



July 2026

# 4-H Family News

## WAYNE COUNTY



**Beyond Ready**

### July Newsletter Contents:

- Wayne County Upcoming Events
- 4-H Member Spotlights
- Announcements
- 4-H Volunteer Tip of the Month
- Fun Stuff
- Statewide Calendar of Events
- Statewide 4-H News

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Learn by doing.

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# Wayne County Upcoming Events

## Dog Days of Summer Mini Day Camp

Join us for a tail-wagging good time at this 3-day 4-H mini day camp all about dogs! Youth will explore canine anatomy, breeds, nutrition, grooming, first aid, enrichment, and careers in the dog world. Campers will participate in making homemade dog treats and toys, practicing pet care skills, and meeting a dog trainer. Dog ownership is not required to participate—just a love for animals and a curiosity to learn!

- **Who:** Youth Ages 8-14
- **When:** Monday, July 27 & Wednesday, July 29, 1:30-4:30pm, Friday, July 31, 10am-1pm
- **Where:** Flat Rock Public Library (25200 Gibraltar Rd, Flat Rock, MI 48134)
- **Cost:** Free
- **Pre Registration Required by July 20th:**  
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/dog-days-of-summer-camp>
- **Contact:** Ashleigh Klein ([apelashl@msu.edu](mailto:apelashl@msu.edu) or 734-727-7408)
- Holly Sysol ([sysolho1@msu.edu](mailto:sysolho1@msu.edu) or 734-727-7407)

**MINI DOG DAYS OF SUMMER DAY CAMP**

Join us for a fun 3-day 4-H mini camp all about dogs! Youth learn breeds, care, nutrition, grooming, and first aid. Enjoy hands-on activities like making treats and toys while building pet care skills. No dog needed—just a love for animals!

**DETAILS:**  
**Who:** Youth Ages 8-14  
**When:** July 27 & 29, 1:30-4:30pm, July 31, 10am-1pm  
**Where:** Flat Rock Public Library (25200 Gibraltar Rd, Flat Rock, MI 48134)

**REGISTER BY 7/20/26**

**MORE INFO :**  
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/dog-days-of-summer-camp>

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## Crafts Around the World Workshop 2026- Rescheduled!

Get ready to travel the globe—without leaving Michigan!

Join us for a fun, hands-on cultural experience where youth will explore art from around the world through creative craft projects. In just one evening, participants will “travel” to multiple countries, learning about different cultures, traditions, and artistic techniques through engaging activities like Australian dot painting and German potato printing. This interactive workshop is designed to spark curiosity, build creativity, and foster a sense of global connection—one craft at a time.

- Date:** Wednesday, August 5th
- Time:** 3-4:30pm
- Location:** Greenmead Historical Park – Friends Meeting House
- Address:** 20501 Newburgh Rd, Livonia, MI 48152
- Ages:** Best for youth in grades 3-6
- Cost:** \$5 per participant
- Registration Deadline:** Aug 1st (advance registration required)
- What to Expect:**

“Travel” to different countries in one afternoon

Learn about cultures, traditions, and artistic styles from around the world

Build creativity and global awareness through hands-on activities

**NEW DATE!**

**EARTH EXPLORERS!**

**CRAFTS AROUND THE WORLD!**

**Wednesday, Aug. 5**  
**3-4:30 p.m.**  
 Greenmead Historical Park's Friends Meeting House

In just one afternoon, participants will “travel” to multiple countries, discovering unique artistic traditions from around the globe. Through engaging craft projects like Australian dot painting, German potato printing, and more, youth will learn about different cultures, histories, and creative techniques. This interactive workshop fosters creativity, cultural appreciation, and a sense of global connection—one craft at a time!

**\$5/Participant**  
**Advance Registration Required at LivoniaParks.org**  
 Best for participants in grades 3-6

**Register here:** <https://secure.rec1.com/MI/livonia-mi/catalog?filter=c2VhcmNoPTQzNDQ2NjI=>



# Wayne County Upcoming Events

## Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase

Calling all Michigan youth ages 5–19 (as of Jan 1, 2026)! Showcase your talents in the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase!

