



4-H Family News

Feb 2024

Kalamazoo County



Happy Valentines Day



NEW YEAR – NEW FUN!

WE STARTED SOMETHING FUN LAST MONTH!
EACH MONTH WE WILL BE GIVING YOU A CLUE TO A PHRASE OR PICTURE
WE HAVE HIDDEN IN THE NEWSLETTER. 🕶️

WHEN YOU FIND THE HIDDEN ITEM, SEND US AN EMAIL OR GIVE US A
CALL AT THE COUNTY OFFICE (INFORMATION LISTED TO THE RIGHT)
WITH THE IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION OF THE HIDDEN ITEM.

THE FIRST 5 PEOPLE TO FIND IT WILL HAVE THEIR NAMES ON THE
FRONT PAGE OF THE NEXT NEWSLETTER AND GET SOME COOL 4-H
SWAG!

CONGRATULATIONS KENDALL
SHE FOUND THE UMBRELLA IN LAST MONTHS
NEWSLETTER!

THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE IS TO FIND THIS EMOJI



HIDDEN IN THE NEWSLETTER !

CONTACT US

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4-H Program Coordinator
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bolhuisv@msu.edu

Sam Lawrence
Urban 4-H Program Coordinator
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Kalamazoo, MI. 49007

County Office Phone & Email:

269-383-8830
msue.kalamazoo@campusad.msu.edu

WEBSITE:

<http://canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo4H>

Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/Kalamazoo-County-4-H-Youth-Program-122047197873078>

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There will be 4 YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) in 2024. This is a requirement for all youth bringing livestock to the Kalamazoo County Youth Fair and Family Festival in 2024. There are two options, one of 4 face-to-face sessions or an online session. The face-to-face sessions will be a minimum of 1 hour and the cost is \$3.00 per youth. The face-to-face version is meant to include all youth 8 years old – 18 years old. The online version is \$12.00 but the curriculum is age specific. This certification is good for one year.

The face-to-face sessions will be held starting at 6:30PM on the following dates:

February 6, 2024

March 13, 2024

May 15, 2024

Youth who would like to take the face-to-face session will need to do the following:

- Parents will need to create a family profile on <https://yqcaprogram.org/>
- Parents will need to add each child (if they are not already added) and chose the face-to-face training option.
- Pay the \$3.00 registration fee.
- Youth will need to complete the pre-test.
- Once the youth has taken the face-to-face session, staff will mark your session as complete.
- Youth will log back in and take the post test (found under the child's name and a drop down that says Enrolled ILT trainings).
- Once the post test is complete the youth's certificate will be sent.

Youth who would like to take the online session will need to do the following:

- Parents will need to create a family profile on <https://yqcaprogram.org/>
- Parents will need to add each child (if they are not already added) and chose the online training session.
- Pay the \$12.00 registration fee.
- Youth will then need to complete the course.

Once the youth have completed either the online session or the face-to-face session and receive their certificate, they will need to email it to msue.kalamazoo@msu.edu by June 1, 2024.

You can find helpful registration videos and documents at https://yqcaprogram.org/local/resources_for_youth_parents.php.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZHW2qtMIOc>

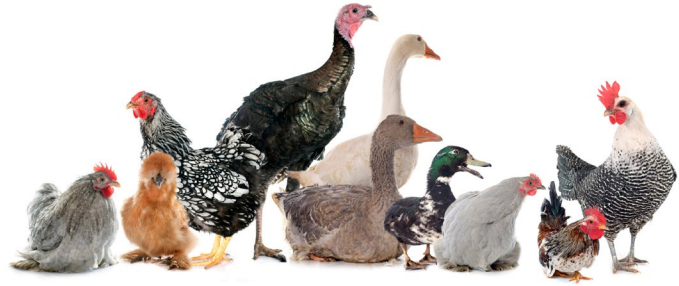


Poultry Project News

The next Poultry Project meeting will be on March 21, 2024 at 7pm in room B of the Expo Center. Remember that there is a 3-meeting attendance requirement for the poultry project to be able to show at the fair.

We have meetings on the calendar for

- March 21
- May 16
- June 20
- July 18.



Attending other poultry related events such as poultry shows and clinics can also count towards attendance.

Remember!

Poultry Orders are due to Cherie by February 18.

