



4-H Family News

Oakland County



Youth Program Leader Call

For the Love of Pontiac Youth

Youth Program Leader Call

Tuesday, February 17th
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Join us in-person or online Zoom

All Saints Church
171 W. Pike Street
Pontiac

Please join us for information about Youth Program Leader volunteer opportunities!

Please RSVP here
by February 11th

For more information or questions,
Contact: Lisa Mazzola at mazzola@msu.edu,
248-858-0892

Bound Together

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension

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.

♥ For the Love of Pontiac Youth ♥

Interested in making a difference in the lives of local youth?
Join us for a **Youth Program Leader Call** to learn about volunteer opportunities and how you can get involved!

Tuesday, February 17
 5:30–6:30 PM
 All Saints Church, Pontiac
 Attend in person or via Zoom

This is a great opportunity to connect, ask questions, and see how you can help support youth programs in our community.

👉 **Please RSVP by February 11**
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QHW26SS>

📧 Questions? Contact **Lisa Mazzola** at mazzola@msu.edu or **248-858-0892**

CONTACT US

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Canr.msu.edu/oakland/4-h/

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2026 Spark and Share Summit

Registration for the **2026 Spark and Share Summit** is now open! The summit will be held on **March 7, 2026**, at the **Bavarian Inn Lodge and Conference Center in Frankenmuth**. Registration is **open statewide** to 4-H volunteers and teen leaders. Please share this opportunity within your county.

Open to **volunteers, teen leaders, youth members, and parents**, this one-day summit includes **lunch and your choice of up to four breakout sessions** designed to inspire and spark creativity.

\$ \$75 per person

1 Register by **February 9th**

👉 <https://events.anr.msu.edu/SparkShare2026/>

Michigan 4-H
SPARK & SHARE SUMMIT
Bavarian Inn Lodge and Conference Center
Frankenmuth, MI
March 7, 2026
10:00am
\$75 per person
Includes Lunch
Session Topics:
• Ag in the Classroom • Learn to Lincot • Animal Nutrition Basics
• Garden Inspired Art • Scratch Coding • Big Dreams and Future Careers
• Running Livestock Shows • Self Publishing • Making Yarn on a Drop Spindle
...And More!
REGISTER NOW <https://events.anr.msu.edu/SparkShare2026/>
Registration closes February 9th.
Ask your County 4-H Program Coordinator about availability of conference scholarships.
Join us for a day full of fun, exploring, learning, and sharing.

Oakland County Tack & Craft Sale

**Oakland County
4H TACK SALE**
SATURDAY, FEB 21, 2026
Oakview Middle School
Oakland Township, MI
10am - 2 pm
Details in the comments
Hope to see you there!

Come shop with us for one of a kind unique gifts!!!!

Several new & used vendors!

Admission \$3

Saturday, February 21, 2026

10am -2pm

Oakview Middle School

917 Lake George, Oakland Township, MI 48363

For table reservation or more info, please contact: Michele Honomichl at ochcouncil@gmail.com. Registration must be received by 2/13.

****Hosted by Oakland County 4-H Horse Council****

Livestock Skillathon Practice Sessions

**CALLING ALL 4-H
LIVESTOCK YOUTH!**
Join us for **Livestock Skillathon Practice Sessions** - quick, fun and hands-on learning to help you prepare for contests, fairs and showmanship!
• FREE
• 4 Weeks
• 30-minute sessions
• Join on Zoom
Each week we'll focus on key skills like breeds and ID, equipment, feed and nutrition and quality assurance.
Open to all 4-H youth - beginner to experienced
Beef • Sheep • Swine • Goats • Rabbits • Poultry
To register, email Jordan Hewitt at hewittj8@msu.edu
Let's learn, practice and grow together!
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension
OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS
OaklandCountyParks.com

Join us for 4 weeks of Livestock Skillathon Practice Sessions—quick, fun, and hands-on learning to help you **prepare for contests, fairs, and showmanship!**

1 4 Weeks

🕒 30-minute sessions

💻 Via Zoom

Each week we'll focus on key skills like breeds & ID, equipment, feed & nutrition, and quality assurance.

👉 Open to all 4-H youth and leaders beginner to experienced

👉 Beef • Sheep • Swine • Goats • Rabbits • Poultry

📌 Registration link: <https://forms.gle/XarnxtGBChAfzqYV7>

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 by May 1, 2026.



