



4-H Family News

March 2025

Kalamazoo County



Join us on
March 15th at 10AM
to learn all about
MAPLE SYRUP.



- Equipment that you use
- How to tap trees (demonstration)
- How the weather affects how the sap runs and why weather is so important to maple sugar
- The difference between maple syrup and “log cabin” (can you taste the difference?)
- How much sap does it take to make a gallon of syrup?
- How is sap turned into syrup
- What are the laws around selling/labeling syrup



We'll be meeting **10am** on **March 15th** at
CityGate Church
308 W. Milham Ave. Portage, MI 49024

RSVP Here by March 13th:

<https://forms.gle/T6vDyg1kLgK6DyTAA>

We need a minimum of 5 preregistered youth to hold the class

CONTACT US

Veronica Bolhuis
4-H Program Coordinator
(269) 383-8867
bolhuisv@msu.edu

201 W. Kalamazoo Ave.
Suite 306
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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4-H Exploration Days registration for 2025 will open on March 20th at 7:00 pm.

Check out this [list](#) of action packed sessions and career tracks!!

Review the list and pick your sessions before registration opens.

FEES SUMMARY — 4-H Exploration Days, June 18-20, 2025

\$250 Youth Participant Fee – The fee for youth to participate in 4-H Exploration Days covers meals from Wednesday lunch to Friday lunch, two nights of lodging, all event activities and a T-shirt.

\$150 Adult Participant Fee- Adults attend as support for this event as instructors and chaperones and will be assigned a variety of volunteer tasks to support the event. The fee for adults participating in 4-H Exploration Days covers meals, from Wednesday lunch to Friday lunch, two nights of lodging, all event activities and a T-shirt.

\$45 Tuesday Early Arrival Fee – This additional fee covers Tuesday lodging and Wednesday breakfast for long distance participants (primarily from Upper Peninsula).

If unable to pay the \$50 pre-payment by credit card within the registration system, please reach out to 4h.expodays@msu.edu to make arrangements prior to registering.

Fee Deadlines, Cancellations & Refunds

\$50 Pre-Payment – due upon registration which opens March 20, 2025 at 7:00 pm

- Cancellations through May 2, 2025 are fully refundable. (Pre-payment is non-refundable for cancellations after May 2.)
- Cancellations between May 3 and May 26, 2025 will receive payment minus the \$50 pre-payment.

All fees balance due by May 26th – This is the remaining balance, that includes additional fees or minus any applicable scholarship credits/coupon codes for local scholarships.

- Anyone not fully paid by May 26th will be canceled. Anyone who is canceled due to lack of full payment by May 26th is not eligible for a refund.
- Cancellations by participants after May 26th will lose \$120 of their payment(s).

Cancellations after June 15th are considered no show and refunds will not be given.

Payment Options:

- Credit/Debit Card and e-check through the registration system.
- Cash or Check through the MSU Extension county office.

Key and Access Card Replacement Fees: \$75 for keys and \$20 for access cards not returned at check-out.



EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS THROUGH 4-H
MICHIGAN 4-H EXPLORATION DAYS



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Extension



4-H EXPLORATION DAYS

📍 Michigan State University

June 18-20, 2025



Join 1,000 youth from across Michigan on MSU's campus to explore YOUR future!

Live like a college student and choose from more than 100 fun learning sessions on a variety of topics that are led by MSU faculty, 4-H staff and volunteers, and other experts! From field trips to free time activities youth will emerge themselves in this pre-college experience.

Open to all young people ages 12 to 19.

ACTIVITIES

Animal Science,
Archery, Sports
Arts, Science,
Food & Nutrition,
Horticulture,
Music and MORE!

COST

\$250.00 per a youth, includes two night lodging, meals, sessions, t-shirt and free time activities. County scholarships are available, reach out to your local county extension office for details.

LEARN MORE

Veronica Bolhuis
4-H Program
Coordinator
269-383-8830
vbolhuisv@msu.edu



https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/



There are only 3 YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) sessions left in 2025. This is a requirement for all youth, ages 8-18, who will bring livestock to the Kalamazoo County Youth Fair and Family Festival in 2025. There are two options, one of the 6 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 – 18 years old. The online version is \$12.00 but the curriculum is age specific. This certification is good for one year. There need to be a minimum of 5 youth signed up to hold a face-to-face class.