- ✓ Free to enter by August 7, 2026
- ✓ Open to all Michigan youth
- ✓ Receive helpful feedback from judges

### Explore classes like:

- Livestock & animal showmanship
- Still exhibits & crafts
- Educational & project-based entries

Bonus: Youth ages 8–19 can apply for scholarships thanks to the Michigan State Fair Foundation!

Learn more & enter:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/>



## Summer Business Pitch Contest

Calling all young entrepreneurs!

Submit your business pitch to the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase. Youth ages 8–19 can enter with a product, service, or community impact idea—whether it’s already launched or still in development. Entries accepted through August 7, 2026.

- ✓ 3 age divisions: 8–11, 12–15, 16–19 as of Jan 1, 2026 (4-H membership not required)
- ✓ Up to 2-minute video pitch (uploaded to YouTube as unlisted)

- ✓ Must include the youth presenting on camera
- Judging will focus on creativity, clear communication, audience understanding, and strong business ideas.

🏆 Top entries earn gift card prizes in each division, thanks to our sponsor, MSUFCU!

**View the Fair Book (Dept 73) and registration link at:**

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/>

**More details at:** <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan4-hbusinesspitchcontest>





# Wayne County Upcoming Events

## Broiler University Program

Are you interested in raising broiler chickens or improving your current poultry setup?

Broiler University is a new webinar series from MSU Extension designed to support and strengthen poultry production knowledge. This program will cover key topics including housing, nutrition, flock health, and marketing strategies. Participants will gain valuable skills and increased confidence in broiler production practices.

### Program Details:

**Format:** Webinar series (Fall session)

**Cost:** \$40 per participant

**Registration:** <https://events.anr.msu.edu/broileru/>

## Sandy Brand Memorial Scholarship

If you currently attend or are planning to attend Michigan State University this fall, please consider applying for the Sandy Brand Memorial Scholarship. The amount will be between \$1000 - \$3000 (depending on the number of applicants chosen). All you need to do is type a one-page essay (double spaced; size 12 font) on 'How 4-H Has Prepared You for Your Future.' Please send your essay to 4-H Program Coordinator, Ashleigh Klein at [apelashl@msu.edu](mailto:apelashl@msu.edu) by the deadline: July 31, 2026.



## Michigan 4-H License Plate Promotion Contest

The Michigan 4-H License Plate Promotion Contest is a chance for youth to design something that inspires others to support Michigan 4-H!

- ✓ Open to Michigan youth ages 8–19
- ✓ Choose video (90 seconds or less) AND/OR non-video (poster, flyer, graphic)
- ✓ Focus on promoting the Michigan 4-H license plate

Entries are judged on creativity, originality, and promotional impact

Enter through Department 73 in the Michigan State Fair 4-H and Youth Virtual Showcase

Winners earn prizes AND recognition on Michigan 4-H channels  
Your ideas could help drive support for 4-H across the state-literally! 🚗

**Find out more and enter at:** <https://www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/>

**More information also available at:**

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-license-plate-promotion-contest>



# Member Spotlight- Cecelia L.

## What are your recent/past 4-H achievements?

Last summer I participated in my very first 4-H show season. I was in the walk trot division and I won reserve champion.

## How and when did you get involved with 4-H?

I have been riding horses for about 4 years and never thought I wanted to show horses, however I was encouraged and supported through my lesson teacher and barn friends to show that upcoming season. And it was the right decision.

## What drew you to being a part of the 4-H program?

I wanted to have the opportunity to spend more time with my barn family and the show/4-H community. Also, it's fun to spend time with people who are in the horse world because there is a silent understanding that we all just understand each other and can be ourselves without the judgement of people who don't understand the magic of horses.

## What have you gained from being a part of 4-H?

I have gained many things from 4-H I met amazing, kind, fun, and educated people. And learned how to do a lot of new things. And not just how to hang the buckets on the waterspout or how to carry 15 different bridles at one time. I learned how to be myself, cheer on my competitors, support each other, and be a team player, and believe in myself even when it was hard.

