



December 2025

4-H Family News

Lapeer County



**Beyond
Ready**

Season's Greetings, 4-H families!

As December fills the air with twinkling lights, cozy gatherings, and joyful celebrations, our 4-H community is wrapping up the year with gratitude and plenty of holiday cheer. This season reminds us how special our members, volunteers, and families truly are—from the kindness shown through service projects to the creativity and leadership seen in every club activity. As we close out the year, we invite you to pour a warm drink, settle in, and enjoy this month's festive updates, important reminders, and a sprinkle of 4-H magic to carry you into the new year.



Looking Ahead! Save the Dates:

Craft and Vendor Show | December 13th | Deerfield Twp. Hall

Spark & Share Summit | March 7th | Frankenmuth

Exploration Days Registration Opens | March 12th

Spring Achievement | March 14th | TBD

Fundraiser Auction | April 17th and 18th | Bells Event Center

4-H Day with The Tigers | May 3rd | Comerica Park

Exploration Days | June 24th-26th | MSU Campus

Lapeer County 4-H Day Camp | July 8th-10th | Camp Lael

Eastern Michigan State Fair | July 28th – August 1st | EMSF

CONTACT US

Sarah Griffin
graversa@msu.edu
Program Coordinator

Debbie Studebaker
studebad@msu.edu
Program Coordinator

Cheryl Hall
cheryl.hall@affiliate.msu.edu
Secretary

PHONE & EMAIL:

(810) 667-0341

msue.lapeer@county.msu.edu

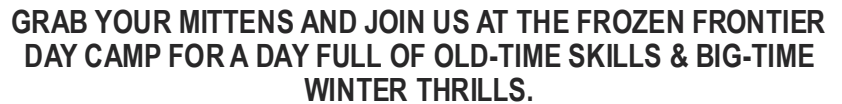
WEBSITE:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/lapeer>

Facebook: LapeerCounty4h

Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are 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. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Quentin Tyler, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned.

SAVE THE DATE FOR A WINTER DAY CAMP!



*Step back in time for a **fun-filled winter adventure** packed with pioneer-inspired activities!*

Mark your calendars — more details coming soon!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR; IT'S PAPER CLOVER TIME!

Funds support scholarships to 4-H camp and leadership activities.



4-H ONLINE CELEBRITY AUCTION



November 28 – December 3
January 2 – January 7

*If you have any questions, call the office at 810-667-0341.
Thank you for supporting Lapeer County 4-H!*



SUPPORT 4-H WHILE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

RADA KNIFE FUNDRAISER

Lapeer County 4-H Camp Committee is selling Rada Cutlery to raise money for 2026 Lapeer County 4-H Camp. Last summer, 60 youth campers and 19 teen counselors attended the 3-day camp. More than 20 local youth were able to attend through our scholarship program. When you shop using this link <https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=8906913.9bbe73>, your purchase helps support our group.

Spend \$35 and save \$5 on shipping with the code **SHIPDEAL**. Rada Cutlery is well known for their quality 100% USA Made kitchen products and great value.



JOIN THE CLOVER CROWD!

This Thanksgiving, show your gratitude for 4-H! Looking for a way to give back and celebrate the season of thanks? The Michigan 4-H specialty license plate is a simple way to support 4-H youth while showing your 4-H pride on the road.

Every plate purchased sends \$25 to support hands-on learning through Michigan 4-H. That's something to be thankful for!



Order yours today through the Michigan Secretary of State and help future generations give thanks for 4-H, too! Learn more at extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate

4-H 2025 HOLIDAY ORNAMENTS ARE AVAILABLE AT TSC!

The 2025 4-H Holiday Ornaments are here at your local [Tractor Supply Co.](#)! Each ornament you buy supports local 4-H youth—helping them build skills and experiences to be Beyond Ready for the future.

Shop today and give a gift that gives back!



YOUTH BUSINESS GUIDE TO SUCCESS AVAILABLE

Youth Business Guide to Success: Make the Most of Your 4-H Market Animal Project!

