

Berrien County 4-H Spotlight

Upcoming MSU Extension Office Closures

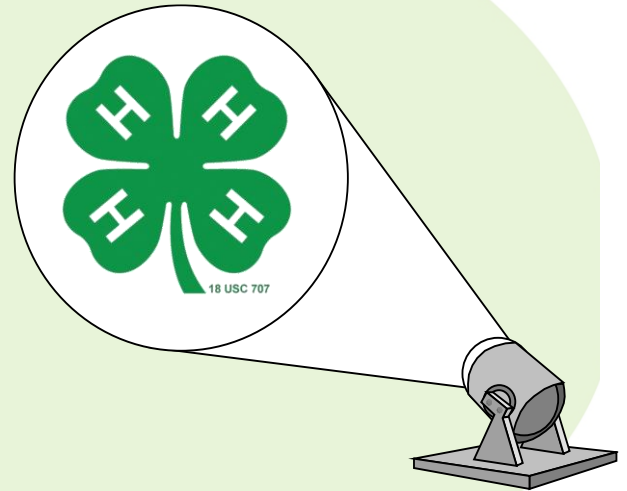
The Berrien County MSU Extension Office will be closed on the following days. Please arrange for any pickup or drop offs prior to these dates.

April 18, 2025

May 26, 2025

July 4, 2025

The office continues to be closed on Friday



Volume 28 Issue 4

March – April 2025

Spotlight Table of Contents

2	4-H Day at the Tigers, Fall Leader Update, Animal Science Career Quest
3	Global Voice, Host Families, MI 4-H Youth Survey
4	Horse & Pony Webinar Series, 4-H Online Enrollment Deadline & Toyota Webinar Series
5	4-H Exploration Days & Trail Blazers
6	Great Lakes Natural Resource Camp, National 4-H Pottery & Leaders Association Annual Meeting
7	Kits to Go & Countywide Projects
8	Mark of Excellence
9	Volunteer Webinar Series, MI 4-H State Horse Show & Lemonade Stand
10-11	State 4-H News & Events

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NEWS AND EVENTS



4-H Day at the Tigers



Join Michigan 4-H and Michigan State University Extension for a fun day at Comerica Park to watch the Detroit Tigers take on the Baltimore Orioles on Sunday, April 27. 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. A portion of every ticket sold on this link will be donated back to Michigan 4-H. Make sure to wear your favorite 4-H gear and support 4-H while enjoying a fun day with the 4-H community.

New this year, Michigan 4-H guests will receive:

- An optional dual-branded Michigan 4-H and Detroit Tigers item. Items will be redeemed on gameday.
- An exclusive pregame on-field opportunity. Timing and logistics of this opportunity will be released within a month of the game date.

Only tickets purchased through the Michigan 4-H link are eligible for these exclusive opportunities. This year, tickets will be available in three price tiers, with prices ranging from \$28 - \$46. office. Tickets go on sale in the spring online at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers>

Fall Leader Update



The Berrien County 4-H Annual Leader Update Training dates have been set. Don't waste time and mark those calendars now. Club Coordinators, project, and resource leaders are strongly encouraged to attend. It is important that each 4-H club/group is represented. Volunteers that are working on becoming new club leaders are also welcome. This is a valuable opportunity. Leaders only need to attend one time. Dates are as follows:

- September 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. EST—Buchanan Westerners
- September 17, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. EST—Berrien County MSU Extension

Each club is required to send at least one 4-H Leader to remain in good standing.

Animal Science Career Quest



Are you interested in a career working with animals? Join us for 4-H Animal Science Career Quest!

During this program, you can learn about career paths in animal science and the MSU programs that can get you there! This program is a joint effort between Michigan 4-H and the MSU Department of Animal Science, and its focus is introducing youth to the wide variety of career options available to them within these fields. This event will be on April 25 on MSU's main campus in East Lansing. It is open to youth ages 12-19 (as of January 1, 2025) and 4-H volunteers. Cost is \$35.00 per a participant. Space is limited, so don't delay! Register now: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-animal-science-career-quest-2025>

County scholarships are available for Berrien County 4-H Leaders and Members for half the cost of the event registration fee. Contact the Berrien County MSU Extension office to learn more.



NEWS AND EVENTS



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

Michigan 4-H will have 10 Japanese youth and one chaperone arriving in 2025; we are looking for families interested in opening their homes and hearts by hosting these individuals. Consider sharing the clover this summer and giving a lucky Japanese youth and your family the experience of a lifetime by hosting!

The Japanese delegation is scheduled to arrive in Grand Rapids in mid-July and depart in mid-August, meeting host families for a 3.5-week stay. 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 at brinn@msu.edu.



MSU Extension launches 2025 Global Voices Essay Contest with MSU Global Youth Advancement Network

The Global Voices Essay Contest offers a platform for young people around the world to advocate for their communities and share their opinions and stories about local and national challenges. Michigan students in grades 9-12, and young adults ages 18-24, are invited to share their own stories, reflections and visions by writing and submitting a 600-900-word essay focused on community (defined as the rich tapestry of cultures, experiences and ideas that shape our state). Sub-themes for the essay contest include shared natural resources, heritage and home, bridges of unity, innovation for the future and other.

A panel of MSU, MSU Extension, and Michigan 4-H judges will review and select the winning essays, which will be published on the MSU Global Youth Advancement Network website and receive cash prizes!