## What advice would you give someone else in 4-H or thinking about joining 4-H?

If I were giving advice to someone new or in 4-H I would say a lot of things. First, I would say do the scary things even if you don't want to, push yourself, make smart choices and be a team player. Also, it's not all just about the ribbons and trophies. It's about the memories you make and the fun you have. In 50 years are you going to remember all the first-place ribbons you won or are you going to remember the late nights spent banding the horses' manes, the early morning feedings, and the laughter and happiness that comes from horses. I don't know about you, but I would want to remember the funny and joyful moments and moments when I cheered on my teammates.

## What is your favorite memory of 4-H?

My favorite memories are of games at the ends of learner's day and point show. When barrels, pole bending, and flags came around you knew it was about to go down. Watching everyone in walk/trot/canter race to through the patterns was awesome and super fun. And even watching the younger kids just walk or trot the patterns was fun. Games are one of my favorite classes in 4-H shows by far!

## What are your plans for the future?

In the future I hope to keep riding, showing, and maybe even get my own horse. And In the far future I want to go to school for equine science and train horses and maybe even teach lessons.

## Is there anything else you want to share about yourself, 4-H, or recent experiences that we may include?

I would like to wish everyone luck for the upcoming 4-H season. And I wanted to say a special thank you to Melissa L. for being an awesome coach, Abby L. for always being able to make everyone laugh and always knowing what to do/give good advice, Hope G. for being like a sister to me and always being crazy and fun, Kylee E. for being a role model for me and just being calm and collected when I needed that, and thank you to the rest of the mustangers club members and everyone in 4-H.





# Volunteer Spotlight- Erin



**Where do you volunteer, and how did you get started?**

I volunteer with the Mustangs 4-H club in Belleville. My daughter started riding lessons around the age of 9 and after a few years decided to start showing her lesson horse with the 4-H club from the barn she took lessons at. I started volunteering to help at 4-H activities and the fair.

After a few years I became an official 4-H volunteer so I could help any 4-H teams at the fair who needed my help.

**What has been your favorite or most fulfilling part of volunteering with 4-H?**

Seeing the growth and experiences of the children through opportunities they get to learn about and show animals.

**What volunteer projects do you most like to be a part of?**

Anything equine- including the horseless program which will be at the Wayne County Fair this year for the first time.

**Do you have any advice for other 4-H volunteers?**

Don't be afraid to offer to help and get your hands dirty!



# Announcements

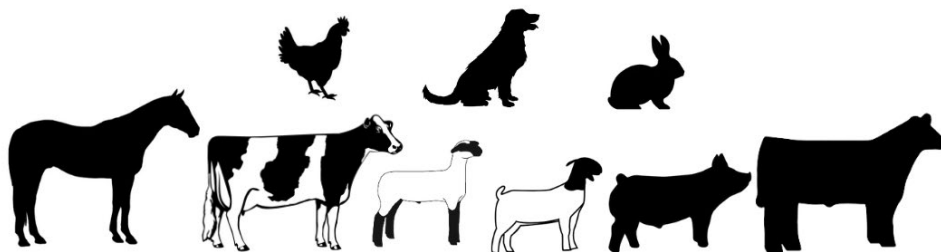
## Michigan 4-H Animal Science Showmanship Guide

Are you new to showing animals? Did you earn a spot in your county's showmanship sweepstakes contest? Perhaps you'd simply like to sharpen your showmanship skills for a project you've been taking for a few years now... Michigan 4-H now has showmanship guides available for every species that were designed with you in mind!

With county fair season approaching, there is no better time than now to start building your showmanship skills.

You can find all the guides under the "Publications" tab on this webpage:  
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/tag/4-h-showmanship-guides>

**Michigan 4-H  
Animal Science  
Showmanship Guides  
now available!**





# Announcements

## Save the Date!

Save the Date for the 80th Annual Wayne County Fair August 10th-15<sup>th</sup>. You can find information here: <https://waynecountyfairgrounds.net/wayne-county-fair/>  
Fair Exhibitors, all fair entries are due no later than July 15th!

## Michigan 4-H Alumni and Friends

Were you part of 4-H as a youth, volunteer or parent? Get connected by the clover with other 4-H supporters and support the next generation of 4-H'ers!

Join the Michigan 4-H Alumni & Friends network to receive 4-H updates, learn about current opportunities and stay engaged with 4-H across the state!