Please contact Cherie Gilfillan if you have any questions : cheriegilfillan@gmail.com
Your order will be shipped to The Feed Bag in Richland.
You must be available on the designated pick-up day to get your bird(s).

You can access the fillable order form online at:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/uploads/2024%20Poultry%20Market%20Order%20Form%20PDF.pdf>

A printable copy is on page 4.





2024 Kalamazoo County 4-H Poultry Market Project

ALL BIRD ORDERS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024

Bird Type	Current cost per bird*	Pick-up Date	Project Length	Number of birds*
Turkey	\$8.58 white \$9.13 bronze	March 26	19 weeks	_____ Bronze _____ White
Heavy Duck	\$6.73-\$7.47 per bird	May 14	12 weeks	_____
Roaster Chicken	\$4.64 - \$4.87 per bird	May 29	10 weeks	_____ Male _____ Female
Market Duck (Pekin)	\$6.73 per bird	June 11	8 weeks	_____
Broiler Chicken	\$4.64 - \$4.87 per bird	June 18	7 weeks	_____ Male _____ Female
Cornish Chicken	\$4.64 - \$4.87 per bird	June 25	6 weeks	_____ Male _____ Female

*Please note - we do not control the hatchery prices, these are just to give you an estimation of what the birds will cost. Also, all birds are straight run unless male and female are indicated options.

Family Name _____ Contact Person _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Please contact Cherie Gilfillan if you have any questions.
(269) 547-7678 cheriegilfillan@gmail.com

Your order will be shipped to The Feed Bag in Richland. You must be available on the designated pick-up day to get your bird(s).



Welcome to the Swine Project!



We are looking forward to another great year.

Just a reminder on project dates:

- all 4-H pigs must be in your possession by May 1st,
- and new this year - registration forms and photos are now also due by May 1st.

Our first countywide swine meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 29th** at 6:30 pm at the Fairgrounds Expo Center. We look forward to having a guest speaker at this meeting, so bring your questions and get ready to learn something new about the swine project. We will also hand out ear tags at this meeting.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Pam Acker (cell – 517-930-1297)

and TJ Gibson (cell - 269-903-9991)

As a reminder you must attend at **least 2 of the 4 county-wide meetings** to show at fair.

The complete project guidelines will be sent out via email, but please remember that **YQCA (Youth for Quality Care of Animals) certification is required annually** (for all species). So please plan to attend one of the in-person training dates –

February 6, March 13, May 15 -
both at 6:30 PM at the Expo Center.

Pre-registration is required at the YQCA website prior to attending, and the registration fee is \$3.00.

Further details can be found in the Kalamazoo County 4-H newsletter.

Thank you again for your interest in showing pigs! We're looking forward to a great year. Please let us know if you have any questions.



Dairy Project News

We are going to have a dairy meetings at **6:30** at the Vlietstra Dairy Farm on:

Monday, February 19

Monday, March 25

Monday, April 22



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Dairy club members:

Please join the Kalamazoo County 4-H Dairy 4-H club Facebook page.

Contact Sara if you have questions.

Remember, if your club has a bank account:

It is required that you turn in your

- Bank Statements
- Treasurers Reports
- Meeting Minutes

to the 4-H office **every month**.

If you do not meet every month, please make sure we have your written meeting schedule so we can note the months to exclude.

Thank you!



Dairy Feeder Calf Project

We are excited for a new project year for the feeder calf club! We will be having a combined meeting with the Beef project on

Tuesday, March 26 at 7pm at:
City Gate Church
308 W. Milham Ave. Portage, MI 49024

A Reminder:

- 4-H dairy feeder steers can be born January 1 and February 28.
- Cloverbud dairy feeder steers can be born January 1 and March 31.
- Project requirements are posted on the Kalamazoo County 4-H webpage. https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/Project-Guidelines/animal-1

Please join the Kalamazoo County 4-H Feeder Calf club page on Facebook - please note- only current Feeder Calf Club members and their immediate family can join the page.

If you have questions, you can call or text either Greg or Sara





Did you know that we have project leaders for the following projects?

