



FEB/MAR 2026

# 4-H Family News

St. Joseph County



## 4-H Families and Volunteers,

As we look forward to warmer days ahead, we can also look forward to getting back into 4-H mode. Before you know it, it'll be time for tagging days, summer workouts, pre-fair meetings, and more! In the meantime, begin working on still projects and encourage your friends to join 4-H before May 1st.

Do you know someone who would be a great 4-H volunteer? Have them contact the MSU Extension Office for information about the Volunteer Selection Process.

One thing is certain: preparations are in full swing for the 2026 program year and fair season! We hope you are excited for some exciting new opportunities!

Sincerely,

Kayla Mitchell

4-H Program Coordinator

**It's not too late for your friends to enroll in 4-H for 2026!**

**New enrollment ends May 1st.**



Visit [v2.4honline.com](https://v2.4honline.com) to complete your enrollment today! New members are welcome and encouraged to join!

## CONTACT US

Kayla Mitchell  
4-H Program Coordinator

Carma Johnson  
Secretary I

Jackie Brazo  
Program Aide

612 E Main St.  
Centreville, Michigan 49032

## PHONE & EMAIL:

(269) 467 - 5511

[msue.stjoseph@msu.edu](mailto:msue.stjoseph@msu.edu)

## WEBSITE:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/st\\_joseph](https://www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph)

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# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## 2026 Summer 4-H Camp Counselors Needed!



### Summer 4-H Camp is set for June 8-10!

We are looking for Camp Counselors-In-Training ages 13-15, and Camp Counselors ages 16-19 to help us plan and implement Summer 4-H Camp for campers 8-12 years old.

Please **review the Camp Counselor Cover Letter** for more information and complete the application by **Friday, February 27** if you are interested! Forms can be found on our website [https://www.canr.msu.edu/st\\_joseph/4-h/4-h-youth-council](https://www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4-h-youth-council).

## Cloverbud Day Camp

On Saturday, **May 9, 2026**, we will be hosting Cloverbuds at Amigo Centre for a taste of what Summer 4-H Camp is like. Stay tuned for more information!



## Ice Cream and Awards

Join your fellow 4-H'ers on Sunday, March 15 at 2:00 p.m. in the Centreville Elementary Gym for an ice cream social to recognize the 2025 County Award winners!



## 2025-2026 Enrollment



**Enrollment** is open! To re-enroll or enroll a new member, go to <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>.

New members have until May 1 to enroll. However, if a project they are interested in has already started, they will have to wait until the next program year to participate in that particular project.

**Emails will only be sent to those enrolled for 2025-2026!**



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS



## To Make The Best Better

If someone you know is interested in becoming a **St. Joseph County 4-H Volunteer**, please have them email Kayla at [mitch704@msu.edu](mailto:mitch704@msu.edu) and she will help them get started with the Volunteer Selection Process.

*There is more than just enrolling in 4-H Online.*

## Keep Up to Date with the Latest Events

Don't forget to **join our group on Facebook**, *St. Joseph County, Michigan 4-H*, to stay up-to-date on information as quickly as possible and receive friendly reminders <https://www.facebook.com/groups/909365369137222>.



## 2026 Fair Book Theme and Cover Contest

Are you artistic? Do you enjoy drawing? Are you a wizard on the computer? Showcase your skills! We want YOU to design our 8.5x11" 2026 4-H, FFA, & Other Youth Fair Book cover. "Celebrating 175 Years" will be the theme used for 4-H Club Displays in 2026. Please have your submissions uploaded here [https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eqU5gqhakl6YUU6](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eqU5gqhakl6YUU6), delivered to the MSU Extension office, or emailed to Kayla at [mitch704@msu.edu](mailto:mitch704@msu.edu) by **February 28**.

## 4-H Event Scholarships

The SJC 4-H Youth Council offers scholarships to attend county, statewide, and national 4-H workshops, clinics, events, and camps. Event scholarship applications can be found on our website: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/st\\_joseph/4-h/4-h-youth-council](https://www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4-h-youth-council).





# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## New Assistant Superintendent Positions NOW OPEN!

We have added and are now in the process of filling several new Assistant Superintendent Positions:

- two (2) Assistant Beef/Dairy Beef Superintendents
- one (1) Assistant Sheep Superintendent
- one (1) Assistant Poultry Superintendent



If you are interested in a position, email Kayla at [mitch704@msu.edu](mailto:mitch704@msu.edu) by **Friday, February 27**. Interviews will be held in person at the MSU Extension office on the evening of Thursday, March 12.

## Meet the New Swine Team!

## Meet the New Rabbit Team!

MEET *the team*



KEVIN YEAGER  
*Superintendent*



BRADY LITTLEFIELD  
*Assistant Superintendent*



RICK GOULD  
*Assistant Superintendent*



COLLIN KEESLAR  
*Assistant Superintendent*



CHARLEE KYLE  
*Assistant Superintendent*

MEET *the team*



NANCY MANGUS  
*Superintendent*



KALEY THORNBURGH  
*Assistant Superintendent*



JENNIFER BROOKS  
*Assistant Superintendent*



MAKENNA HENDERSON  
*Assistant Superintendent*



SYDNEY KIRBY  
*Assistant Superintendent*

Congratulations and welcome to the new superintendents!



# COUNTY 4-H NEWS

## 4-H Hunter Safety Education Course

4-H Hunter Safety course coming in May!

Whether you need it to join 4-H Shooting Sports, want to practice gun safety, or need it to go hunting - we've got you covered!

This is a 4-H youth-only event sponsored by St. Joseph County 4-H in partnership with the St. Joseph County Conservation & Sportsman Club.

Save the dates **May 28-30** in your calendar and be on the lookout for more information coming soon!



## 2026 Important Livestock Dates to Save

- Saturday, March 21, 9:00-10:30 a.m., Beef Tagging, Fairgrounds Barn #31
- Saturday, April 11, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon, Coggins Clinic, Fairgrounds
- Saturday, May 23, Turkey Hatch Date
- Tuesday and Thursday, June 2 & 4, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Dairy Feeder Steer (barn #31), Sheep (barn #25), Goat (barn #22) Tagging, Fairgrounds
- Wednesday and Thursday, June 3 & 4, 5:00-7:30 p.m., Swine Tagging, Fairgrounds Barn #53
- Sunday and Monday, July 19 & 20, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Turkey Tagging/Vaccination, Fairgrounds Barn #27
- Saturday, August 1, Chicken Hatch Date
- Sunday, August 9, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Rabbit Tattooing, Fairgrounds Barn #35
- Wednesday, August 12, 5:00-7:00 p.m. Rabbit Tattooing, Fairgrounds Barn #35
- Sunday and Monday, August 23 & 24, 4:00-7:00 p.m., Chicken Tagging, Fairgrounds Barn #28
- **REMINDER:** All species have project information letters with important dates and information; posted on our website [https://www.canr.msu.edu/st\\_joseph/4-h/4\\_h\\_livestock](https://www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/4-h/4_h_livestock)





# COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Camp Counselor Applications Due .....	Date: 2.27.26
Assistant Superintendent Interest Due .....	Date: 2.27.26
Fair Book Cover Contest Deadline .....	Date: 2.28.26
Youth Council Meeting .....	Date: 3.2.26
Horse Council Meeting .....	Date: 3.3.26
Assistant Superintendent Interviews .....	Date: 3.12.26
Camp Counselor Interviews .....	Date: 3.14.26
County Awards Ice Cream Social at Centreville Elementary Gym .....	Date: 3.15.26
Fair Board Meeting at Fairgrounds .....	Date: 3.19.26
Beef Tagging at Fairgrounds .....	Date: 3.21.26
Youth Council Meeting .....	Date: 4.6.26
Horse Council Meeting .....	Date: 4.7.26
Fair Board Meeting at Fairgrounds .....	Date: 4.9.26
Livestock Association Meeting .....	Date: 4.14.26
Horse Council Silent Auction at Fairgrounds .....	Date: 5.2.26
Horse Council Meeting .....	Date: 5.4.26
Youth Council Meeting .....	Date: 5.5.26
4-H Camp Counselor Training .....	Date: 5.8 - 5.9.26
Cloverbud Day Camp .....	Date: 5.9.26
Fair Board Meeting at Fairgrounds .....	Date: 5.14.26
Fair Association Meeting at Fairgrounds .....	Date: 5.19.26
Turkey Hatch Date .....	Date: 5.23.26
Hunter Safety at SJC Conservation Club .....	Date: 5.28 - 5.30.26
Feeder Steer/Sheep/Goat Tagging .....	Date: 6.2 & 6.4.26
Swine Tagging .....	Date: 6.3 - 6.4.26
Summer 4-H Camp .....	Date: 6.8 - 6.10.26

## 4-H Horse Council Fundraiser

**Date:**  
Saturday, May 2, 2026

**Time:**  
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**Where:**  
St. Joseph County  
Grange Fairgrounds  
316 E. Charlotte St.  
Centreville, MI 49032

**What:**  
Annual silent auction at the SJCG Fair's Garage Sale & Vintage Market! Join them to see what cool things they have up for grabs!

## 4-H Youth Council Fundraiser

**Date:**  
Monday, June 15, 2026

**Time:**  
5:00 - 8:00 PM

**Where:**  
Culver's of Sturgis  
830 S. Centreville Rd.  
Sturgis, MI 49091

**What:**  
Enjoy a meal or buy a gift certificate for a friend at Culver's in Sturgis! 15% of ALL SALES during 5:00-8:00 p.m. will be donated back to our program!





# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Preparing youth to be Beyond Ready



## Beyond Ready

4-H's approach to readiness begins with participation in high-quality positive youth development programs.

4-H has historically helped young people prepare for work and life through the development of competencies, skills and tangible assets, resulting in youth who are healthy, productive and engaged.

The complex landscape youth face today calls us to go a step further in preparing them to navigate their readiness pathway during and after their 4-H experience.

Is your club intentionally preparing youth to be Beyond Ready for the changing world? Watch here for tips to use with your club.

#BeyondReady

### March 5: Future Ready – Exploring College and Career Paths Workshop

Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office, Ann Arbor

This workshop will feature an interactive panel discussion about the variety of opportunities available for high school graduates in college, trades and more. Ideal for youth ages 12-19.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/future-ready-exploring-college-and-career-paths-workshop](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/future-ready-exploring-college-and-career-paths-workshop)

### March 10: 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](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4h-give-green-day)

### March 10: 4-H Wild Spartans - The Lands Has a Story to Tell – But Are We Listening?

Online

Explore the stories that nature and humans weave with Zach Wilson, forest ecologist for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Learn about his career and education, and ask questions via a live Q&A. Suited for youth ages 12-19.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-march](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-march)

### March 25: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Using AI Responsibly in 4-H

Online

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming the way we learn, work and interact. Learn what AI is, how it impacts youth development, and how to use it responsibly within 4-H. Explore MSU Extension guidance, discuss ethical considerations, and share tips for supporting youth navigating technology.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-from-sparks-to-skills-using-ai-responsibly-in-4-h](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-from-sparks-to-skills-using-ai-responsibly-in-4-h)

### March 30- April 1: 4-H on the Move: Detroit Cultural Connection Camp

Detroit

An unforgettable spring break alternative! Build cultural awareness, empathy, and a deeper understanding of Detroit's diverse communities through guided tours, hands-on activities, and an opportunity to make a positive impact.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-cultural-connection-camp](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-cultural-connection-camp)

### April 1: Smart Money Missions Goosechase Game

Everywhere

This fun money management scavenger hunt game is played on the Goosechase app and is open to youth 13-19 years old residing in Michigan.

