



# 4-H Family News

## Oakland County



### Discovery Day

## 4-H DISCOVERY DAY 2026

**Saturday, April 25, 2026 | 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Springfield Oaks County Park  
12451 Andersonville Road.  
Davisburg, MI 48350

JOIN US FOR A FREE FAMILY EVENT!

- ★ Educational, hands-on crafts and activities
- ★ Live animal presentations
- ★ Learn about free 4-H Club opportunities for youth and exhibiting at Oakland County Fair

All activities provided by local organizations and 4-H Clubs!  
Concessions will be available for purchase.

Contact: Lisa Mazzola, [mazzolal@msu.edu](mailto:mazzolal@msu.edu), 248-858-0892.



Get ready for a **FREE, fun-filled family event you won't want to miss!** 🎉

Join us for exciting games, live animal presentations, and hands-on activities for all ages. It's the perfect chance to explore everything 4-H has to offer—learn how to join, get involved, and even exhibit at the Oakland County Fair!

Grab a snack from the concessions and enjoy one of our **most popular events of the year** with family and friends.

We can't wait to see you there!



**April 25, 2026**



**10 AM – 2 PM**



**Springfield Oaks County Park**

12451 Andersonville Rd, Davisburg, MI 48350  
Contact Lisa Mazzola at [mazzolal@msu.edu](mailto:mazzolal@msu.edu).

## CONTACT US

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## WEBSITE:

[Canr.msu.edu/oakland/4-h/](http://Canr.msu.edu/oakland/4-h/)

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## Tractor Supply Event

Huge thank you to the Oakland County Livestock 4-H Club and their incredible leader, Renee Roos, for representing 4-H in such a fantastic way! They did an amazing job showcasing their club at a recent Tractor Supply event in Ortonville—we truly appreciate their time, energy, and enthusiasm in promoting 4-H to the community.

Interested in getting involved? We'd love to see more clubs participate! Please reach out to Lisa Mazzola ([mazzolal@msu.edu](mailto:mazzolal@msu.edu)) if your club would like to host a booth at a Tractor Supply near you. Whether it's a few members from one club or a collaboration between multiple clubs, it's a great opportunity to share the 4-H experience and connect with your community!



## Exploration Days 2026

Exploration Days is **June 24-26, 2026!** Live like a college student while exploring careers, building skills, and envisioning your future. This three-day pre-college program offers over 100 fun learning sessions across MSU campus led by MSU faculty, 4-H staff, and experts. Ages 12-19. Cost \$250. Scholarships are available. **Registration closes on April 17, 2026.** Don't wait until the deadline though, because popular sessions fill up fast!

Orientation for Exploration Days is **MANDATORY** and will be held on **April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 6 pm-8 pm** at the Executive Office building, **2100 Pontiac Lake Rd, Waterford Township, MI.**

Questions? Contact Cheyenne Shields at [shield69@msu.edu](mailto:shield69@msu.edu). [More information here!](#)



## Detroit Tigers



Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at **Comerica Park** to watch the **Detroit Tigers** take on the Miami Marlins on Sunday, April 12! Receive a co-branded Michigan 4-H and Detroit Tigers bucket hat and make a donation to 4-H with your ticket.

To purchase tickets, visit <https://www.gofevo.com/event/Michigan4H26>.

## State Horse Judging Contest

Michigan 4-H and FFA State Horse Judging Contest

**When:** Saturday, April 11, 2026

**Where:** Farm Bureau Pavilion at Michigan State University

**Who:** 4-H or FFA Youths, aged 5-19, with an interest in Horse Evaluation

Come build your animal evaluation skills and public speaking skills and join us for the 2026 Michigan 4-H and FFA State Horse Judging Contest!

Register here: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/MI4HHORSEJUDGING26/>

**2026 Michigan 4-H and FFA State Horse Judging Contest**

Saturday, April 11, 2026  
Farm Bureau Pavilion at Michigan State University  
Contest starts at 9:00 a.m.

**New Class Schedule**

- Class #1:** Performance - Place 4-H Only
- Class #2:** Performance - Place 4-H Only
- Class #3:** Performance - Place and Questions (4-H and FFA)
- Class #4:** Performance - Place and Reasons (All but Jr. Novice)
- Class #5:** Halter - Place and Questions (All but FFA)
- Class #6:** Halter - Place and Questions (ALL contestants)
- Class #7:** Halter - Place and Reasons (ALL contestants)
- Class #8:** Halter - Place for all (Reasons for Sr. Regular Only)

**Beyond Ready** MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Register now at:  
<https://events.anr.msu.edu/MI4HHORSEJUDGING26/>  
Questions? Email David at [lindsa75@msu.edu](mailto:lindsa75@msu.edu)

## Rabbit & Cavy Showmanship Clinic

**Oakland County 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Showmanship Clinic**

**April 18, 2026**  
Springfield Oaks County Park

Open to beginner through advanced participants, this clinic offers live judge feedback and instruction focused on showmanship, along with animal health, grooming, and record keeping.