- **Welding** – Dave Rutten
- **Archery** -Mike George
- **Food dehydration & food preservation** – Eileen Rutten
- **Photography** – Kim Berggren & Kristin Biehl
- **Maple syrup production** – Greg Baker
- **International studies (Japanese, French, German, Chinese)** – Justin Fragala
- **Fishing** – Kevin Thomason
- **Flower gardening/landscaping** – Landon Gilfillan, MSU Extension floriculture and greenhouse educator– Jeremy Jubenville
- **Crocheting** – Danielle Riemersma



If you are interested in any of these projects, please reach out to the 4-H staff. Volunteers need to have at least 2 youth presents to teach a session. When we have enough youth interested in participating in programs, we will share the contact information so the volunteers can set up some classes.

We are looking for gold level volunteers to either lead county wide projects or help with activities. If you are not a current gold level volunteer, you can start the process by completing the application at [Become a 4-H Volunteer \(msu.edu\)](https://msu.edu/become-a-4-h-volunteer)

- **Cloverbud specific programs** (this could be gold level volunteers or teens with a volunteer or staff person)
- **Cake decorating**
- **Sewing**
- **Candy making**
- **First Aid and CPR certification** (this needs to be someone who can teach and offer the certification)
- **Shooting sports** (other than archery and needs to go through MSU Extensions certification)
- **Vet Science**
- **Wood working**
- **Cooking**



If you have questions, please reach out to Veronica or Sam.



We had a great turnout at our **1st bowling activity at Revel & Roll bowling alley in Kalamazoo!**

There were around 100 participants bowled and played laser tag!



As a community outreach our county 4-Hers and parents also cut and tied blankets of different sizes for local hospitals (baby/ throw & king sizes) and for local animal shelters (the fabric scraps will be used to make dog toys).

They were able to complete over a dozen blankets!

Thank you to all the parents and 4-Hers that made this event a huge success!!





Have you thought about entering Fashion Review at the fair but don't sew or didn't know where to start?

How about trying Wearable Art or other clothing embellishments?

Join us February 29th

6:30-7:30 at

Richland Presbyterian Church

8047 Church St, Richland, MI 49083

Please bring your ideas , and article of clothing, and craft supplies (scissors, needles, beads, embroidery floss, sequins...)

And we will help guide you thru taking it from Blah to Bling!

All 4-H groups are welcome, but RSVP are needed. All Youth under 10 will need an adult chaperone.

Contact myrichland4h@gmail.com for questions and to reserve your spot!

So Let's Get Crafty!





It's a Balancing Act...

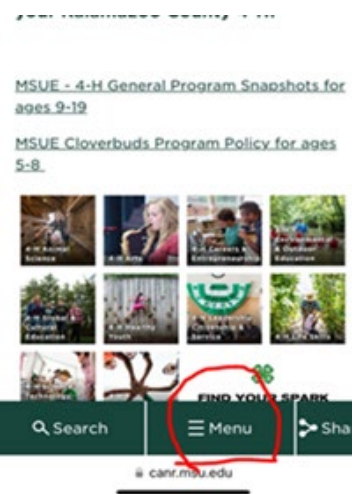
Youth today can have a lot going on including work, school, a social life, family, extracurricular activities, and self-care. This interactive, self-paced, online class will share information on how to find balance in life with competing options and obligations. Learn about ways to stay organized and manage your time, the importance of building a supportive social network, options for working as a student, avoiding burnout, and getting academic support and enrichment to round out your education. With opportunities to reflect and apply in your own life, you will leave with tips to find balance in your Wheel of Life! Add this course to your To-Do list and complete at your own pace. Find out more and take the free virtual class at:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/courses/balancingact>



Just an FYI 

When accessing the MSU website from your phone, you may need to click on "Menu" to display the full content available.





Interested in testing your Equine Knowledge?

Does the idea of working in a team to solve problems thrill you? Come and compete at the Michigan 4-H State Hippology Contest!

Youth aged 5-19 are eligible to participate in the Michigan 4-H State Hippology Contest. Cloverbuds, Junior and Senior divisions as well as Junior Novice and Senior Novice allow for youth to demonstrate their comprehensive equine knowledge and skills in an engaging setting.

Find more information regarding the rules here:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/horses_ponies/uploads/Hippology%20Rules%202024%20as%20of%201-25-24.pdf

Already on a team and ready for the 2024 contest? Register here at:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-hippology-contest-2024>

REGISTRATION OPEN!

MICHIGAN 4-H State Hippology Contest

March 16, 2024 at Michigan
State University

The annual Michigan 4-H Hippology Contest allows youth in horse and pony projects to test their equine knowledge.

