



4-H Family News

April 2026

WAYNE COUNTY



Beyond Ready

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Wayne County Upcoming Events

4-H Mark of Excellence Contest

It's that time of year—grab your pen and spark your imagination! ✨

The 4-H Mark of Excellence Contest is officially open!

This year, youth can choose to submit either a video or a short journal reflection based on the theme “Beyond Ready!”

📌 Eligibility:

- ✓ Must be a current 4-H member
- ✓ Ages 10 or 11 as of Jan. 1, 2026
- ✓ Each county may select up to TWO winners

📌 Submission Options:

- 📺 Video (max 2 minutes, mp4 or YouTube link)
- 📝 Journal reflection (500 words or fewer; handwritten or typed)

Entries are due to Ashleigh Klein or LaToya Cain-Jones by May 1, 2026 to be eligible for submission to Wayne County 4-H.

For more information, check out: https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4-h-awards-and-recognition-program/youth-recognition/

Share how 4-H is helping you be beyond ready for the future!





Wayne County Upcoming Events

Earth Day Celebration & Volunteer Event

This is a volunteer event sponsored by MSUE 4-H Wayne County, MSU DPLFI & community organization ARUKAH for all ages. We welcome you to come out and volunteer at MSU DPLFI city farm to prep the farm with planting trees, neighborhood cleanup, and garden preparation and learn what's happening in the City of Detroit ~ Brightmoore area.

Program Details:

- When: April 25th
- Who: Youth & Adults (All youth must be with an adult unless arranged with a coordinator, LaToya Jones: email: Cainjone@msu.edu)
- Where: 16745 Lamphere
- Cost: FREE (Registration is Required)

Fee includes:

- Light Refreshments will be served
- Equipment to use for the day
- Kids Activities

Suggested to bring gloves and/or protective clothing

Any questions or concerns, please contact LaToya Jones @ cainjone@msu.edu

**EARTH DAY
CELEBRATION &
VOLUNTEER EVENT**

AT DPFLI: 16745 LAMPHERE

**SATURDAY
APRIL 25
12-3PM**

Tree planting
Kids Activities
Light refreshments
Garden Preparation
Neighborhood Clean up

RSVP Here!

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension  Beyond Ready **ARUKAH**

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Wayne County Upcoming Events

Upcoming Programs and Events

Join us for a monthly family cooking class from MSUE Wayne County and learn more about Wayne County 4-H youth program in the Brightmoor community of Detroit.

For more information: Contact email: Elena Mosher @ mosherel@msu.edu or LaToya Jones @ cainjone@msu.edu for more information.

FAMILY COOKING CLASS

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension



Chef Ame Del Real of Hongo X Hongo

Thursday, April 2nd
5:30-7:30pm
Brightmoor Artisans Collective
22735 Fenkell Ave, Detroit

DISH: MUSHROOM "CHICKEN" SANDWICH

Learn to make a delicious sandwich using expertly seasoned mushrooms!



Adults and their child(ren) ages 7 and up will learn to prepare a nutritious, low-cost meal delicious for the whole family! Participants will share the meal at the end of class.



Registration Required: Scan the QR to register!
OR contact Elena: mosherel@msu.edu
231-633-7418

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FAMILY COOKING CLASS SERIES

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

1ST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

AT BRIGHTMOOR ARTISANS COLLECTIVE 22735 FENKELL AVE., DETROIT

Free family cooking classes on the first Thursday of each month, March through October. These classes invite adults and their child(ren) to work together in preparing a nutritious, delicious meal using in-season produce. A different Detroit-based chef will lead each class, bringing their own style, culture, and flavors to the class. Participants will enjoy the meal together at the end of the class.

March 5	Meiko Krishok of Pink Flamingo Detroit
April 2	Ame Del Real of Hongo x Hongo Farms
May 7	Chef Bee of Sisters on a Roll
June 4	Bianca Danzy of Real Food. By Bianca.
July 2	L'Oreal Hawkes-Williams of N.E.W. L.E.A.F. Detroit
August 6	Shay Goudia (Da Spiritual Chef) of Make Food Not Waste and Sankofa Sistas L3C
September 3	Chef Semika
October 1	Josmine Evans of Indigo Culinary Co.