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS | MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

### Oakland County 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Showmanship Clinic

📅 April 18 | 11:00 AM–1:00 PM

📍 Springfield Oaks County Park

Open to beginner through advanced participants, this clinic provides live judge feedback and instruction to help youth build confidence in showmanship. Topics will also include animal health, grooming, and record keeping.

💰 Cost:

- \$5 prior to March 18
- \$10 after March 18

Register: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/RabbitCavySMS/>

Contact Jordan w/ Questions: [Hewittj8@msu.edu](mailto:Hewittj8@msu.edu)

## New 4-H Trail Riding Recognition Program

**NEW STATEWIDE 4-H TRAIL RIDING RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

Michigan 4-H is launching a new Statewide 4-H Trail Riding Recognition Program to celebrate youth who participate in trail riding as part of their 4-H horse project.

Trail riding helps youth build:

- ✓ Rider Safety
- ✓ Horse and Rider Bond
- ✓ Rider Confidence

Now those miles earn statewide recognition!

- ✓ Open to all enrolled Michigan 4-H horse project members
- ✓ Top 5 Junior & Top 5 Senior riders recognized at the Michigan 4-H State Horse Show

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

We're excited to launch the **Michigan Statewide 4-H Trail Riding Recognition Program**. If you're enrolled in a Michigan 4-H horse project, you can participate by logging your trail rides completed between August 1 and July 31.

Whether you enjoy quiet wooded paths or group trail adventures, every mile counts. The top five Junior and top five Senior riders will be recognized at the Michigan 4-H State Horse Show. Start logging your rides today and be part of this statewide celebration of trail riding:

[https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bOyn5zWORdTsYfY](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bOyn5zWORdTsYfY)

Questions? Contact Jordan at [hewittj8@msu.edu](mailto:hewittj8@msu.edu) or David at [lindsa75@msu.edu](mailto:lindsa75@msu.edu).

## Mark Of Excellence

This is a great opportunity for youth to showcase their growth and reflect on what it means to be “Beyond Ready!”

### How to Participate:

Youth may submit **either**

a short video **or**

a brief journal reflection focused on the theme “Beyond Ready!”

### Who Can Participate:

✓ Youth who are **10 or 11 years old as of January 1, 2026**

☀️ Winners will receive a certificate and medal, be featured on Michigan 4-H digital platforms, and earn a special award at Oakland County’s annual awards ceremony.. ☀️

Submit to Cheyenne Shields, [shield69@msu.edu](mailto:shield69@msu.edu) by **May 1, 2026**.



## Michigan State Hippology Contest

### 2026 Michigan 4-H State Hippology Contest

**Where:** Farm Bureau Pavilion at Michigan State University

**When:** Sunday, April 12, 2026

**Who:** Michigan 4-H Youths, aged 5-19, interested in everything horses!

Put your knowledge to the test and join us for the 2026 Michigan 4-H State Hippology Contest!

Register here: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/MI4HHIPPOLOGY26/>



## Open Your Heart and Home This Summer!



Invite an international youth into your home for three and a half weeks and share an American experience. Expand your family’s cultural understanding, learn about new foods and customs, and possibly learn a new language while sharing your own. Your children will build lifelong friendships and gain new perspectives on their country, too!

2026 Online Applications to host can be found at:  
<https://www.states4hexchange.org/apply/host/>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Janis Brinn at [brinn@msu.edu](mailto:brinn@msu.edu) or visit the States 4-H International Exchange Programs website: <http://www.states4hexchange.org> or Email: [exchange@states4h.org](mailto:exchange@states4h.org)



# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Building awareness in 4-H experiences**



**Beyond Ready**

Helping young people understand that they are part of 4-H and what that means is a key part of strengthening their overall experience. Awareness builds pride, connection and a sense of belonging.

As volunteers, you play an essential role in helping youth and families recognize when they are participating in 4-H and how activities connect to the values and learning within the program.

Simple, intentional steps can make a big difference.

- Have the 4-H flag and recite the 4-H pledge.
- Use the 4-H clover on handouts and materials when possible.
- Make clear connections between activities and one of the four Hs.

These actions help youth see themselves as true 4-H members engaged in meaningful learning.