Youth aged 5-19 are eligible to participate in the Michigan 4-H State Hippology Contest. Cloverbuds, Junior and Senior divisions as well as Junior Novice and Senior Novice allow for youth to demonstrate their comprehensive equine knowledge and skills in an engaging setting.

REGISTER AT:

[HTTPS://WWW.CANR.MSU.EDU/EVENTS/MICHIGAN-4-H-HIPPOLOGY-CONTEST-2024](https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-hippology-contest-2024)



CONTACT

DAVID LINDSAY
EQUINE EDUCATOR
4-H YOUTH HORSE PROGRAMS
LINDSA75@MSU.EDU



Michigan State University Extension

Child and Family Development February Offerings

MSU Extension has a wide range of free online classes for parents and caregivers of children of all ages and early childhood professionals. See below for our February offerings!

Please reach out to your local Extension office or [find a Child and Family Development team member near you!](#)

Follow our Facebook page for more information and resources at [MI Stronger Family - MSU Extension](#).

These free online parenting workshops will provide guidance for parents of young children as they navigate the challenges, concerns, and joys of parenting. Participants may register for as few or as many workshops as they wish. The workshops are on Tuesday evenings from 8:00 to 9:30PM EST as follows:

Class dates:

- 2/06/2024: Birds and the Bees: Talking with kids about sex
- 2/13/2024: Purpose of Play
- 2/20/2024: Setting the Stage: Promoting social emotional health in young children
- 2/27/2024: Together We Can: Co-parenting
- **Class Times:** 8:00PM to 9:30PM
- **Registration:** https://msu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_viGxTEIqSdKY2cEX2EhVbQ

Kinship Caregiver classes are targeted to relatives caring for another relative's children.

- **2/14/2024: Reducing Challenging Behaviors in Toddlers**
- Class Time: 7:00PM to 8:30PM
- **Registration:** https://msu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_msxyZuH0QeS9MsKaD_y7Tg

Guiding Principles for Highly Successful Parenting

Are you wondering how to gain greater cooperation from the children in your care? Struggling with chores or routines? Not sure how to handle discipline issues? Join us for this five week caregiver education series for caregivers with children of all ages will explore developing routines, emotional control, rules and relationships, and being a calm, assertive caregiver. Certificates of attendance are available.

- Class Dates: February 16, 23, March 1, 8, 15
- Class Times: 11:30am-1:00pm ET
- Register at: https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0VpZf3ks77yZZGu
- For more information contact Courtney Aldrich at aldric82@msu.edu



TACK SALE

**SPONSORED BY KALAMAZOO COUNTY 4-H HORSE LEADERS
MONDAY MARCH 18TH, 2024 5:00-9:00PM**

Location: Kalamazoo County Expo and Fairgrounds, 2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, MI
 ***40,000 SQUARE FEET full of items for everyone
 ***Food Concessions and Dining Areas
 \$2.00 per person admission donation for all attendees, including vendors
 Children 5 and under FREE. **RESERVE EARLY! Spaces fill up fast**

CUBES 8ft wide X 8ft deep, includes a table that you are welcome to remove for your display.
 (May be along an exterior wall or in the main section) Cube set up **ONLY** begins at 2pm
 (Each person entering pays \$2 admission)

INTERIOR SPACES 8 ft. wide by table depth of 2 feet. Interior set up begins at 3:30pm
 (Each person entering pays \$2 admission)

Email inquiries to kalamazoo4horse@yahoo.com

No spaces held without payment in full prior to tack sale. Sorry, no refunds.

MAIL BOTTOM PORTION OF FORM BY March 4, 2024 for discounted rates

Kalamazoo 4-H Tack Sale Registration form

Individual/Vendor/Business Name _____

Contact Name _____ Phone _____ CK# _____

Email _____

#Cubes (8' x8') _____ x\$35= _____ total (\$40 after 3/4/2024)

#Interior spaces (8'X2') _____ x\$20= _____ total (\$25 after 3/4/2024)

Comments: _____

Mail the bottom portion of this form with check payable to:
 Kalamazoo County 4-H Horse Leaders Council
 % Christina Chase, 7095 N. 32nd street, Richland, MI 49083

Our apologies we are unable to accept any form of electronic payment



Georgia Boot Trailblazer Contest

Want to show off your @4-H project and maybe win \$500?

Apply for the 2024 Georgia Boot Trailblazer Contest.