Discovery Day – April 25, 2026

Join us for fun games, live animal presentations, and hands-on activities for all ages! Learn about joining 4-H and exhibiting at the Oakland County Fair. Concessions available. Don’t miss one of our most popular events of the year!

Registration for your club to host a booth coming soon!

 April 25, 2026

 10 AM – 2 PM

 Springfield Oaks County Park

12451 Andersonville Rd, Davisburg, MI 48350

Contact Lisa Mazzola at mazzolal@msu.edu.

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 or visit the States 4-H International Exchange Programs website: <http://www.states4hexchange.org> or Email: exchange@states4h.org

☀️ Huge **Congratulations to Ryder D and Bethany J. for being** selected by States’ 4-H International Exchange Programs and MI 4-H as a delegate in the **2026 Japan 4-Week Program** Summer Outbound Exchange. The confirmed program dates are **July 8 – August 7, 2026.**

Hippology Workshop

 Oakland County 4-H Hippology Workshop 

Join us for a low-key, hands-on Hippology Workshop on **Friday, February 7 at Springfield Oaks Park from Noon–2:00 PM!**

This workshop is open to 4-H youth and volunteers and is perfect for anyone looking to build skills, learn the basics, or brush up on hippology knowledge in a relaxed, supportive environment. No pressure, just learning, practicing, and asking questions.

 February 7

 Noon–2:00 PM

 Springfield Oaks Park

Click this link to [register](#).



4-H HIPPOLOGY WORKSHOP

February 7, 2026
12 - 2 PM
Springfield Oaks County Park
12451 Andersonville Rd, Springfield Twp MI 48350

Calling all horse-loving 4-H youth and leaders! 🐾

Join the Oakland County 4-H Hippology Workshop to build skills in horse science, management, and judging. Perfect for contest prep or expanding horse knowledge—all experience levels welcome!

Adult leaders and volunteers are welcome to attend and participate as well.

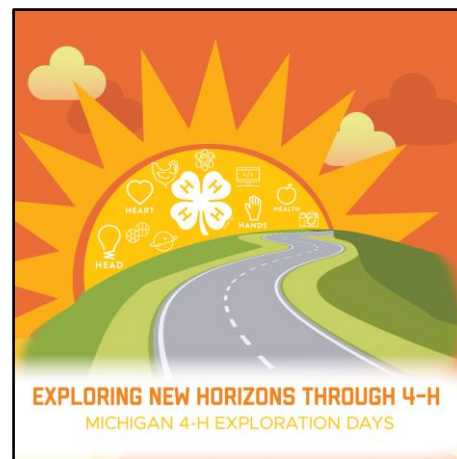
Contact: **Jordan Hewitt**, hewittj8@msu.edu, 248-347-3860 ext. 279

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Exploration Days 2026

Save the date for Exploration Days 2026! **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. More information to come soon! Questions? Contact Cheyenne Shields at shield69@msu.edu.

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



4-H Teens as Teachers Healthy Living Program

Now Enrolling: 4-H Teens as Teachers Healthy Living Program!

Michigan youth ages **13–19** can now register for the **2024 4-H Teens as Teachers: Healthy Living Program**—a free leadership opportunity where teens learn to teach younger youth about mental wellness, fitness, and healthy decision-making. Participants receive a **scholarship to MSU 4-H Exploration Days**, a **\$100 stipend**, training, materials, and ongoing support.

Registration deadline: April 15 (space is limited).

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



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

JOIN THE MICHIGAN 4-H

TEENS AS TEACHERS

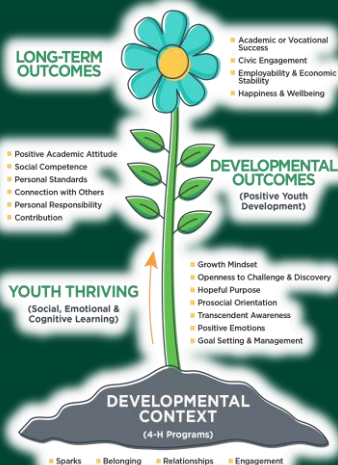
HEALTHY LIVING PROGRAM

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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



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/wfpmyi/>. 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.