#BeyondReady

**April 1-21: Smart Money Missions Goosechase Game**

*Online (Goosechase App)*

Join an interactive scavenger hunt game designed for youth to learn essential money management skills while having fun. Players age 13-19 complete creative missions, answer trivia and solve puzzles, all while earning points to climb the leaderboard.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/smart-money-missions](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/smart-money-missions)

**April 12: Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers**

*Comerica Park, Detroit*

Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at the ballpark as the Detroit Tigers take on the Miami Marlins on Sunday, April 12. Michigan 4-H will be honored as the Group Charity of the Game.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers)

**April 13: Adulting 101 – Eat Smart: Meals on a Budget**

*Online*

Simple tips to plan meals that save money and taste great. Plus learn how to cook once and eat twice!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-eat-smart](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-eat-smart)

**April 17 – May 3: Spring TSC Paper Clover Campaign**

*Tractor Supply Stores everywhere*

Support 4-H by purchasing a \$1 paper clover at your local Tractor Supply Co. (TSC) store!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/spring-tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/spring-tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign)

**April 21: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project – Goal Getters**

*Online*

Learn how to set SMART goals to enhance your livestock marketing success. Youth will learn practical strategies to develop a goal, stay focused and achieve it.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar4-21](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar4-21)

**April 22: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Let’s Talk it Out: Handling Conflict with Ease**

*Online*

Conflict happens—even to the best volunteer groups. Learn how to handle tough conversations without the stress. Pick up practical tips for turning disagreements into productive dialogue and keeping your volunteer experience positive and drama-free.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-let-s-talk-it-out-handling-conflict-with-ease](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-let-s-talk-it-out-handling-conflict-with-ease)

**April 28: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project – Talk the Talk**

*Online*

Effective communication is key to successfully selling livestock. Learn tools and techniques to connect with buyers, convey product value and empower youth with tips for impactful auctions and markets.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinars-april-28](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinars-april-28)





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## Registration open for 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp

4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp mixes summer fun and hands-on science education. The camp will be held July 26 – August 1 on the shores of Lake Esau at Camp Chickagami in Presque Isle and is open to youth ages 13-15 during camp.

During this enriching MSU Extension educational program, campers will increase their science literacy and stewardship as they learn from natural resource experts in fields such as Great Lakes coastal and fisheries management, limnology, wildlife, forestry, geography, geology and environmental education. In addition to hands-on learning, attendees also enjoy exciting natural resources recreation activities such as kayaking, swimming, sailing, archery, fishing, snorkeling, evening campfires and more!



Registration is now open! The registration fee is \$550 and includes six nights of lodging, all meals and snacks, a t-shirt and program and activity costs. Space is limited to 70 campers so register today. For more information and to register, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_great\\_lakes\\_natural\\_resources\\_camp/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_great_lakes_natural_resources_camp/).



## Register for 4-H Exploration Days!

Join 1,000 youth from across Michigan on MSU's campus to explore YOUR future! This three-day pre-college program is designed to help you explore careers, build skills and envision your future. 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. You'll stay in and eat at MSU residence halls, attend sessions in buildings throughout campus, and of course have fun at free-time activities across the university!

4-H Exploration days will be held June 24-26 at MSU in East Lansing. Young people ages 12 to 19 are invited to join the fun! The cost for the 2026 event is \$250, which includes two nights' lodging in a residence hall, meals, learning sessions, an event t-shirt and free-time activities. Contact your local MSU Extension office to find out if your county 4-H program offers scholarships for youth participants.

Registration is open and closes April 17. You'll want to register soon – sessions fill up fast and are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis! For registration links or more information, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_exploration\\_days/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/).

## Purple up for military families!

April is the Month of the Military Child, an annual awareness campaign that recognizes the sacrifices made by military families and their children. In partnership with many others across the United States, Michigan 4-H Military Partnerships is participating in the annual "Purple Up!" Day event. To show your support of children whose parents are serving in the military, MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H are asking residents throughout Michigan to Purple Up! on April 15.

The color purple is chosen as the signature color because it symbolizes all branches of the military. It is a combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue. Michigan 4-H Military Partnerships hopes everyone will take this opportunity to appreciate and celebrate all of our state's young heroes strength and sacrifice as their parents serve. Let's show our military families how much we appreciate their service by encouraging everyone to Purple Up!



Looking for more ways to celebrate Month of the Military Child? Visit [www.4-hmilitarypartnership.org/month-of-the-military-child.html](http://www.4-hmilitarypartnership.org/month-of-the-military-child.html). For more programs and resources available to military families through Michigan 4-H, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/4h\\_military\\_families](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4h_military_families).