@GeorgiaBoot is looking for four enthusiastic #4H'ers to share their 2024 project journeys with the Georgia Boot audience.

Don't miss this chance to win a prize package valued at \$500! Learn more: <https://www.georgiaboot.com/4-H-trailblazers-application>



Don't forget!

JOANN POS Campaign starts

March 3rd!



Exploration days are fast approaching!



- Mid-February- Session listing available online - https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/
- March 25- Registration opens at 7pm (\$50 deposit due at registration)
- April 19- Registration closes for all youth participants at 5pm
- May 1- All adults (chaperones, instructors, staff) staying in overnight lodging must be registered; County Groups and Lead Chaperones are identified
- May 1- Cancellations through this date are fully refundable. (Pre-Payment is non-refundable for cancellations after May 1st)
- May 14 to May 24- Counties host local orientations
- May 25- All participants must be fully paid. All cancellations after May 25th will lose \$120 of their payment. Refunds for the amount paid beyond \$120 will be processed in July.
- June 15- All cancellations after this point are considered no show and refunds will not be given.
- June 19-21- 4-H Exploration Days at Michigan State University



MSU Extension 4-H has an exciting new line up of **Adulthood 101** sessions coming up in 2024. Join us monthly for free sessions to build life skills helpful in transitioning to "adulthood."

Learn more and sign up here:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulthood-101-2024>




Join Michigan 4-H for the Winter/Spring 2024 Adulthood 101 Series

Fostering Happy and Healthy Relationships- February 12 at 5pm 

Keeping Your Money Safe- March 19 at 6pm 

Cover Letter and Resume Writing- April 10 at 6pm 

Build and Protect Your Credit- May 15 at 5pm 

Webinars are free. Register online.



Lights! Camera! Action!

Public Media Network wants to hear what you have to say! This activity is to produce a good quality video for television. You will work as a crew to develop authentic stories about your life, set up lights, microphones, film in the studio and post-production video editing.

Empower yourself through media to amplify creative expression, community dialogue, and cultural understanding. Video production skills can be applied to school projects, social clubs, and as an employment resume builder.

If you are interested in video production, in front of or behind the camera, this is an awesome opportunity for you!

Best for youth 12 years old and up.

To determine how many youth are interested, contact Veronica at Bolhuisv@MSU.edu to say you would like to participate.





Kalamazoo Teen Leaders Club

Kzoo TLC is an opportunity for Kalamazoo youth to elevate their leadership, time management, communication, and civic engagement skills. Once part of the club, members will help organize and fun events & community service opportunities for the county of Kalamazoo.

Follow the link below to sign up!

WE WANT YOU!



**Michigan State University Extension
is recruiting TEEN LEADERS**

for the 2024 program year.

Increase your Professional & Networking Skills

<https://forms.gle/E4ubDW9spuv3vywv7>





2024 4-H International Exchange Host Family Applications Open!

What: 2024 Inbound Host Family Applications have opened!

Increase: Due to the popularity of this exchange here in Michigan we have been approved to increase from only 13 participants this past year to 20 in 2024

When: Arrival (tentative) in Grand Rapids from July 21st to August 16th, 2024

How: A host family completes the States' 4-H International Exchange Programs online application and has a youth to match as a host brother/sister (be within 3 years of age of incoming delegate), be Michigan 4-H adult Gold Volunteers, participate in an interview and home visit process.

Applications to host: found at www.states4hexchange.org

Questions: contact Jan Brinn brinn@msu.edu or Co-Coordinator John Wurm wurmj@msu.edu.

Other Resources:

- 1) [Michigan 4-H International Exchange Programs Facebook page](#)
- 2) [States' 4-H International Exchange Programs Facebook page](#)
- 3) [States' 4-H International Exchange Programs website](#) or email: exchange@states4h.org

Thank you very much to all our families who annually open their homes to create 4-H international experiences across the globe.



LABO Michigan Delegation 2023



States' 4-H International Exchange Programs 2024 OUTBOUND PROGRAMS

Costa Rica · Japan · Korea · Norway · Taiwan · Argentina



Costa Rica



Japan



Norway



South Korea



Argentina



Taiwan

Are you curious about daily life, culture, and youth programs in other countries?
Travel abroad with States' 4-H and enter a world that most visitors rarely get to see.