Registration for each class released one month ahead of time.



Wayne County Upcoming Events

Earn While You Learn

GROW MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

DETROIT'S Beyond Ready

YOUNG TALENT

at DPFLI!



APPLY ONLINE by May 15:
GDYT.ORG
Use referral code

C1202

Detroit youth ages 16-24 can apply for a paid summer experience at DPFLI



- 120 hours paid work on DPFLI farm
- work readiness training
- financial literacy
- food systems workshops
- MSU campus tour

Questions? Contact Elena: mosherel@msu.edu (231) 633-7418

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Summer Opportunities for Youth in Urban Farming & Financial Literacy ~

4-H and MSU DPFLI is hosting GDYT youth this summer

Details on the flyer, **APPLY NOW!**

Contact email: LaToya Jones @ cainjone@msu.edu or Elena Mosher @ mosherel@msu.edu for questions.



Wayne County Upcoming Events

4-H Exploration Days

Registration for 4-H Exploration Days is now open!
June 24–26, 2026

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

Register now to secure your spot! Registration closes April 17th

4-H Exploration days is an MSU precollege program that welcomes youth ages 12-19 to explore their future, try new things, and experience college life! During this three-day event, youth will gain confidence and independence through hands-on learning and make friends for a lifetime.

Why send your child?

- Build confidence, independence, and leadership skills
- Discover new interests and explore possible career paths
- Make friends from all over Michigan
- Experience college life—stay in an MSU dorm, eat in the dining halls, and learn from MSU faculty and experts
- Choose from 100+ hands-on sessions, both on and off campus
- Enjoy recreational activities like skating, exploring campus, and the big Thursday night dance

2026 Cost is \$250 per youth, includes meals, housing, sessions, and a program T-shirt. Wayne County 4-H is offering limited scholarships. The deadline to apply for scholarships is April 10th, 2026.

Scholarship application: <https://forms.gle/85PTqZDo56A7NQqt5>

Please note, If you are hoping to receive a scholarship, you must be registered and have your \$50 deposit paid no later than April 10th to be considered.





Member Spotlight- Annabelle S.

What are your recent/past 4-H achievements?

I loved being a protege teacher and helping a young get 4-H member show my horse.

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

I've been coming to fair since I was 2, I started showing at fair when I was 4, doing headline.

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

I love all animals which is the main reason I love 4-h! My mom was also in 4-h and met some of her closest friends who are like family. For me, I was just always part of 4-h, I don't remember not being in American Youth, it has always been a huge part of my life.

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

Responsibility and respect for animals and respect for animals. I've also learned how to be a leader and this to support a team.



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

I would tell them to join! Try something new or at least hang out and you'll hear something new.

What is your favorite memory of 4-H?

My favorite memories are the scavenger hunts we do every year at fair!

What are your plans for the future?

I would like to work in skilled trade and have a big family with a lot of rescue animals!

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

I look forward to fair every year! I think it's so fun to spend a whole week with my family and friends and my horse. I love that every year I meet someone new at fair and become friends.

Do you want to be featured under our member spotlight in an upcoming Newsletter? If so, take a moment to complete this form <https://forms.gle/U5nBbBYPS3YaNvqZ7>



Member Spotlight- Kylie T.



What are your recent/past 4-H achievements?

I showed my horse Boomer during protege classes at the Wayne County Fair. I also plan to enter livestock showing my pet rabbits Snowball and Snickerdoodle this year..

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

My dad, my aunt, and my uncle all grew up showing at the fair, so I was introduced to 4H very early. I am 7 now and will be 8 in July. I have been in 4H since I was old enough to show.

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

I get to spend time with my horse, make new friends, and see all the cute animals too.

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

I have grown more confident with my horse thanks to family and friends.

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

Do your best in your shows and and have fun.

What is your favorite memory of 4-H?

My favorite memory was washing my horse boomer because he was being really silly and got my grandma wet.

What are your plans for the future?

I'm wanting to start walking/trot with boomer eventually, but I don't know if I'm ready just yet. I'm going to show my rabbits this year and learn so much about rabbit showmanship.