19 yr old 4-Hers are required to complete the Online Version

The face-to-face sessions will be held on the following dates and times at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center in room B:

- March 12 and 27 - 6:30 PM
- May 29 - 6:30 PM

All certificates are due to the 4-H office no later than noon on July 1, 2025

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 assure each child showing at fair is 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 need to 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 assure each child showing in the fair is 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 have received their certificate, the certificate will need to be emailed to msue.kalamazoo@msu.edu by July 1, 2025.

You can find helpful registration videos and documents here:
https://yqcaprogram.org/local/resources_for_youth_parents.php
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZHW2qtMIOc>



We are excited to share that we have a new look for our project guidelines!

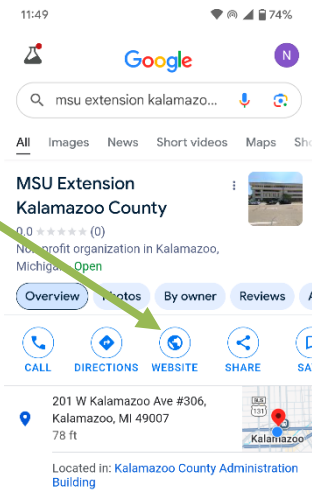
Finding the guidelines on a mobile device has some extra steps.

Below are some screenshots and directions:

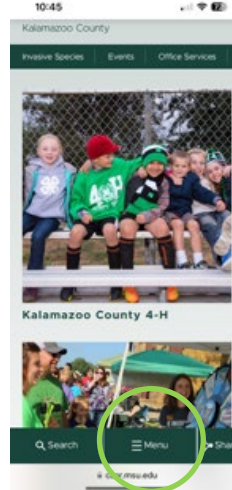
- 1 – Search MSU Extension Kalamazoo County
- 2 – Click on website <https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/index>
- 3 – Click on Kalamazoo County 4-H
- 4 - Click on menu at the bottom of your screen which will bring up the next screen
- 5 - Click on project guidelines
- 6 – Search for the project that you are looking for. Each set of guidelines is labeled to match the fair book.

For example, the member record book in the fair book is under Department 82. Educational projects.

1 & 2



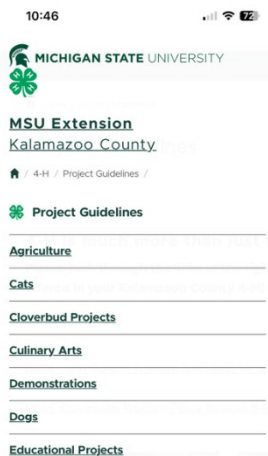
3 & 4



5



6



We are still working on updating some of the guidelines so if they don't have a green border at the top with a list of the project objectives and life skills, keep an eye out.

They will be updated soon!



YOUR 4-H NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteering can be both beneficial for the volunteer but especially for the youth involved. It creates a safe space for youth to try out new ideas, be creative, build relationships and learn what to do when things don't work out.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a 4-H volunteer to lead one of these projects, please apply online at *Become a 4-H Volunteer*. (https://www.canr.msu.edu/becoming_a_4_h_volunteer/) Your time spent as a volunteer can be as little as a few hours a year to a few hours a week.

Volunteers will need to successfully complete the Gold level MSU Extension Volunteer Selection Process at https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/volunteer_home prior to working with 4-H youth.

We currently have youth enrolled in the following projects, but do not have a gold level volunteer to work with the youth :(

- Arts & Crafts
- Calligraphy
- Cloverbud (variety of activities to introduce Cloverbuds to projects and pique their interest)
- Communication & Expressive Arts
- Creative Writing
- Dungeons & Dragons
- Drawing
- Engines/transportation/tractors/field equipment
- Fishing/Hunting
- Food & Nutrition
 - Cake decorating
 - Candy Making
 - Food Preparation
- Hunting
- Horticulture
 - Flowers/house plants
 - Fruits/vegetables
- Jewelry making
- Knitting/cross-stitch/embroidery
- Music – vocal/instrumental
- Painting
- Performing arts
- Public speaking
- Sewing/Quilting
- Wood Crafts

**SPREAD THE
WORD**



Dairy Club Update

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

Monday, March 24

Please dress for the weather.

Dairy club members: join the Kalamazoo County 4-H Dairy 4-H club Facebook page for more education/ announcements pertaining to the project. Contact Sara if you have questions





Swine Project updates

Mark your calendars –

Thursday, February 20th at 6:30 pm at the Expo Center is our first swine meeting. We will have a guest speaker at this meeting and will also be handing out county ear tags.