Learn more at:

[extension.msu.edu/Michigan4HA&F](https://extension.msu.edu/Michigan4HA&F)

Join  
Michigan  
4-H  
Alumni &  
Friends



Stay informed. Support youth.  
Strengthen communities.  
Get connected by the clover today!

**Join for free at:**

**[extension.msu.edu/Michigan4HA&F](https://extension.msu.edu/Michigan4HA&F).**



# Volunteer Tip of the Month

## Wearing Multiple Hats at Fair Time

County fair season is one of the most exciting times of the 4-H year, but it can also be one of the busiest for volunteers. Many volunteers serve in multiple roles during fair week — supporting youth while also acting as superintendents, judges, fair board members, exhibit support persons, or parents. While these roles are often necessary, they can sometimes create confusion around boundaries, fairness, and responsibilities.

Being intentional about the different roles you hold helps create a safe, positive, and fair experience for all youth. Youth and families may not always know which “hat” a volunteer is wearing in certain situations, especially during stressful moments like judging decisions or rule enforcement. Clear communication and strong boundaries help maintain trust and integrity within the program.

## Tips for Navigating Multiple Roles at Fair

- Put youth first in every decision and interaction.
- Be transparent about the roles you serve in during fair week.
- Step back from decisions where a conflict of interest may exist.
- Follow all 4-H and fair policies and procedures.
- Communicate clearly and professionally with youth, families, and fair staff.
- Remember that fairness and positive youth experiences should always remain the priority.

4-H volunteers play an important role in making county fairs meaningful learning experiences for young people. By leading with integrity, openness, and a youth-first mindset, volunteers help ensure fair season is positive and successful for everyone involved.

For more information, read the original article: [Wearing Two Hats at the Fair: What 4-H Volunteers Need to Know](#)

You can also find additional volunteer resources through the [Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series](#).





# Fun Stuff

## History of Cats

I recently joined the cat owner club. After owning dogs my whole life, I decided to welcome a Maine Coon kitten, Mila, into my home right after Spring Break. She still seems so small to me, despite her being almost the same height and length as my 25-pound dog, but I am just assuming it is because I am so used to dogs that I expect a cat to be bigger. She is a bit different than a dog, she just sort of sits there and judges. This got me wondering, how did the relationship between humans and cats come about? So, I delved into the history of the house cat.

Somewhere between 25-30 million years ago, the first ancestor to our modern-day cat split off from the other small carnivores. This was a small animal that looked like a carnivorous mongoose, called a *Proailurus lemanensis*, and it is recognized as the first “true cat,” from which all felines later evolved. Around 10-20 million years ago, the *Pseudaelurus* came about. This cat is the last common ancestor of all modern-day cats before the family tree split (lions, cheetahs, small cats, etc.). About 6.2 million years ago, the genus *Felis* split from other small carnivores of the time. This genus you may recognize by its English term, feline, and it includes all small cats, both domestic and wild. Roughly 12,000 years ago, right when agriculture was starting to take off, the cats we know today started their unique relationship with us humans.

Similar to our modern dogs, cats also self-domesticated because they realized we led to easier food sources. With the start of agriculture in the Fertile Crescent, humans started storing grains. As some of you with farms know, with a giant pile of grain comes the rodents, and in turn comes the cats. These wildcats started to hang around the people and their farms, and the farmers realized that the cats were great for pest control, so they did not scare them off. Though humans weren't scaring the cats off, they still weren't living with them in the sense that we are today. It wasn't until 2004 that we discovered a 9,500-year-old grave in Cyprus that contained a human and a young cat, buried close enough to assume that they were closely bonded.

It is suspected that all domestic cats derive from a subspecies of wildcat called the *Felis silvestris lybica* (if this looks familiar, then you may have grown up with some Saturday morning cartoons. Sylvester from Looney Tunes is a pun on the scientific name). Today's house cats have changed in a few notable ways. Modern house cats appear smaller due to changes in diet and activity level, and they also come in a variety of colors you would not find in nature, since they do not have to blend in as much. The number of breeds has also drastically increased due to domestication. Two hundred years ago, there were far fewer recognized breeds of cats than there are today, and most of the breeds we know today were developed within the last two centuries. Today, The International Cat Association recognizes 73 distinct breeds and The Cat Fanciers' Association recognizes 45. Unlike dogs, who were bred into a wide variety of different sizes, shapes, and temperaments, cat breeds are much more genetically similar. This is because dogs were bred for a variety of different jobs, whereas the cats all specialize in a similar domestic task, pest control.