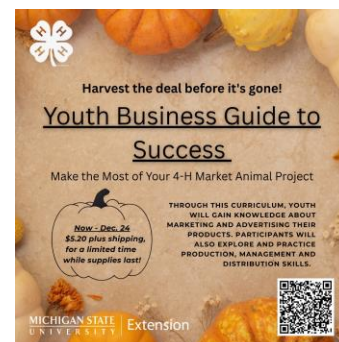
Ready to level up your 4-H project? This curriculum helps youth learn real business skills — from marketing and advertising to goal setting and budgeting.

Available Now – Dec. 24

\$5.20 + shipping (limited time while supplies last!)

Turn your market animal project into a business success story!

<https://spartanspirits.msu.edu/prod.../bulletin-4h1694...>





OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW

CASH COMPOSITION CONTEST



MSU Extension 4-H is thrilled to announce the return of the Cash Composition Contest for its 6th year! Encourage your students (ages 9–19) to unleash their creativity and take control of their financial future in the Michigan 4-H 2026 Cash Composition Contest!

By participating, they'll develop essential writing skills, gain valuable money management insights, and have a chance to win a \$100 gift card! Let's inspire a brighter tomorrow by fostering creativity, confidence, and financial literacy in our young minds!

Big thanks to our sponsor @ExtraCreditUnion

Learn more at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h.../money-smart-kids-contest>

2026 SPARK AND SHARE SUMMIT

Reignite your passion for 4-H at the 2026 Spark and Share Summit March 7th at the Bavarian Inn Lodge and Conference Center in Frankenmuth!!

4-H Volunteers and teens can register for this 1-day conference where they can learn new projects and information that they can take back to teach and share in their local 4-H program at: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/SparkShare2026/>.

Registration is \$75 and includes lunch and selection of up to 4 breakout sessions. A link to session descriptions is available through the registration page. The deadline for registration is February 9th.

Scholarships to attend may be available in some counties. Please contact your local 4-H office for information.



PLANNING AHEAD: EXPLORATION DAYS 2026



Headed to Exploration Days 2026... but need a ride?

We're looking into offering round-trip bus transportation and want to know if YOU'D use it!

Take our super quick survey and help us decide!

What's Exploration Days? A 3-day, pre-college adventure at MSU with 100+ hands-on sessions for youth ages 12–19!

Your \$250 registration includes: 2 nights of lodging, Meals, Sessions + free-time fun, and Event T-shirt (Lapeer County youth—scholarships are available!)

Survey link: <https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSceHj2AqR2.../viewform...>

Let's make the road to Exploration Days even easier!



CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Christmas is celebrated in many different places across the world, and each place has its own special way of making the holiday fun and meaningful. Some families decorate with bright lights, while others cook favorite foods, sing songs, or exchange gifts. In some countries, Christmas comes with unique characters, exciting festivals, and even surprising winter—or summer—traditions!

Learning about how other kids celebrate Christmas helps us appreciate different cultures and reminds us that even though our traditions may look different, the joy of sharing, giving, and spending time together is something everyone can enjoy. Let's explore some of the amazing Christmas traditions from around the globe!

- **Iceland:** Kids look forward to the 13 Yule Lads who leave a small gift in their shoes each night for 13 nights before Christmas.
- **Japan:** It's become a tradition for families to eat Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) on Christmas Day.
- **Philippines:** People create giant, star-shaped lanterns called "parols" to represent the star of Bethlehem and light up the streets during giant lantern festivals.
- **Australia:** Since it's summer there, many families have a barbecue on the beach or in their backyard instead of a traditional indoor meal.
- **Austria:** While St. Nicholas brings gifts to good children, a beast-like creature named Krampus punishes the naughty ones on the eve of St. Nicholas Day, December 6th.
- **Finland:** Many believe Santa Claus lives in Rovaniemi, and children can visit his village there to see his workshop and meet his reindeer.
- **Denmark:** A popular Christmas dessert is a rice pudding called risalamand with a whole almond hidden inside. Whoever finds the almond gets good luck for the new year.
- **Italy:** Children might receive gifts from both St. Nicholas and the witch La Befana on the Epiphany, January 6th.
- **France:** In some regions, people enjoy a feast of seven main courses and 13 different desserts.
- **Ethiopia:** Christmas is celebrated on January 7th, and people wear traditional white cotton wraps called shamma. They also play a game like hockey called Gena.
- **Ukraine:** Many traditions are celebrated on January 7th. A popular carol called "Carol of the Bells" was based on a Ukrainian folk chant.
- **United Kingdom:** The tradition of having a Christmas tree became popular in Victorian times. Some traditions like the Christmas cracker and mince pies also grew during this era.
- **United States:** Christmas trees became popular after a story about Queen Victoria's German Christmas tree was published in 1848.
- **Mexico:** Children often participate in the "posadas," which are re-enactments of Mary and Joseph's search for a place to stay, and they break open piñatas to get candy.
- **Spain:** Children often receive gifts on both Christmas Day and again on Epiphany, believing that different figures bring them presents on those days.