Program Details:

States' 4-H Summer Outbound programs provide American 4-H youth with the opportunity to travel to foreign countries for a month-long cultural immersion experience. Delegates live with volunteer host families* and engage in experiential learning about a new way of life. Delegates experience aspects of daily life that allow them to more deeply understand both their host culture and their own culture. Our network of like-minded international partners recruit host families and plan enrichment activities.

**Exception: Argentina uses group accommodations on program*

2024 Travel Dates*

Japan 8-week:	June 12—August 9, 2024
Costa Rica:	June 20—July 19, 2024
Argentina:	June 20—July 15, 2024
Norway:	June 20—July 20, 2022
Japan 4-week:	July 10—August 9, 2024
South Korea:	July 16—August 15, 2024
Taiwan:	July 16—August 15, 2024

**Program dates subject to slight change or modification*

Eligibility:

4-H ages 12—18 for Japan 4-Week & Taiwan, 12—17 for Korea, and 15—18 for Costa Rica, Norway, Argentina, and Japan 8-Week

Program Information:

- Adult chaperones accompany the group during international travel and remain in-country to provide support.
- States' 4-H provides Program Handbooks that cover everything from packing lists to financial matters to cultural information.
- States' 4-H conducts group conference calls and a National Departure Orientation prior to international travel.
- No prior language study is required, but it certainly is helpful! Our international partners have English-speaking staff on hand to assist you in communication.

Application Deadline & Program Fees:

Contact your 4-H State Coordinator for deadlines and to apply. Please note that program details are subject to change.

For more information:

www.states4hexchange.org

QB@states4h.org

(206) 462-2200



<https://www.facebook.com/states4hexchange/>

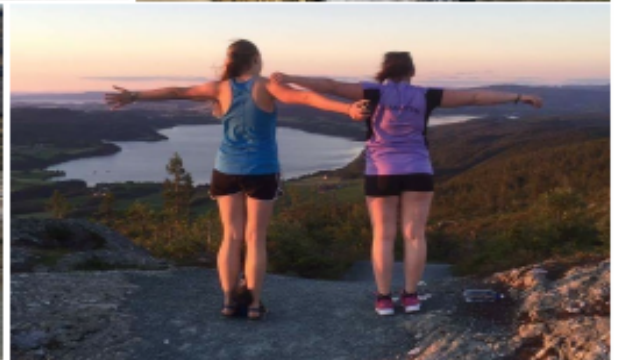
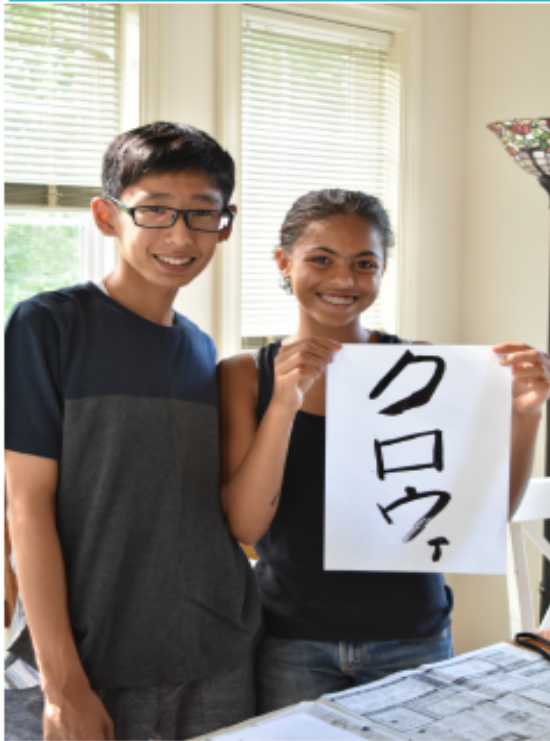


[@states4hinternational](https://www.instagram.com/states4hinternational)



2024 OUTBOUND PROGRAMS

States' 4-H International's mission is to enhance world understanding and global citizenship; one way to move towards that goal is through living with a local host family and immersing oneself in another culture.



Program Fees Include:

Welcome packet; overnight national departure orientation; arrival orientation in host country; portion of chaperone fee; Accident & Sickness Medical Insurance; in-country transportation, lodging, and meals while on-program; country-specific activities as determined by international partner organizations; overnight national departure debriefing upon return.