# Fun Stuff

## History of Cats Continued

Because cats have a protein-based diet, and have no interest in eating grain, they are still in our homes today. Many farmers still keep them in the barn for this exact purpose of keeping the rodents out of the grain. Some businesses and bodegas in New York City still keep cats in their stores to keep the rats away. Though this is generally against health regulations and can result in fines, many of them will gladly pay it. This mutual benefit on both ends made domestication possible, as cats are solitary predators, making our relationship more of a partnership.

Cats have been in North America since the earliest settlers came over from Britain, and it is estimated today that tens of millions of households own cats, making them one of the most popular pets in the country. What started as a mutually beneficial relationship between farmers and wildcats thousands of years ago has evolved into a partnership shared by millions of people around the world.

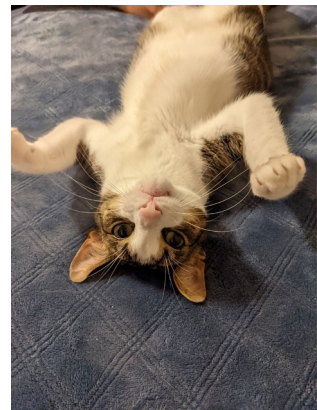
Whether they are patrolling a barn for mice, lounging in a sunny window, or quietly judging their owners from across the room, cats continue to prove that they may have domesticated us almost as much as we domesticated them. As for Mila, she still spends most of her time doing her own thing, but after learning about the history of her species, I suppose that is exactly what a cat is supposed to do.



(Mila, 6 months old) Holly Sysol,  
4-H Program Instructor



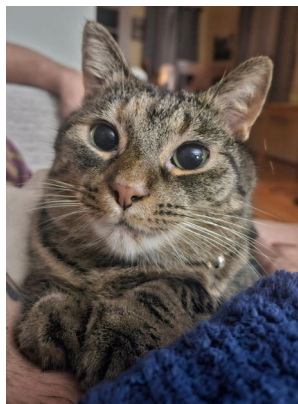
(Nala) Ashleigh Klein,  
4-H Program Coordinator



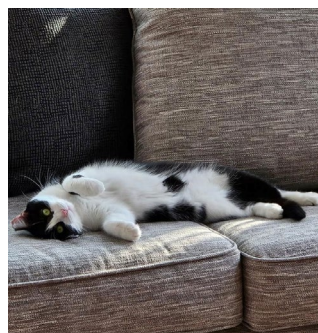
(Ollie) Ashleigh Klein,  
4-H Program Coordinator



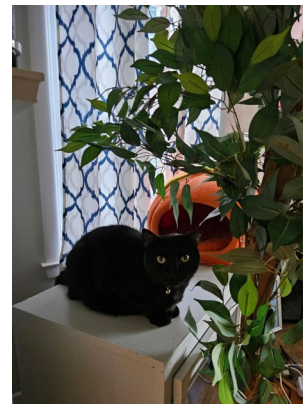
(Oliver) Laurie Rivetto,  
Extension Educator



(Cici) Laurie Rivetto,  
Extension Educator



(Lucy) Laurie Rivetto,  
Extension Educator



(Max) Laurie Rivetto,  
Extension Educator



# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Preparing youth to be Beyond Ready through the fair experience*



## Beyond Ready

The fair experience is more than a showcase; it's a powerful opportunity to prepare youth to be Beyond Ready for life. Through exhibiting their projects, interacting with judges and engaging with the public, young people practice real-world skills such as communication, responsibility, problem-solving and professionalism.

When volunteers create intentional learning moments, like encouraging youth to reflect on project growth, prepare for interviews or take leadership roles in their clubs, youth deepen their understanding and strengthen skills that extend far beyond the fairgrounds. Every fair interaction becomes a stepping stone toward future readiness.

Is your club helping youth make those connections and see how fair experiences prepare them for what comes next?

