



FEBRUARY 2026

4-H Family News

Leelanau County



Hello 4-H Families and Friends

I hope you are all off to an exciting start to the 2026 season. I know I am. The Leelanau Ski and Snowboard Program is already in full swing, and our upcoming 4-H Lambing Workshop is right around the corner on February 15th, with lambs being born as I write this. I look forward to continuing to grow our winter sports programming in the years ahead, and I hope you will join us to learn more about lambing and hands-on livestock care.

AND there is even more to look forward to in the coming weeks. The Northwestern Michigan 4-H Livestock Council Education Expo will take place on March 1, followed by a half-day Animal Nutrition Workshop on March 22. As we start thinking about warmer weather, I am also excited to share that the Leelanau County 4-H Babysitting Club will be returning this spring, with sessions beginning in March or April!

Thank you for your continued support of Leelanau County 4-H, and I hope to see you at our upcoming programs this season.

Best,

Danny Schaub

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Leelanau 4-H Lambing Workshop

February 15 • 12:00–4:00 P.M.

Learn through hands-on activities about:

- Ewe nutrition and care
- Stages of lambing
- Vaccinations and tagging
- Lamb care and handling
- Plus hands-on time with lambs!



Open to all youth in the region!

Sign up here:

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/leelanau4Hlambingworkshop>

4-H enrollment required:

<http://4-honline.com/>

Questions?

Email: schaubda@msu.edu

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LEELANAU COUNTY 4-H BEEKEEPING SPIN CLUB!



Want to learn more about bees and what it takes to be a beekeeper? This spin club is a great way to discover the world of honeybees!



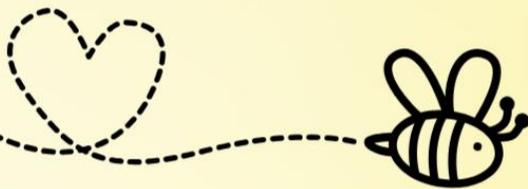
open to youth in
Leelanau
and surrounding
counties



MARCH & APRIL
DATES & TIMES TBD



CEDAR, MICHIGAN



**INTERESTED?
LET US KNOW!**

ages 10 and up



**Beyond
Ready**

Call or email
231.256.9888
pattitravioli@gmail.com

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Michigan 4-H State Awards 2026

The Michigan 4-H State Awards 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. The application process will help youth build their skills in communication, literacy, record keeping, and marketable skills. The application will require youth to reflect on their past 4-H experiences and provide thoughtful responses. 4-H State Awards recognize youth for their engagement and learning in the 4-H program, focusing on the skills they have gained; not necessarily the past achievements and awards received. Once completed, a 4-H State Awards portfolio may be a useful tool that can be referenced when completing future job, college, or scholarship applications.

This awards program recognizes 4-H youth for engaging in rich learning experiences that result in outstanding knowledge and life-skill development that prepare them to be Beyond Ready. After participating in the 4-H State Awards Program youth will:

Learn to better communicate and represent their accomplishments on professional applications, such as scholarships, college-entrance applications, résumés and cover letters for employment.

Have more experience and be better able to communicate during job interviews.

Build long-lasting friendships and establish connections with industry and academic leaders.

Be encouraged to set new goals, continue building skills and assets, and broaden interests.

The application process for individual and group award

applications will be open March 1-April 1. Find complete information about the Michigan 4-H State Awards Program including applications and instructions to begin preparing your application now

at: https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4-h-awards-and-recognition-program/youth-recognition.



States' 4-H Summer Hosting

HOST a Japanese youth and bring the richness of the world to your home!

Host a Japanese Youth in Summer 2025 with States' 4-H International

"It's like having a sister I always wanted and a best friend"
-States' 4-H Host Sibling

Open your home to an exchange student and open your lives to the world!



Hosting Details

- **July 23 - August 18, 2026**
- Host a youth aged 12-18 (majority are 12-14) or an adult chaperone
- Youth have a range of English language abilities, so host families should be prepared to communicate imaginatively
- This is a voluntary program; no stipends will be provided

Host Family Requirements

- You must have a child of the same gender who is within 4 years of the hosted youth (children aged 9+ are eligible to host)
- Families without children of the appropriate age may host an adult chaperone
- No special activities need to be planned since these youth want to experience American culture, make new friends, and improve their English by staying with your family

For more information, visit <https://www.states4hexchange.org/state-contacts/> to find contact information for your local State Coordinator

Please note: Host family selection is dependent on completion of an application and screening process, as well as student availability and personality compatibility.

States' 4-H International Exchange Programs

Host a Japanese Youth this summer!

Bring the richness of the world to your home!

APPLY TODAY!

SCAN ME

www.states4hexchange.org

THREE OPTIONS!

July 21-August 16, 2026

July 22-August 17, 2026

July 23-August 18, 2026

GALS



MICHIGAN

Girls on outdoor Adventure for Leadership and Science



Are you interested in exploring and learning science in the outdoors?

Where:

Starting and ending at
Kellogg Biological Station
Hickory Corners, MI

When:

July 25th- August 8th, 2026

Cost:

FREE

Apply here:

galsmi.weebly.com
(or scan QR code)

Apply to GALS!