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

Me and my mom started a vegetable garden, and we made a lot of food at home. My mom showed me how to make tomato sauce, bake bread, and make pickles! I really love pickles!

Do you want to be featured under our Volunteer spotlight in an upcoming Newsletter? If so, take a moment to complete this form <https://forms.gle/DbH1CYaWRE7bvTUr6>



Announcements

 [Spring Flower Fundraiser – Support Local 4-H Youth!](#) 

Wayne County 4-H
Livestock and Horse & Pony

Spring Flower Fundraiser



Pre-Orders Only

Orders Due April 19th
Pick Up May 2nd at
Wayne County
Fairgrounds



**Beyond
Ready**



Announcements

Spring Flower Fundraiser – Support Local 4-H Youth!

The 4-H Livestock Developmental Committee and the Wayne County 4-H Horse and Pony Committee are excited to host a Spring Flower Fundraiser! Support one group—or both—while brightening your home with beautiful hanging baskets and planters this spring.

Proceeds from this fundraiser directly support local 4-H youth projects, leadership development, and hands-on educational opportunities. By purchasing flowers, you are helping young people grow their skills in agriculture, responsibility, and community involvement.

Important Dates

Order Deadline: April 19, 2026

(Cash or check payments only)

Flower Pickup: May 2, 2026

Wayne County Fairgrounds

All flowers are proudly grown by Robson's Greenhouse in Belleville.

Prices & Varieties Available

10" Hanging Baskets – \$20 each

Geraniums, Hanging Moss Rose, Million Bells, Fuchsia, Sunpatiens, Petunias

12" Hanging Baskets – \$25 each

Combination baskets

12" Premium Fiber Hanging Baskets – \$40 each

Combination baskets

12" Patio Planters – \$25 each

Combination planters

How to Place an Order

Please contact the appropriate committee representative below:

Livestock Developmental Committee

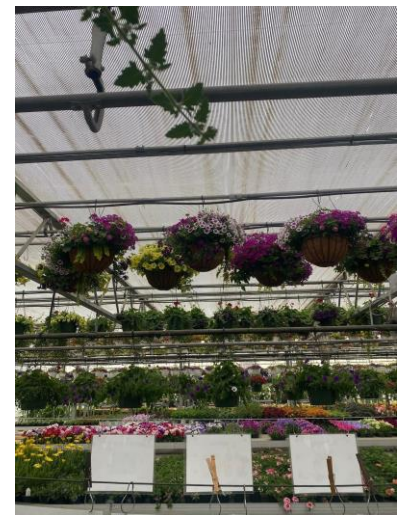
Jenna Budd: 734-478-9933 or jennabudd14@gmail.com

Donna Budd: 734-740-8426

Wayne County 4-H Horse and Pony Committee

Melissa LaForest: 734-751-1022

Tiffney Tripp: 734-325-5569



Photos are examples of what flower arrangements may look like.





Announcements

Smart Money Missions Goosechase Additional

📱💰 Parents of Teens—Check This Out! 💰📱

Looking for a fun *and* educational activity for your 13–19-year-old this spring?

Sign them up for Smart Money Missions: Goosechase 2026—a virtual scavenger hunt designed to help teens build real-world money management skills!

Using the Goosechase app, youth will:

- ✓ Complete creative challenges
- ✓ Solve financial trivia
- ✓ Submit photo/video missions
- ✓ Compete for a spot on the leaderboard
- ✓ Earn a chance to win a \$50 gift card!

📅 Game runs: April 1, 2026, at noon – April 21, 2026, at noon

📝 Registration deadline: April 20, 2026, at 11:59 PM EST

💰 Cost: FREE

🔑 Open to youth ages 13–19 living in Michigan

Give your teen a fun way to boost their financial smarts—sign them up today!

👉 Register here: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/smart-money-missions>

or <https://bit.ly/SmartMoney2026>

Join the Ultimate Scavenger Hunt!

Smart Money Missions
Goosechase Game

Compete with friends, learn about money and entrepreneurship and win prizes. Complete creative missions using your phones.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

SMART MONEY MISSIONS GOOSECHASE CHALLENGE

Ages
13-19

Dates
April 1-21 2026

Win
\$50 Amazon Gift card

LEARN MORE <https://bit.ly/SmartMoney2026>

SPONSORED BY: MICHIGAN CREDIT UNION FOUNDATION



Volunteer Tip of the Month

April is Financial Literacy Month—an excellent time to help youth (and volunteers!) strengthen money management skills through simple, meaningful activities.