Program Policies:

- Program Cancellations:
 - * No refund of paid deposits, unless full program cancelled by States' 4-H
- Airfare is non-refundable once issued
- In-State Fees may apply
- Unaccompanied Minor fees may apply (up to \$150 each way)
- Program details subject to change

FAQs:

Q: Will a chaperone accompany the group?

A: Yes! Adult chaperones accompany the group during international travel and remain in-country to provide support during the exchange.

Q: Do I need to speak another language?

A: No prior language study is required, but it is certainly helpful! Our international partners have English-speaking staff on hand to assist you in communication.

Q: How will States' 4-H prepare me for my homestay?

A: States' 4-H provides travel handbooks that cover everything from packing lists to financial matters to cultural information. In addition, each state may conduct a spring orientation covering these topics. Delegates also receive details during the States' 4-H group conference call in late spring and a National Departure Orientation the day before the international flight.



Michigan 4-H Youth Code of Conduct



The opportunity to participate in or attend 4-H activities is a privilege. All 4-H participants – youth, families, volunteers, and Extension staff who participate in or attend any activity or event sponsored by the Michigan State University Extension 4-H Youth Development Program are expected to uphold the values of the Michigan 4-H program.

All 4-H youth participants must conduct themselves according to the following standards that apply to all Michigan 4-H programs, including virtual programs, and interactions such as social media and internet engagement:

- 1. Create a Welcoming Environment for All.** Encourage everyone to fully participate in 4-H. Recognize that all people have skills and talents that can help others and improve the community. Though we will not always agree, we must disagree respectfully. When we disagree, try to understand why. Our first priority is to create a safe, inclusive space for learning, sharing and collaboration that is welcoming to people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives. Diversity includes, but is not limited to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.
- 2. Bring Your Best Self.** Conduct yourself in a manner that reflects honesty, integrity, self-control, and self-direction. Accept the results and outcomes of 4-H activities and programs with grace and empathy for other participants. Accept the final opinions of judges and evaluators. Be open to new ideas, suggestions, and opinions of others.
- 3. Obey the Law.** Obey the laws of the locality, state and nation and Michigan State University and Extension policies and guidelines. Commit no illegal acts. Do not possess, offer to others, or use alcohol, illegal drugs, marijuana, or tobacco products, which include e-pens, e-pipes, e-hookah, e-cigars, JUULs, vapes, vape pens or other electronic nicotine delivery systems. Do not attend 4-H activities under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances. Do not possess or use weapons or firearms except as expressly permitted as part of supervised 4-H shooting sports programming. This includes dangerous or unauthorized materials such as explosives or similar items.
- 4. Honor Diversity – Yours and Others'.** Respect and uphold the rights and dignity of all persons with whom you interact as part of Michigan 4-H.
- 5. Create a Safe Environment.** Be kind and compassionate toward others. Be considerate and courteous of all persons and their property. Do not carelessly or intentionally harm or intimidate anyone in any way (verbally, mentally, physically, or emotionally). Do not insult, harass, or bully others or engage in other hostile behaviors, including sexual harassment, sexual assault or sexual abuse. Abstain from sexual behavior and intimate physical/sexual contact in either public or private situations at an MSU Extension youth 4-H activity or event.
- 6. Be a Team Player.** Work cooperatively with all individuals involved in 4-H programs and activities. Be responsive to the reasonable requests of the person in charge such as volunteers and staff. Respect the integrity of the group and the group's decisions.
- 7. Humane Treatment of Animals.** Treat animals humanely and provide appropriate animal care.
- 8. Participate Fully.** Participate in and contribute to planned programs, be on time and follow through on assigned tasks/responsibilities in a manner that fosters the safety, well-being, and quality of the educational experience for self and others.

Have fun!



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Get free tickets for Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin!



Make plans for a fun day in East Lansing on February 24! Join with other members of the 4-H community for Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin. This fun family event will be held at the Jack Breslin Student Events Center as the MSU women's basketball team takes on the Rutgers Scarlet Knights.

Attendees will also enjoy 4-H games and activities around the concourse. Tickets are free to 4-H youth and their families as well as 4-H volunteers and their families. In addition, Michigan 4-H will be showcased during the halftime show as a group of 4-H youth will lead the crowd in reciting the 4-H pledge.

Doors will open at 12:30 p.m., with tip-off scheduled for 2 p.m. Participants are encouraged to show their pride and wear green and white 4-H or MSU Extension apparel.