Also remember to complete your YQCA certification!

Wednesday, March 12th, at 6:30 pm at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center is your next chance for an in-person YQCA session. YQCA (Youth for Quality Care of Animals) certification is required annually (for all species). You should plan to attend one of the in-person training dates – **March 12, March 27, and May 29** - at the Expo Center.

Pre-registration is required at the YQCA website prior to attending [YQCA - Youth for the Quality Care of Animals](#), and the registration fee is \$3.00.





Poultry Project News

First poultry order pick ups :

Turkeys on March 25.

2025 Kalamazoo County 4-H Poultry Market Project

ALL BIRD ORDERS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO CHERIE BY SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2025

Bird Type	Current cost per bird*	Pick-up Date	Project Length	Number of birds*
Turkey	\$8.92 white \$9.50 bronze	March 25	19 weeks	_____ Bronze _____ White
Heavy Duck	\$7.00 - \$7.77 per bird	May 13	12 weeks	_____
Roaster Chicken	\$3.62 - \$4.60 per bird	May 28	10 weeks	_____ Male _____ Female
Market Duck (Pekin)	\$7.00 per bird	June 10	8 weeks	_____
Broiler Chicken	\$3.62 - \$4.60 per bird	June 17	7 weeks	_____ Male _____ Female
Cornish Chicken	\$3.62 - \$4.60 per bird	June 24	6 weeks	_____ Male _____ Female





TACK SALE

SPONSORED BY KALAMAZOO COUNTY 4-H HORSE LEADERS

MONDAY MARCH 17TH, 2024 5:00-9:00PM

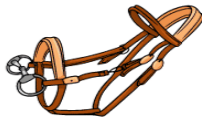
Location: Kalamazoo County Expo and Fairgrounds,
2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, MI

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.

Email inquiries to kalamazoo4horse@yahoo.com

BRIDLE



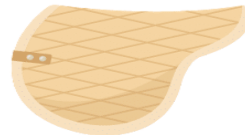
ALL PURPOSE SADDLE



TENDON BOOTS



SADDLE PAD



BANDAGES



HORSE BLANKET



EAR BONNET



WESTERN SADDLE



BELL BOOTS



DEE RING BIT



RIDING CROP





All Things Spring!

Cloverbud Fun Day

March 29

9:30 am-1 pm

**We will be at the
Kalamazoo County Expo Center
2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo**



Learn about :

Insects

Pollinators

Flowers

And more!

RSVP to

<https://forms.gle/JjXxFDhMUfUerkQ19>





Congratulations to Christian T on your 2025 State 4-H Rabbit and Cavy show wins!

1st in Breed Identification -Junior

3rd in Skillathon - Junior

7th in Rabbit Showmanship age 9

Netherland Dwarf:

- **Best of Breed**
- **Best Opposite of Breed**
- **Best Colored Fur**
- **Best Overall Fur**
- **BOV Black**
- **BOV Opal**
- **BOV Otter**
- **BOSV Otter**
- **BOV Broken**
- **BOV Himalayan**
- **BOV Orange**





Join us on March 11, 2025-

This month's 4-H Wild Spartans Series will explore **Conservation efforts in zoos with Seth Magle**, Director of the Urban Wildlife Institute at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, IL.

You'll learn about his work, and the education and career path he followed to get there.

Youth will be encouraged to ask questions to learn more through a live Q&A. This free virtual series is open to youth ages 12-19 years.

Monthly sessions will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm EST.

Pre-registration is required: https://events.anr.msu.edu/wildspartans2024_25/



Join Us Online

WILD SPARTANS

MONTHLY WILDLIFE & FISHERIES WEBINAR SERIES
FOR FAMILIES INTERESTED IN EXPLORING
SCIENCE * RESEARCH * CAREERS * CONSERVATION

October-March, 2nd Tuesday of each month | 6:30 PM EST



The **Georgia Boot Trailblazer contest** provides an opportunity for 4-H members to share their project journey with the Georgia Boot audience!

A Georgia Boot Trailblazer is a passionate and dedicated 4-H member who wants to share their project journey and accomplishments with the Georgia Boot audience! <https://www.georgiaboot.com/4-h-trailblazers/>

Winners will receive a prize package valued at \$800:

- 2 Pairs of Georgia Boots
- A \$350 Gift Card to a qualifying farm & ranch or hardware store
- Georgia Boot & 4-H Merchandise!