ORNAMENT WORKSHOP

UPCYCLED PRINGLE LID STAINED GLASS EFFECT ORNAMENT

These ornaments are so pretty when the lights shine on them!

Supplies Needed:

- Plastic lids – This pattern uses Pringles lids (but any will do)
- Sharpies – Fine point ones are the best
- Needle & Thread for hangers

Follow these instructions from RedTedArt:

<https://www.redtedart.com/diy-stained-glass-effect-plastic-lid-christmas-ornaments/>



PUZZLE SNOWFLAKE ORNAMENTS

These snowflake ornaments are made from puzzle pieces! I think I would add a little glitter to make them sparkle!

Supplies Needed:

- 6 small puzzle pieces (the ones with two-point bits at either end)
- Card
- Glue
- Paint, Spray Paint, Glitter
- Ribbon for hanging

Follow these instructions from RedTedArt: <https://www.redtedart.com/puzzle-pieces-crafts-snowflakes/>



YARN WRAPPED CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

These ornaments are super simple for little hands to make, and kids will be delighted at how pretty they turn out.

Supplies Needed:

- Scrap Cardboard packaging
- White Paper
- Gold Glitter Cardstock
- Gold Glitter Pipe Cleaners
- Scissors, Sticky Tape, Glue

Follow these instructions from Kids Craft

Room: <https://kidscraftroom.com/yarn-wrapped-christmas-bauble-craft/>





HOLIDAY FUN!

REINDEER CARDBOARD TUBE CRAFT

Make cute and colorful cardboard tube reindeer.

Supplies Needed:

- Cardboard tubes
- Brown paper
- Eye stickers
- Mini Pom Poms
- Jingle Bells
- Thin Red Ribbon
- Twigs
- Scissors, Glue, Sticky Tape



Find detailed instructions at: <https://kidscraftroom.com/cardboard-tube-reindeer-craft/>

Knock, knock!

Who's there?

Olive.

Olive who?

Olive the other reindeer (used to laugh and call him names)!



Holiday Playlist

- 1-Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
- 2-Frosty the Snowman
- 3-Jingle Bell Rock
- 4-Santa Claus Is Coming to Town
- 5-The Chipmunk Song (Christmas Don't Be Late)
- 6-I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas
- 7-Feliz Navidad
- 8-Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree
- 9-All I Want for Christmas Is You
- 10-You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch
- 11-Sleigh Ride
- 12-It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year



HOLIDAY FUNNIES

What kind of photos do elves take?
Elf-ies!

How does a sheep say "Merry Christmas"?
Fleece Navidad!

What does Santa use to clean his sleigh?
Comet!

What's Santa's favorite type of music?
Wrap music!

What do you call a reindeer with bad manners?
Rude-olph!