For more information and to get tickets, visit www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-day-at-the-breslin.

February 7: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar - Engaging 4-H Youth in Animal Science Education

Online

Explore ways 4-H volunteers can utilize curriculum and resources to engage 4-H youth in animal science education. This series will provide volunteers with a variety of learning opportunities to help them grow as a volunteer and support Michigan 4-H'ers. This session will be offered twice, once as a daytime option and once as an evening option.

- **12 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-engaging-4-h-youth-in-animal-science-education
- **7 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-engaging-4-h-youth-in-animal-science-education7pm

February 12: Fostering Happy and Healthy Relationships

Online

The 4-H Adulting 101 series helps young people prepare for college or life on their own through free online sessions. Join this session to explore healthy relationship models that can enhance your future and current bonds.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/relationships-1

February 13: 4-H Wild Spartans – Seeing the Forest for the Wildlife

Online

This month's 4-H Wild Spartans Series will wade with waterfowl and explore forests. Meet Jeremiah Heise, ecosystem program manager with the U.S. Forest Service, learn about his field work, and the education and career path he followed to get there. This free series is open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 12-19.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-2023-2024feb

March 2: Michigan 4-H Spring Livestock Workshop

Anthony Hall, East Lansing

This one-day workshop is designed for 4-H teens and volunteers in beef, sheep, goats and swine project areas. Youth will learn about different aspects of their livestock projects throughout a variety of sessions.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-spring-livestock-workshop-2024

March 6 and 9: Michigan 4-H Animal Science Skillathon

Online

This competition tests both youth and adult competitors' knowledge of market livestock, animal science, and management practices in various categories. Competitors can choose to compete during the week or on the weekend. Registration closes Feb. 29.

www.canr.msu.edu/otsego/4-h/2024-Skillathon





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



Register today for Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience!

At Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience, teens learn how to change the world for the better through engagement in Michigan's state government and public policy process. The program is scheduled for March 17-19, in Lansing. The three-day event, open to high school-aged youth, includes tours of the Michigan Capitol, interactions with state legislators, meetings with state agency staff, lobbyists and state-level experts, and learning how policy is made. During the program, youth work in small teams to draft legislation on agriculture, civil rights and youth advocacy, crime and law enforcement, education and teacher retention, environment and natural resources, health, or jobs and the economy/infrastructure.

The cost to register in 2024 is \$365, which includes meals and lodging at the Quality Inn University in Lansing. Contact your local 4-H program coordinator to inquire about local funding opportunities. Scholarships may also be available through your local Farm Bureau office. To register or learn more, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_capitol_experience/.

Make a difference for food security with World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute

As millions across the globe deal with food insecurity, the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute (WFP MIYI) offers young people an opportunity to be part of the solution. Held May 9 in East Lansing, or by participating from anywhere else using Zoom video/web conference technology, the event seeks to inspire and prepare the next generation of global leaders to end world hunger.



To participate, youth should be in grades 7-12 and register by the March 15 deadline. As part of the registration process, youth are required to prepare and submit a 2-to-5-page research paper about a developing country and one of 20 key factors that affect food security. At the event, youth present and discuss their papers with other attendees and research and industry experts. The top performing students at the WFP MIYI will be selected to attend the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute in Des Moines, Iowa, in October.

There is no cost to participate in the WFP MIYI. For more information, visit www.canr.msu.edu/wfpmiyi/.



Apply for a Michigan 4-H State Award!

Michigan 4-H true leaders ages 11 and older have an opportunity to be recognized for the great work they do in 4-H and develop their career skills by completing a state award application. A Michigan 4-H State Award is the highest honor bestowed on a Michigan 4-H member and provides an opportunity to receive recognition for their engagement in rich learning experiences that result in outstanding knowledge and life-skill development.

State award applications are divided into four categories: Mark of Excellence essay contest (11-12 years), junior state award (13-15 years), senior state award (16-19 years) and group awards (13-19 years). Each application and selection process varies, dependent on the age of the 4-H member. Additional details about the Michigan 4-H State Award process can be found at <http://bit.ly/stateaward>.

Applications are due April 1. For more information, contact your 4-H program coordinator or email Betty Jo Krosnicki at nashbett@msu.edu or Janice Zerbe at rajzerj@msu.edu.