Fill out the application at the link below and record a short video introducing yourself to apply!!

<https://www.georgiaboot.com/4-h-trailblazers-application/>

Completed applications must be submitted by March 16th, 2025.



Auction – Start To Finish

We presented this topic at the All-Species meeting in February but thought it might be helpful to summarize the key takeaways to get ready for the livestock auction at the fair.

1. **Prior to Fair Week (May, June, July):**

- a. Invite buyers
 - i. Who are you are going to invite?
 1. The list of potential buyers is endless – family (grandparents, aunts/uncles, cousins), friends, parents’ business acquaintances or coworkers, doctor, dentist, local feed supply company, car salesman, etc.
 - ii. How do you plan to invite your buyers?
 1. This can be accomplished by writing and mailing a letter or even better taking your letter/brochure/flyer and visiting your potential buyers in person!
 - iii. What might you include within a letter/brochure/flyer?
 1. Youth information – name, years in 4-H/project, what animals you are exhibiting at the fair
 2. What have you learned in 4-H?
 3. Maybe a picture so they recognize you on the day of the auction.
 4. Auction information – date, time, location, sale order
 - iv. Other information to share with potential buyers:
 1. They can do an “add-on” if they are unable to be present at the auction. The QR code is included in the auction letter sent out closer to fair time by the MSUE 4-H Office.
 2. They could have someone come in their place with a defined budget amount to purchase an animal.
 3. What happens when you purchase an animal? There are options:
 - a. Have it processed
 - b. Resell it (sheep, beef, and swine can be resold)
 - c. Donate the animal
- b. Take and print 4x6 pictures for the auction green boards – pictures to be submitted to species superintendents. Picture should consist of clean finished animals & 4-Her in show clothes.

2. **Fair Week:**

- a. Hang up a thank you sign over your pen for the previous year’s auction buyers
- b. Reach out to your buyers to remind them of the auction and tell them how you did in the show

3. **Auction Day (August 7, 2025):**

- a. Wear show clothes – the same kind of outfit you wore on show day!
- b. Greet your buyers, thank them for coming, shake hands
- c. Get lunch with them, show them your animals
- d. After you sell in the auction:
 - i. Find out who bought your animal
 - ii. Go find them in the stands (ask others if you don’t know who they are)
 - iii. Shake their hand, say thank you, and give them a small gift of appreciation (not required but many do provide gifts)
 1. Examples of gifts:
 - a. Purchased gifts or gift baskets such as popcorn, candy, BBQ kit, candles, etc.
 - b. Homemade goods such as jam, cookies, honey
 - c. Other: customized cutting boards, tumblers, ornaments, etc.
- e. Other things to do ASAP after the auction:
 - i. Print out list of buyers with addresses after the auction at the check-out station or find the list posted in your species barn later that night Hang up new thank you signs for this year’s buyers
 - ii. Write thank you notes – due Saturday of fair week by 12noon.



Thank You Notes Guidelines:

- a. Hand-written, addressed, return-addressed, stamped, not sealed
- b. Submitted to superintendents by Saturday of fair week by 12noon
- c. Superintendents will review and mail the following week
- d. Must write thank you notes for any awards/trophies received in addition to buyer thank you's.
- e. Notes should be sincere, best handwriting, at least 3 sentences each

What does a good buyer thank you note consist of?

- a. A greeting with the buyer's name or company.
- b. An acknowledgment of the specific reason for thanks (i.e., the purchase of your project).
- c. The reason why you appreciate the buyer. For instance, they supported you and your 4-H project, have been generous to 4-H, or took time to benefit youth.
- d. How you plan to use the money from the sale (i.e., savings or to purchase next year's project, etc.)
- e. A comment or details about yourself or an update on your life. For example, you can explain how you enjoy 4-H or something you learned in your project.
- f. A repeat of your thank you.
- g. A closing and your signature (e.g., With thanks, name or Sincerely, name)





Applications are open for KRESA Career Connect's career pathway planning programs.

There are several paid opportunities for ages 14 to 24, including:



MyCITY (ages 14-24)

- Ages 14 - 15: 4-week paid career exploration, project-based learning and career pathway planning.
- Ages 16 - 24: 7-week paid internships and professional development.