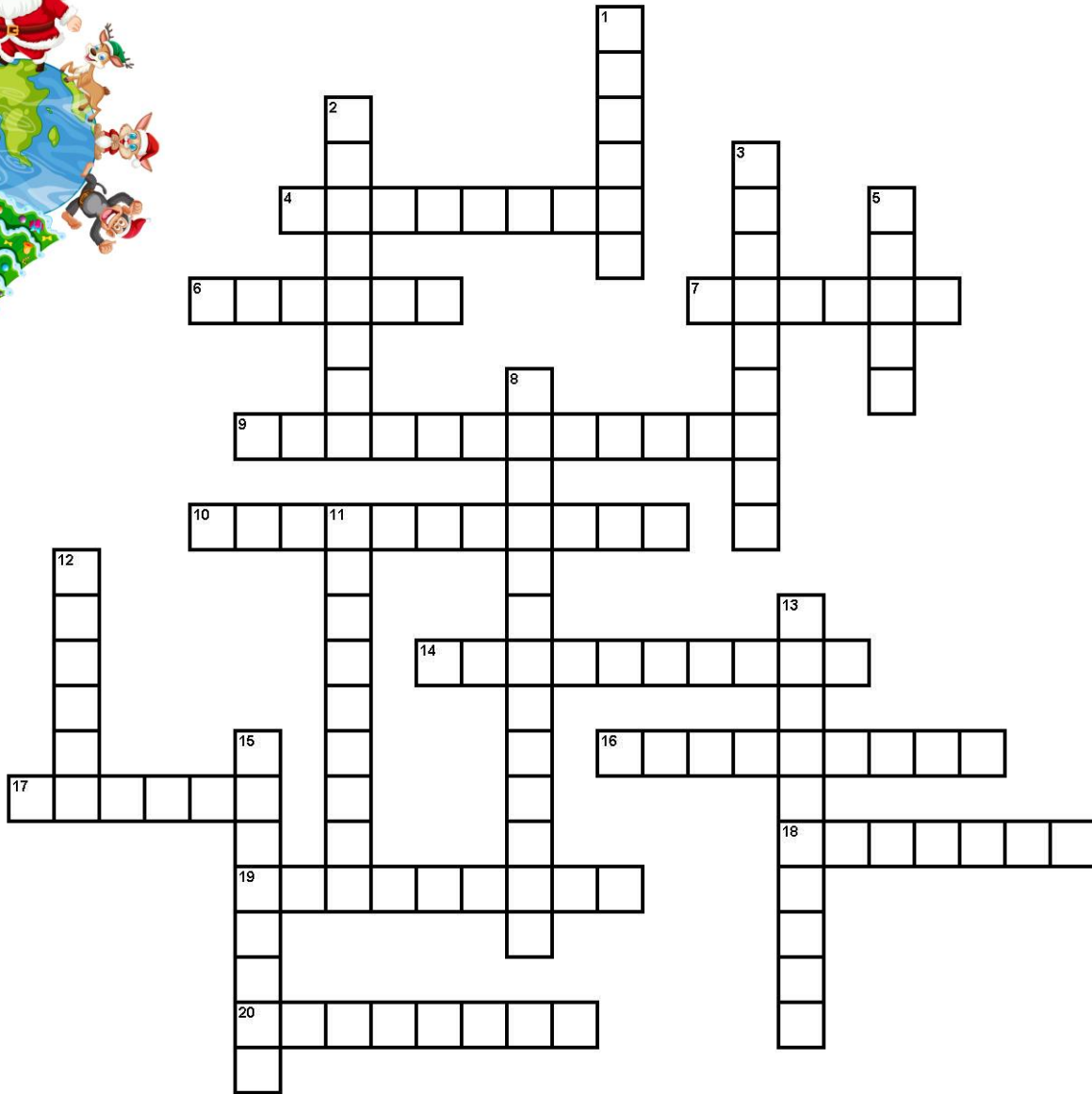
What do you call Santa when he stops moving?
Santa Pause!

What do you call a snowman with a six-pack?
An "abdominal" snowman!

Why is it so cold at Christmas?
Because it's in Decem-brrrrr!



Christmas Around the World



Across

- [4] Originated in Germany, these are hung on a Christmas tree for decoration.
- [6] Pulled by one horse, this jingles all the way.
- [7] A strange modern Christmas tradition that requires hanging this last on the tree and the first child to find it gets an extra present.
- [9] In Mexico, Merry Christmas is exclaimed this way.
- [10] In France, Merry Christmas is exclaimed this way.
- [14] This flowering winter plant is originally from Mexico.
- [16] This European dessert is soaked in spirits and served in celebration of Christmas.
- [17] Germans eat one treat each day to help countdown this time leading up to Christmas Day.
- [18] Part of an American Christmas Tale, this is the 9th animal to pull Santa's sleigh.
- [19] Originated in Germany, this was made to look like a Shepard crook.
- [20] The Star of Bethlehem led the Biblical Magi to the birth of Jesus, commonly depicted as this scene.

