property and funds to the county MSU Extension Office.

Proposed group name _____

Type of 4-H group _____ (e.g., afterschool, club, community, leaders' council, board, committee, school, special interest group)

Meeting location _____

Day, time, and frequency of meetings _____

Group's purpose (check all that apply)

- Find and carry out ideas to help people in our community.
Learn more about _____
To explore interest areas and careers through different learning activities.
Develop members' leadership skills.
Other _____

Name of volunteer leader in charge of the group (printed name) _____

Phone number _____ Email address _____

My signature below indicates that I have read and agree to these provisions:

Signature _____ Date _____

Name of second volunteer leader (printed name) _____

Phone number _____ Email address _____

My signature below indicates I have read and agree to these provisions:

Signature _____ Date _____

For MSU Extension County 4-H program coordinator Use Only

Based on the information above, this group meets the requirements to be eligible for a 4-H Charter and is authorized to use the 4-H name and emblem in connection with its program and activities and is considered an official 4-H unit of Michigan State University Extension.

4-H Extension staff _____ Date _____
(Signature Required)