CareerNOW (ages 18-24)

- Paid 8-week career exploration opportunities in the fields of Skilled Trades and Healthcare.
- Employability skills training, mentorships, career pathways development, and connections to training, employment and apprenticeships.

2GEN (Families)

- 7-week career exploration program for families (youth 14-18 + adult).
- Families explore their strengths, career interests and opportunities in the community.
- 2-hour weekly sessions with a paid stipend awarded upon completion.

Career Coaching

- Gain skills, craft a customized action plan, and overcome barriers with one-on-one personalized guidance.
- Tailored support, development of essential skills, and customized actions plans.

Learn more and apply at kresa.org/summerprograms.



Rev Up Your Future:

Careers in Automotive Performance & Evaluation

Passionate about speed, innovation, and problem-solving? Join us Thursday, March 20 at 6 p.m. ET for an exciting webinar exploring careers in automotive performance and evaluation!

- Discover cutting-edge technologies
- Learn from industry experts & young professionals
- Explore career paths & essential skills

Don't miss this chance to accelerate your future in the automotive world! Part of the Driven for the Future: Career Webinar Series sponsored by Toyota R&D

Register now and get ready to land your dream job:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/careers-in-auto-eval>

Driven for the Future Webinar Series



Rev Up Your Future: Careers in Automotive Performance and Evaluation

Thursday, March 20,
2025 at 6pm EST

Watch the whole series for an incentive!

TOYOTA MOTOR NORTH AMERICA | Research & Development

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension





4-H Future Squad- Virtual 4-H Club



What is 4-H Future Squad?

The 4-H Future Squad is a 4-H virtual club created for Michigan 4-H youth, ages 12-19 as of January 1, 2025, to learn new skills for their future. The club will meet October 2024-May 2025. 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 twice monthly along with occasional, fun, optional virtual events.

4-H Future Squad can be a primary or secondary club.

How to Join

4-H membership is free and joining 4-H Future Squad unlocks access to all 4-H benefits and programs!

Are you ready to sign up? Complete the interest form on the 4-H Future Squad website to receive more information on how to enroll in this club.

"I like the community I've met. We share some similar interests, and it's a great place to discuss topics that are important life skills, in a place with other people that care about learning also."

2023-2024 4-H Future Squad member

Contact Information:

Laurie Rivetto at
rivettoL@msu.edu,

734-727-7234

Visit the 4-H Future Squad website at:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-future-squad/>

"My favorite part of 4-H Future Squad was learning new things and meeting wonderful people."

2023-2024 4-H Future Squad member

Photo shows members of 4-H Future Squad members meeting, in person, at the 2023 4-H Exploration Days event.

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Since its founding in 2019, the National Society Descendants of American Farmers has awarded over 104,000.00 in agricultural farming scholarships to 47 students.

- Scholarship is specific to higher education students majoring in an agricultural field of study
- Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5
- A written essay is required
- A personal interview may be required
- Students may reapply each year that they are in school
 - Deadline to apply is August 1st for fall semester

If Awarded:

- Funds are paid to the accredited institution and not to the individual
- This scholarship may be accepted in addition to other awards
- Students can be part-time or full-time through each semester/quarter
- For more information, contact Joy Linn at linnranch@hotmail.com

More information and the application can be found at

<https://www.nsdoaf.com/scholarships>

Or on our website under:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/4-h-member-resources-forms



Animal U

From Iowa State University Extension

Check it out at:

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/animalu/>



ANIMAL U promotes involvement in animal agriculture and allows all youth the opportunity to increase their knowledge. It also enables more young people to become involved through accessible, straight-forward, and research-based information.

The program goals are to:

- Connect more young people to animal agriculture and promote its application to everyday life.
- Create an understanding of the relationship between animal agriculture and the science and technology that supports it.
- Promote the variety of potential careers associated with food production through real-world experiences.

Animal U is a program developed through [Iowa State University Extension and Outreach](#) and [Iowa State University Department of Animal Science](#). The program manager is [Dr. Amy Powell](#), Extension Youth Animal Science Specialist. This project is a collaboration of Extension subject matter experts, faculty members, commodity groups, and industry partners.