Down

- [1] In the United States they use these to illuminate their homes during the holidays.
- [2] This bird is a common symbol of Christmas and brings good luck throughout the year.
- [3] In the United Kingdom, this is the holiday celebrated on the day after Christmas.
- [5] The United Kingdom uses this greenery to ward off evil spirits and celebrate new growth.
- [8] In the Netherlands, children leave a shoe out in hopes to receive sweets or small presents from this man during the night.
- [11] Typically topped with a star, this type of fir is decorated in American homes at Christmas.
- [12] Hark! These sing glory to the new born king!
- [13] This festival is celebrated every year in Hong Kong and is famous for its New Year's countdown.
- [15] In Italy, children hang this by the fireplace for Befana, an old lady, to fill with presents.



County Calendar of Events

December

Exploration Days Session Proposals Due.....	12/1
EMSF Board Meeting at Fairgrounds.....	12/3: 7:00pm
Equestrian Trivia Night.....	12/5: 6:00pm
Camp Committee Meeting.....	12/9: 6:00pm
Craft and Vendor Fair Camp Fundraiser.....	12/13: 10:00am
4-H Agriquest Homeschool Club.....	12/17: 10:00am
Office Closed.....	12/24, 12/25, 12/26 12/30, 12/31

January

Office Closed.....	1/1, 1/2
Kids Night Out.....	1/2: 5:00pm
Auction Committee Meeting.....	1/6: 5:30pm
Camp Committee Meeting.....	1/13: 6:00pm
Office Closed.....	1/19
Livestock Committee Meeting.....	1/19: 6:00pm
Council Meeting.....	1/19: 7:00pm
4-H Agriquest Homeschool Club.....	1/21: 10:00am

Get Involved in Shaping the Lapeer County 4-H Program!

We're looking for passionate people (parents, adult volunteers, and youth members) to join our committees and help plan and organize 4-H events. More committee members = more amazing opportunities for our youth! If you're ready to make an impact and keep our program thriving, reach out to Sarah or Debbie, or stop by at one of the committee meetings listed above. **Let's make great things happen together!**



Lapeer County 4-H Horse Committee Presents:

Equestrian Trivia Night

**FRIDAY
DECEMBER 5TH
6:00 PM**



Lapeer County MSU
Extension

1800 Imlay City Road
Lapeer, MI 48446

Open to Youth Ages 5-19

**Current, New and
Interested Members
Welcome!**

- **Trivia**
- **Pizza**
- **Tack Swap**
- **Horse Craft**
- **2025 Horse Awards**

**Test your horse knowledge and win prizes!
Enjoy some delicious pizza!
Bring your unwanted tack and trade with others!
Make a craft to show at Spring Achievement and Fair!**

Register by
**December
1st**

Registration

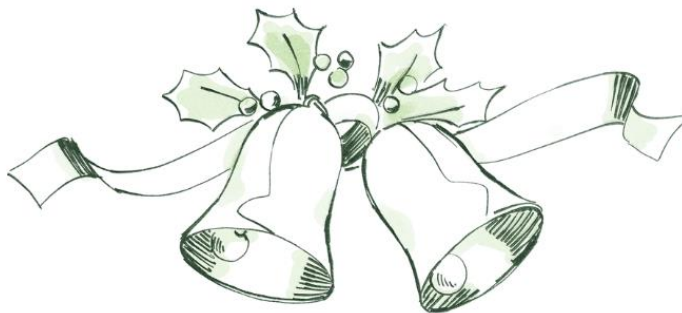


To Register or For More information Contact: (810)667-0341 or graversa@msu.edu

Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are 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. Persons with disabilities have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodations.

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting Sarah at (810)667-0341 by November 24 to make arrangements. Requests received after this date will be fulfilled when possible.