GALS is a **free** summer science program for high school students to learn science hands-on while overnight camping and backpacking through the Michigan wilderness.

Through this journey, you will learn about the ecology, biology, and geology of your surroundings while honing leadership and scientific research skills.

GALS was created to increase opportunities for students who identify as female or gender nonconforming, students of color, students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, and other groups historically excluded in fields of science, technology, engineering, and math.

All are welcome to apply!





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



Participate in the 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 7 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 a three- to five-page research paper about a developing country and one of 22 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. For more information, visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/wfpmiyi/>. Registration opens February 1 and closes March 15.

Tickets now available for Michigan 4-H Day at the Breslin

Join MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H on March 1 for the 20th celebration of 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 Ohio State Buckeyes!

Those interested in attending can purchase tickets at a price of \$7.50 plus fees. This is a discounted rate available to the Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension communities; complimentary tickets are no longer available due to the rising popularity of college sports. MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H youth, volunteers, partners, stakeholders, alumni, staff and their families are all encouraged to attend.

Tickets can be purchased through a two-step process. First, guests should register at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HBreslin2026/>. Within one week, registrants will receive a custom purchase link to the email provided in registration. Attendees must then use this custom link to purchase tickets for the event. Additional ticketing information is available on the registration website. Registration will close on February 17.

Tip-off for the game is scheduled for 12 p.m. Gates to the Breslin will open at 10:30 a.m., with a variety of pre-game activities hosted by MSU Extension professionals around the concourse. Participants are encouraged to show their pride and wear green and white 4-H or MSU Extension apparel. Families for whom cost is a barrier should contact their local 4-H program coordinator.



Show your 4-H pride wherever you go!

Did you know you can make a difference for 4-H every time you hit the road? By purchasing the Michigan 4-H specialty license plate, you're not only showing your 4-H spirit—you're helping fund programs that empower young people across the state. A portion of each plate sale and renewal benefits Michigan 4-H, supporting hands-on learning experiences that help Michigan youth become beyond ready for the future.

Whether you're a current member, alumni, volunteer, or simply a proud supporter, this is an easy way to give back and keep 4-H growing strong. Ordering is simple through the Michigan Secretary of State.

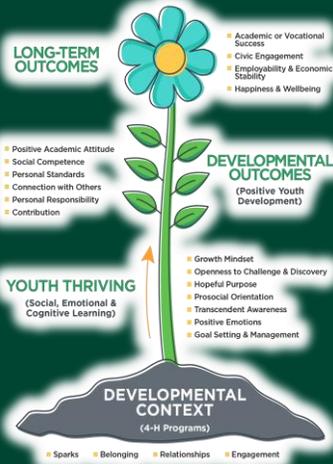


Drive your support forward—get your 4-H plate today and help create opportunities for the next generation of Michigan 4-H youth! Learn more at extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate.



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development



Building a sense of belonging in our 4-H program has been a long-standing tradition. What does this look like?

It may be a project leader, club leader, or event organizer welcoming you to each meeting or event. It may look like a “roll call” or “ice breaker” at the beginning of a meeting.

The initial welcome allows people to know that they have been seen in the room. So, the next time someone asks you a roll call question of “What’s your favorite cheese?”, know that there is a reason.

We want to get to know you. We want to hear your voice. We want the ability to start building relationships by finding likenesses among us.

Contact your local 4-H staff for more information.
#BeyondReady

February 10: 4-H Wild Spartans

Online

In this month’s session, take a walk through the woods on the wild side with “Walking a Path of Conservation.” Ask questions through a live Q&A. This free virtual series is for youth ages 12-19.

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

February 11: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series: Building Belonging – Teambuilding Strategies for Stronger 4-H Experiences

Online

Teambuilding isn’t just an activity—it’s a pathway to deeper belonging and higher engagement in 4-H. This webinar will show volunteers how simple team-building practices can help youth feel included, communicate effectively, work together, and grow their leadership skills.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-building-belonging-teambuilding-strategies-for-stronger-4-h-experiences

February 11: Avoiding Money Mishaps

Online

This webinar will focus on how youth can protect themselves from fraud, scams, identity theft and predatory lending.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/avoiding-money-mishaps-feb11

February 11: 4-H Chef Tasty Dog Treats

Lenawee MSU Extension Demo Kitchen, Adrian

Youth ages 5-11 will prepare delicious treats to bake at home for your dog. Ages 5-7 need adult helper. Registration deadline is February 7.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-chef-tasty-dog-treats

February 19 –March 26: Online Guiding Principles for Highly Successful Parenting Webinar Series

Online

Guiding Principles is a FREE online course for parents of toddlers to teens to learn strategies for helping children, parents and families be successful.

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

February 19: Ace the Interview: Skill Building and Practice for Teens

Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office, Ann Arbor

This free workshop will help youth (ages 12-19) confidently handle interview experiences with tips and hands-on practice. Any teen is welcome to attend! Registration deadline is February 17.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/ace-the-interview-skill-building-and-practice-for-teens