Community Service/Earth Day Celebration/Garden Planting Day

Growing Community Garden,
May 17,
hours to be determined (probably 10 am to 4 pm)
– RAIN OR SHINE!
Located on 2800 Gull Road, Kalamazoo



- 4-Hers, households, and garden enthusiasts will be welcome to join with other volunteers from around the community to do spring garden prepping, planting, putting down ground cover, making signs, painting, putting up plant support structures, and more at Growing Community Garden.
- A mini-Earth Day festival will draw together representatives from various organizations and agencies that can celebrate the earth, the environment, and human partnership with nature's life and rhythms.
- 4-Hers and garden enthusiasts who want to be part of a "gardening club" for the summer may register in advance and have a planning and program introduction session at a time to be determined that day. Watch for a Google sign-up document coming soon!

Growing Community Garden (GCG) is a 2.25-acre garden/orchard on the property of Sunnyside United Methodist Church. GCG is a separate non-profit 501c3 that serves as a "foraging" garden for a broad community that is food insecure. Produce is grown for those seeking fresh, organic, quality fruits and vegetable without cost or qualification.

Website: growingcommunitygardenkzoo.com

Email: GCG.Kzoo@gmail.com



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

4-H Youth in Action Program applications open



Apply now for the 2026 4-H Youth in Action Awards! Each year, the 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 March 31. Learn more and apply at <https://4-h.org/programs/4-h-youth-in-action-program/application/>.

March 3: Adulting 101 – Get It Together: Tim and Organization Tips to Thrive

Online
Learn practical tips to tackle schedules, beat procrastination and organize spaces to help you be successful now and in the future.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/get-it-together

March 11: 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 11: Wild Spartans

Online
Join 4-H staff for the "Wild Spartans" series for a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! This month's session will explore conservation efforts in zoos with Seth Magle, director of the Urban Wildlife Institute at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-monthly-wildlife-fisheries-webinar-series-march-2024-2025

March 15: Michigan 4-H Hippology Contest

East Lansing
Youth aged 5-19 are eligible to demonstrate their comprehensive equine knowledge and skills in an engaging setting.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/2025-michigan-4-h-state-hippology-contest

March 18: Mich. 4-H Volunteer Webinar - Cultivating Developmental Relationships with Youth

Online
Explore how to build impactful connections with youth through developmental relationships. 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:

- **12 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-the-heart-of-4-h-cultivating-developmental-relationships-with-youth-noon
- **7 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-the-heart-of-4-h-cultivating-developmental-relationships-with-youth-7pm

April 1: 2025 Michigan 4-H State Awards application deadline

Online
This program provides 4-H members a learning experience where they can develop career skills by using their 4-H experiences to compile a portfolio similar to a professional application while receiving recognition for their 4-H involvement.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/2025-michigan-4-h-state-awards-application-deadline





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

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

Michigan 4-H will have 10 Japanese youth and one chaperone arriving in 2025; we are looking for families interested in opening their homes and hearts by hosting these individuals. Consider sharing the clover this summer and giving a lucky Japanese youth and your family the experience of a lifetime by hosting!

The Japanese delegation is scheduled to arrive in Grand Rapids in mid-July and depart in mid-August, meeting host families for a 3.5-week stay. 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 at brinn@msu.edu.



MSU Extension launches 2025 Global Voices Essay Contest with MSU Global Youth Advancement Network

The Global Voices Essay Contest offers a platform for young people around the world to advocate for their communities and share their opinions and stories about local and national challenges. Michigan students in grades 9-12, and young adults ages 18-24, are invited to share their own stories, reflections and visions by writing and submitting a 600-900-word essay focused on community (defined as the rich tapestry of cultures, experiences and ideas that shape our state). Sub-themes for the essay contest include shared natural resources, heritage and home, bridges of unity, innovation for the future and other.

A panel of MSU, MSU Extension, and Michigan 4-H judges will review and select the winning essays, which will be published on the MSU Global Youth Advancement Network website and receive cash prizes!

The deadline for youth to submit their essay online is May 2. For more info please visit: <https://globalyouth.isp.msu.edu/programs-projects/global-voices/essay-contest/call-submissions-2/>

Michigan 4-H needs your input!

Michigan 4-H is conducting a survey to better understand the topics and educational approaches that best meet community needs. Your feedback will help us improve and enhance how Michigan 4-H serves families across the state.

Visit https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bqmeT5Dxtthvjca or scan the QR code to share your input and help shape the future of the Michigan 4-H program. If you have questions regarding this survey, please reach out to Kathy Fischer at fisch226@msu.edu.