Lapeer County 4-H Camp Committee Presents



HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR CRAFT AND VENDOR FAIR

Embrace the season's spirit and discover
a treasure trove of unique handmade crafts, delightful treats, and festive joy

*Free
Admission*

December 13

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Deerfield Twp. Hall

30 E. Burnside Road
North Branch, MI 48461

*4-H
Bake Sale &
Concessions*

Vendor Spaces Available: \$25 for 8ft. Space

For more information or to obtain a vendor application, contact
Jean Kreiner at (810) 656-1532 or email kreinerjt@yahoo.com



Profits from vendor fees, bake sale, and concessions benefit Lapeer County 4-H Camp. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are 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.



Hands on with Wool



LAPEER COUNTY 4-H



Milk, Sugar, Science



Sap to Syrup

AGRIQUEST

HOMESCHOOL CLUB

CONNECT, LEARN, AND EXPLORE TOGETHER!

3RD WEDNESDAY MONTHLY @ 10AM

Agriquest is a fun-filled 4-H Special Interest (SPIN) club designed for homeschoolers ages 5–12, who love to imagine, create, and explore! Meetings will be a mix of ag-related stories, imaginative crafts, and science activities that will turn learning into an adventure.



December 17
January 21
February 18
March 18
May 20



Lapeer County MSU Extension
1800 Imlay City Road
Lapeer, MI 48446

REGISTRATION



To register your child(ren) to attend, complete the google form at <https://bit.ly/4oxJB4f> . You can also register by calling the office at (810)667-0341 or email graversa@msu.edu. Participants must enroll in Lapeer County 4-H, you will receive a link after registration to complete enrollment. (It's Free!)



Curious
Conversations



Interactive
Activities



Creative
Crafts



Real World
Connections

Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are 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. Persons with disabilities have the right to request and receive reasonable accommodations. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting Sarah at (810)667-0341 by December 7th to make arrangements. Requests received after this date will be fulfilled when possible





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Mandatory reporting guidelines for Michigan 4-H volunteers

MSU Extension has updated its mandatory [reporting guidelines](http://www.canr.msu.edu/od/civil_rights_diversity_multiculturalism/civil_rights_compliance) (www.canr.msu.edu/od/civil_rights_diversity_multiculturalism/civil_rights_compliance) to align with MSU's policy (UW-02-01). All volunteers are required to report incidents of child abuse, neglect, or misconduct promptly. Reports should be made to MSU's Office for Civil Rights (MSU OCR) and, when applicable, to Children's Protective Services (CPS)/Department of Health and Human Services. In short, volunteers should:

1. In emergencies: Call 911 immediately.
2. Child abuse/neglect: Call CPS at 855-444-3911 and file [DHS-3200](https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/adult-child-serv/abuse-neglect/childrens/mandated-reporters) (available at www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/adult-child-serv/abuse-neglect/childrens/mandated-reporters) within 72 hours.
3. All other incidents: Report to MSU OCR via online form at <https://msu.guardianconduct.com/incident-reporting/>; phone at (517) 353-3922 between the hours of 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00-5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; by mail at 408 W. Circle Dr., Suite 105, Olds Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824; or by email at ocr.isr@msu.edu.
4. Please notify your local MSU Extension staff after submitting a report.

Shop with purpose: 4-H gifts that give back

'Tis the season to spread joy and support 4-H youth while doing it! Consider the following options in your holiday shopping to make the holidays merry, bright and meaningful!



Michigan Shop 4-H Store: Buy your favorite Michigan 4-H apparel, drinkware, and essentials at the SHOP 4-H Online Store! Offered in collaboration with National 4-H Council, the Michigan 4-H store offers Michigan 4-H branded apparel and other gifts for your favorite 4-H'er, volunteer, alumni, professional or fan! A percentage of all proceeds will be donated to Michigan 4-H. Visit <https://bit.ly/30pdNJw>.

My Pottery Place: Get crafty with 4-H pottery! From mugs to ornaments, you can paint your own masterpiece while supporting youth programs—5% of every 4-H licensed pottery purchase goes to 4-H. Learn more at mypotteryplace.com/product-category/all-products/4-h/.