One easy way to introduce financial literacy is by guiding youth in setting money goals. Encourage participants to create SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-bound) and write them down. Whether done during a club meeting or as part of an educational booth, this activity helps youth think intentionally about saving and spending. Displaying goals on posters or having youth take them home reinforces accountability and encourages ongoing progress.

Equally important is modeling responsible financial management as a volunteer. Following established 4-H financial procedures helps protect both your personal reputation and the integrity of the program. Transparency, accurate recordkeeping, and involving youth in financial decisions not only build trust but also teach valuable real-world skills. Remember, funds raised in the name of 4-H are considered public funds and must be handled with a high level of accountability.

By combining hands-on goal setting with strong financial practices, volunteers play a key role in preparing youth to make informed financial decisions now and in the future.

Learn more:

- Creating Money Goals Activity: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/creating-money-goals-is-a-great-activity-for-club-meetings-or-educational-booths>

- Financial Management for 4-H Volunteers:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/financial_management_protect_your_reputation_as_a_4_h_volunteer





Meet one of Wayne County's Newest Clubs!

4-H Club Spotlight

Where and when does your club meet?

Quiet Life Farms 4-H Club meets the first Tuesday of each month at one of the club leaders' homes, in the heart of Detroit.

Who's Involved

Our 3 volunteer leaders are April Worden, Kenzie Woodson and Melody Cary. We have over 25 young people involved in our 4-H Club, currently ranging in age from 5-13.

What inspired the creation of this club? What need or interest does it serve?

April: I grew up on a dairy farm in SW Michigan and experienced first-hand all the benefits of being in nature and caring for animals. I want to give kids in Detroit access to those same benefits by engaging in agriculture right where they live.

Melody: I helped start the club because it was important to me that my children learn things about where our food comes from and share those learning experiences with like-minded families. I feel that we are fostering a community of families that share common values and a desire for their children to be more connected to plants, animals, and each other.

Kenzie: I was involved in 4-H as a youth and loved the life lessons and experiences I was able to enjoy! I want to be able to provide that for today's youth, specifically my children.

Special projects, hands-on activities, themes, or traditions you're excited about.

We're an agricultural-focused 4-H club happening in the heart of Detroit, minutes away from downtown. Between the 3 leaders' families, we have Nigerian Dwarf goats, chickens and rabbits. Thanks to Detroit's new animal ordinance, 4-H Clubs in Detroit can legally raise farm animals in the city. It's been fun to see not only the kids get excited for these agricultural opportunities, but parents and grandparents as well!

During our various meetings this first year, the 4-H kids have picked apples from our neighborhood urban orchard, made apple cider, played GOAT bingo, watched goat hoof trimming, had a special 4-H alumni guest demonstrate rabbit showing, decorated Christmas cookies, created visions boards and made bread.

This winter, our club also did a service project by putting together bags for the unhoused. Members brought a variety of different items including hats, socks, granola bars, toiletries, and more. Then, each child got to fill two bags and hand them out while out and about. It was powerful for the members to be able to do something for someone else and it blessed those in need.





Meet one of Wayne County's Newest Clubs!

4-H Club Spotlight

What Members Are Learning or Doing

Our club focuses on agriculture, but we're also incorporating life skills such as baking and making goals/plans. The ability to make a goal for yourself that you can reach is a skill kids can take with them for the rest of their lives.

Many people are disconnected from their food, so being able to do something like bake bread is a powerful skill to have. It also shows kids how to be self-sufficient and independent.

Our young people are stepping into the club leadership roles and having a lot of fun working together as a team. Learning to care for others in our club and the community is a big part of their 4-H experience.

What's coming up Next?

We're excited for our first fund-raiser at Culver's on Mack Ave in Detroit on April 7th, 4-8pm! We're also looking forward to the warmer weather and participating in Keep Growing Detroit's Garden Resource Program. Several of our youth are hopeful to participate for the first time in the Wayne County Fair with both animals and still projects.