#BeyondReady

### July 13-15: Michigan 4-H Dairy Days

*Farm Bureau Pavilion, Lansing*

Join 4-H members from around Michigan July 13-15 at the Farm Bureau Pavilion for Michigan 4-H Youth Dairy Days! Dairy Days is part of Michigan Dairy Expo, a celebration of dairy farmers and dairy cattle in the Great Lakes State.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-michigan-4-h-youth-dairy-days](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-michigan-4-h-youth-dairy-days)

### July 16: Water Day

*Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing*

Come cool off from the summer heat and have fun in the garden with water. Play water games, do water art and explore all things fun about water. Come ready to get wet!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/water-day](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/water-day)

### July 20-21: Saginaw Bay Fish Camp

*Haithco Park, Saginaw*

This two-day camp will teach youth to fish and protect our Great Lakes. All campers receive a fishing rod with a reel, tackle box, t-shirt and snacks. Learn about knot-tying, tackle crafting, casting, aquatic ecology, angler ethics and more! Open to 4-H members ages 8-13. Registration deadline is July 10.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-saginaw-bay-4-h-fish-camp](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-saginaw-bay-4-h-fish-camp)

### July 23: Bug Day at the Children's Gardens

*Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing*

Join for a tribute to insects in the gardens. Collect, observe and even make bugs! The MSU Bug House will also be on site with their collections of insects from all over the world.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/bug-day](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/bug-day)

### July 27: 4-H Garden Adventures Summer Camp

*The Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park, Traverse City*

Youth ages 7-12- are invited to join this camp for fun adventures in nature, nurturing resilience, kindness, community and creativity as they explore sustainability and growth through an engaging, hands-on approach.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-garden-adventures-summer-camp-2026](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-garden-adventures-summer-camp-2026)

### July 30: Bubble Day at the Children's Gardens

*Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing*

Come celebrate summer vacation at the garden with bubbles! Youth will paint, eat and even make music with bubbles.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/bubble-day](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/bubble-day)





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## Join the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase!

MSU Extension is thrilled to partner again in 2026 with the [Michigan State Fair](#) on an exciting program for Michigan youth: the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase. This statewide showcase provides a virtual platform for youth across Michigan to exhibit their work in all project areas and apply for up to \$1,000 in scholarships. Any Michigan youth ages 5-19 is encouraged to participate; 4-H membership is not required.

There is no cost to participate and youth may engage in as many classes as they wish by [submitting project photos and videos](#). **Be sure to submit your entries by the registration deadline of August 7 at 5 p.m.** Project evaluation will occur before the start of the Michigan State Fair so that winners can be announced at the event. Learn more, find helpful resources and registration links at [www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/).



## 2026 MSF 4-H & Youth Showcase Business Pitch Contest

Got a business idea? Whether your business is already running, just getting started or still an idea, we want to hear your pitch! Enter the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase and share your entrepreneurial skills in a two-minute video!

Entries will be judged on creativity, communication, understanding of the target audience, and overall presentation skills. Winners in each age division will receive gift card prizes (\$75, \$50, \$25) sponsored by Michigan State University Federal Credit Union and be recognized through Michigan 4-H communications and social media. For more information, visit Department 73 of the fair book at [www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/).

## 2026 MSF 4-H & Youth Showcase Michigan 4-H License Plate Promotion Contest

Michigan youth ages 8–19 are invited to enter the Michigan 4-H License Plate Promotion Contest as part of the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase! Create a short video and/or design a poster, flyer or graphic that encourages others to purchase the Michigan 4-H license plate and you could win. Prizes will be awarded and winners will be featured on Michigan 4-H social media channels. Put your creativity to work and help spread the word about 4-H across Michigan! For more information, visit Department 73 of the fair book at: [www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/).

## New scholarships for Michigan 4-H'ers!

The Michigan 4-H Foundation is pleased to offer new scholarship opportunities to Michigan 4-H members for fall 2026. Nearly \$30,000 in post-secondary 4-H scholarships are available for the 2026–2027 academic year to high school seniors or incoming college freshmen. Youth must have participated in 4-H for three or more years.

These scholarships are made possible through generous support from 4-H alumni, retirees and friends of 4-H. Apply by September 1 at [mi4hfdtn.org/scholarship](http://mi4hfdtn.org/scholarship).