Mickman Brothers: Decorate your home with beautiful greenery and purpose: 15% of the proceeds from each wreath or evergreen purchased at 4hwreaths.com will benefit 4-H.

Twisted X: Step into the season with style! The Twisted X 4-H Collection has shoes for the whole family and 6% of each pair sold supports 4-H! Learn more at twistedx.com/pages/4h-collection.

Georgia Boot: Built for hard work and big dreams, Georgia Boot is a proud supporter of 4-H. Consider giving their boots, which are ready for any adventure, especially a 4-H project! Shop at georgiaboot.com.

Michigan 4-H Dog Showmanship Manual updated

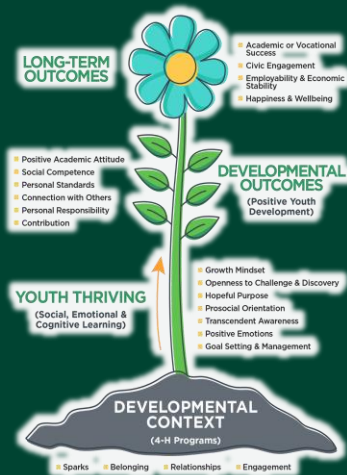
The Michigan 4-H Dog Showmanship Manual has been updated! A major update to the previous version, this guide provides the basic information needed to compete successfully in 4-H dog showmanship classes. Be sure to check out the resources section of the manual for additional useful books, websites and videos.

View the updated manual at www.canr.msu.edu/resources/michigan-4-h-dog-showmanship-manual.



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development



Have you ever been to a club meeting that starts with a roll call question? Building a sense of belonging in the 4-H community is one of four core concepts of the 4-H Thriving Model that any 4-H program can intentionally do.

We strive to build this welcoming feeling and offer kindness to help develop a sense of belonging throughout project meetings, club meetings, workshops and events offered. What better way to build a community than to find similarities among the membership?

Some of the questions are simple, some are silly, and some can get more involved depending on the purpose of the meeting. Regardless, it's a great way to get to know everyone. Contact your local 4-H staff for more information.

November 28 – December 14: Fall TSC Paper Clover Campaign

Local Tractor Supply Co.

Support 4-H by purchasing a \$1 paper clover at your local Tractor Supply Co. (TSC) store! Seventy-percent of funds raised stay in the local community where the paper clover was purchased.

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

December 2: Giving Tuesday

Online

Join the #GivingTuesday movement — a global day of giving and a chance to celebrate the opportunities that makes 4-H so extraordinary. 4-H'ers are leading the way in a world full of change and together, we can build a generation ready for anything. We have set a goal to raise \$5,000 to grow 4-H county endowments in a 24-hour period.

mi4hfdtn.org/giving-tuesday/

December 9: 4-H Wild Spartans

Online

Join 4-H staff to take a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! This month's session is "Adventures in Wildlife Medicine: From the Field to the Clinic." Meet Avery Tilley, a veterinary student at the University of Georgia. Learn about his work, and the education and career path he followed to get there. Open to youth ages 12-19.

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

December 13: 4-H Holidays Around the World Workshop – Hanukkah

Jefferson-Barns Community Vitality Center, Westland

Learn, create and celebrate the Festival of Lights! Open to all youth in grades 3–8, this hands-on workshop includes storytelling, candle-making, snacks, games and festive music. Pre-register by December 8.!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-holidays-workshop-hanukkah

December 20: 4-H Holidays Around the World Workshop – Christmas in Norway

Jefferson-Barns Community Vitality Center, Westland

Celebrate Norwegian Christmas traditions! Open to youth in grades 3–8, this hands-on workshop includes gnome-making, butter-churning and festive cookie decorating. Pre-register by December 15.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-holidays-workshop-christmas



Lapeer County 4-H
MSU Extension
1800 Inlay City Road
Lapeer, MI 48446

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY | Extension



4-H Family News

Lapeer County



Learn more about how you can grow with Lapeer County 4-H!

https://www.canr.msu.edu/lapeer/lapeer_county_4_h/

Facebook: @LapeerCounty4H



**Beyond
Ready**