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





# 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](https://extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate).



# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

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

Invite an international youth (ages 12-17 years) or adult chaperone into your home and share an American experience! Michigan 4-H is looking for host families interested in opening their homes and hearts this summer. Consider sharing the clover and giving a lucky Japanese youth and your family the experience of a lifetime!

The Japanese delegation will arrive in Grand Rapids mid-July and depart mid-August, meeting their hosts for a 3.5-week stay. A host family must complete the States' 4-H International Exchange Programs online application, have a youth to match as a host brother/sister (within three years of age) be Michigan 4-H adult Gold volunteers, and participate in an interview and home visit process.



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 [brinn@msu.edu](mailto:brinn@msu.edu).

## Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers



## Get your tickets for Michigan 4-H Day with the 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. Michigan 4-H will be honored as the Group Charity of the Game. To celebrate, 4-H youth, volunteers, staff and their families will enjoy a discounted ticket to the game, as well as:

- Access to a pre-game, on-field opportunity. Michigan 4-H youth are invited to take a lap around the warning track of Comerica Park before the game.
- A portion of each ticket sold donated to Michigan 4-H.

There are several ticketing options available this year, in three main locations, ranging in price from \$33-54. In addition, each ticket purchased through the Michigan 4-H link will have the opportunity to purchase an exclusive co-branded Michigan 4-H and Detroit

Tigers bucket hat (while supplies last). Hats can only be purchased by purchasing a ticket through the Michigan 4-H link; however, there is an option to buy tickets without the purchase of a hat.

Learn more at [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).

## 4-H Youth in Action Program applications open

Apply now for the 2027 4-H Youth in Action Awards! This 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 April 13. Learn more and apply at <https://4-h.org/programs/4-h-youth-in-action-program/>.



# Donation Form

Brick No(s) \_\_\_\_\_



## 4-H Donate-A-Brick Program

*( brick(s) will be placed in 4-H Memorial Park in time for the upcoming Fair if received by May 31 )*

Mail or deliver completed donation form and a check made payable to **St. Joseph County 4-H Youth Council** to the MSU Extension office by May 31 in order for bricks to be in place by the upcoming Fair. The MSU Extension Office mailing address is as follows: **4-H Donate-A-Brick Program, c/o MSU Extension, 612 E. Main St., Centreville, MI 49032 (Form may be reproduced for additional donation/brick orders.)**

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Donor name as you would like it to appear for publicity purposes.

Contact Person/Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Please complete if business/organization.

Complete Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street/P.O. Box No. City State Zip Code

Home Phone No. (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone No. (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** Please check the 4-H Youth Program monetary contribution you would like to make, then complete the brick engraving information needed. (Personalization ideas include "In Memory of", "In Honor of", "Dedicated to", etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$50 Donation:** Donor receives a **4 in. x 8 in. brick** engraved with two (2) lines of text (maximum of 13 characters per line including spaces and punctuation).


\_\_\_\_\_ **\$100 Donation:** Donor receives an **8 in. x 8 in. brick** with four (4) lines of text (maximum of 13 characters per line including spaces and punctuation).


+ \_\_\_\_\_ Write in additional cost of **\$2.00/brick** if 14 or 15 characters are needed for one or more lines of text (versus the standard 13). Record extra characters at end of appropriate line(s).

+ \_\_\_\_\_ Write in additional cost of **\$5.00/brick** if an additional line of text is needed for one or more bricks. Record text for additional line below appropriate fill-in grid. Limit of one extra line per brick.

= \_\_\_\_\_ Write in **total amount of contribution**, including any extra engraving costs if applicable.

**Important Note:** Your contribution to the 4-H Donate-A-Brick Program is tax deductible if you itemize your deductions on your federal income tax form. Your cancelled check will serve as documentation of your donation. (Receipts are available upon request.)

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**Office Use:** Receipt No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. \$ \_\_\_\_\_