MAKE YOUR Meal Matter

TUESDAY • APRIL 7 • 4-8PM

Join us in supporting Quiet Life Farms 4-H Club, as a portion of all sales will be donated.

There's no limit to how much heart you can put into the community - and we're always looking for opportunities for neighbors to help neighbors. Join us and consider giving what you can to our local cause today.

Thank you for your support!

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4-H Member Quote:

“What I like about 4-H is that you get to make friends, play with goats, and help friends. I like seeing the animals and giving them love.” Tabby, age 8



Fun Stuff

4-H Life Skill

Responsibility is an important life skill that 4-H members practice every day. Whether you're caring for an animal, working on a project, or helping at a club meeting, being responsible means doing your best and following through on your commitments.

In 4-H, responsibility can look like:

- Feeding and caring for animals on a regular schedule
- Keeping track of project materials and supplies
- Completing record books and project goals
- Helping clean up after meetings or events

Learning responsibility helps members build confidence, independence, and leadership skills that will help them in school, careers, and everyday life.

Challenge - Choose one way to practice responsibility this month:

- Take charge of one task at your club meeting
- Help with a chore at home without being asked
- Check on a plant or animal every day for a week
- Set a small goal and work toward completing it

Riddle

I can be grown in a garden,
I can feed an animal too.
At the county fair you might see me,
Sometimes giant, sometimes stew.
What am I?





Fun Stuff

Fun Facts

Eyes are made up of rods and cones. Cones are responsible for our ability to see colors, provide sharp vision, and allow us to function in bright light. Rods are responsible for our vision in lower-light settings and provide us with peripheral vision. As humans, our vision relies heavily on color and sharpness. Humans have approximately 6 million cone cells and 120 million rod cells in their eyes.

Dogs' eyes are also made up of cones and rods, but the numbers differ greatly compared to ours. The average dog's eyes contain about 1.2 million cones and a similar number of rods as humans. Although we share a similar number of rods, dogs' eyes contain a much higher concentration of them. This difference makes their eyes up to five times more sensitive to light than our own. Because of this, dogs' vision relies less on color and fine detail and more on detecting movement. Human eyes also contain three different types of cones (red, green, and blue), whereas dogs only contain two (blue and yellow-green). Dogs primarily see their world in shades of yellow, blue, and gray and have difficulty distinguishing between green and red.

Have you ever shone a light on your dog's eyes in the dark and noticed they look a bit creepy, almost as if they are glowing? This effect is caused by the tapetum lucidum, a reflective, mirror-like layer of tissue located behind the retina. The tapetum lucidum allows dogs to see better than humans in low-light settings. Dogs are crepuscular, meaning they are most active during the morning and evening. Because of this, they do not need full night vision and cannot see in complete darkness. Instead, their vision is well adapted for the low-light conditions found at dusk and dawn. Another factor that helps dogs see better than humans in dim environments is their pupils. Dogs' pupils can open to a larger diameter than human pupils, allowing more light to enter the eye in darker settings.

Dogs rely more on their senses of smell and hearing than on their sense of sight. A dog's sense of smell can be up to 100,000 times more sensitive than a human's, allowing them to recognize scents we might completely miss. This ability is especially useful in low-light settings, where smell can help them navigate their surroundings. Hearing is equally important when finding their way in the dark. Dogs can hear pitches that humans cannot, allowing them to pick up subtle sounds in their environment, such as a person approaching or a nearby animal.

Fun facts about dog's eyes

- Dogs are more responsive to certain colors
- Dogs are drawn to yellow and blue more than other colors
- Dogs respond better to contrasting colors and patterns
- Their eyesight is closer to 20/75 to 20/200, making objects blurrier and harder to focus on
- Dogs might be able to see ultraviolet light
- Dogs vision develops slow
- Puppies do not open their eyes until 10-14 days of age, and then it takes several weeks for their sight to fully develop



A dog's sense of smell is their strongest sense.

Here are a couple of ways you can help them use it:

- Go for a sniff walk
- Incorporate enrichment that uses their nose
- Foraging Boxes
- Hide and Seek
- Snuffle Mats