The deadline for youth to submit their essay online is May 2. For more info please visit: <https://globalyouth.isp.msu.edu/programs-projects/global-voices/essay-contest/call-submissions-2/>

Michigan 4-H needs your input!

Michigan 4-H is conducting a survey to better understand the topics and educational approaches that best meet community needs. Your feedback will help us improve and enhance how Michigan 4-H serves families across the state.

Visit https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bqmeT5Dxtthvjca or scan the QR code to share your input and help shape the future of the Michigan 4-H program. If you have questions regarding this survey, please reach out to Kathy Fischer at fisch226@msu.edu.



NEWS AND EVENTS



MICHIGAN 4-H HORSE PROGRAM WINTER WEBINAR SERIES

January 15th at 6pm: How to buy a horse with Paula Hitzler
January 29th at 6pm: The basics of Equine Management with David Lindsay
February 5th at 6pm: Equine Nutrition basics with Dr. Christine Skelly
February 18th at 6pm: Being a better boarder and Running a boarding facility with Taylor Fabus
March 12th at 6pm: From the judges' perspective: Showmanship with Dr. Karen Waite
March 26th at 6pm: From the judges' perspective: Ranch Riding with Dr. Alyssa Logan

Any further questions email David Lindsay, Extension Educator at lindsa75@msu.edu

MI 4-H Horse Program Winter Webinar Series

The Michigan 4-H Horse Program is hosting a six-part winter webinar series. The series will focus on an array of topics centered around Youth who are just getting started with horses and the Horse and Pony Project.

For information regarding the webinar reach out to David Lindsay for the webinar link!

New Year Enrollment



The 2024 – 2025 4-H Year has begun! Don't waste time to enroll. Enrollment must be submitted following the deadlines below for eligibility for scholarships, event/activities, etc.

- June 1 – New Member deadline

Paper accommodations available upon request to the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269-927-5674 or can be found online at: https://www.canr.msu.edu/berrien/berrien_county_4_h/enrollment

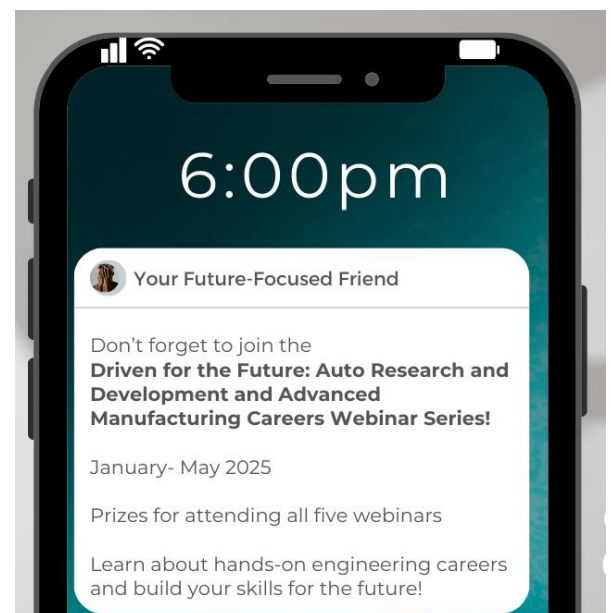
Individuals not enrolled will not be listed on the liability insurance nor considered a 4-H member for the year.

Driven for the Future – Webinar Series

Are you passionate about vehicles and ready to jump-start your career in the automotive industry? Enjoy technology, robotics, and hands-on problem solving? Join us for an engaging webinar designed to provide valuable insight into the skills and certifications you need to excel in today's fast-evolving automotive industry. Hear success stories from current automotive evaluation technician apprentices who are gaining hands-on experience through the FAME (Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education) program to turn their passion into a thriving career in the skilled trades.

This webinar series will be presented January- May of 2025 with a small incentive for anyone who attends all five sessions, either live or by watching the recording, by May 27. Held on Thursdays at 6:00 PM EST.

This series is sponsored by Toyota Research & Development with a special incentive for those who attend all five webinars! Find out more about the series and register at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/driven-for-the-future/index>



NEWS AND EVENTS



Michigan 4-H State Awards

The Michigan 4-H State Awards are the highest honor bestowed on Michigan 4-H youth. This hands-on learning experience not only allows members to be recognized for their accomplishments, but also helps 4-H members to develop and practice “adulting” skills such as resume writing, filling out an application, and interviewing. Learn more and start your 2025 #MI4H State Awards application at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/.../4-h.../youth-recognition/>.

4-H Exploration Days



Join 1,000 youth from across Michigan on MSU's campus to explore YOUR future! Live like a college student and learn about future careers at 4-H Exploration Days. 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 on June 18 – 20, 2025 at Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI. All young people ages 12 to 19 are invited to join the fun! You don't need to be a 4-H member to attend. Adults who would like to serve as event chaperones should contact the Berrien County MSU Extension office at 269-927-5674.

The cost for the 2025 event is \$250.00, which includes two nights lodging in a residence hall, meals, learning sessions, an event t-shirt and free time activities. Berrien County 4-H members are offered a scholarship in the amount of \$200.00 to apply to the registration fee on first come, first serve basis until gone. A deposit of \$50.00 is due at registration and prior to scholarship being applied. The 2025 event registration is set to open at the end of March with sessions filling on a first come, first serve basis until full. For information on sessions and to register go to: https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/registration_information.

Additionally, bus transportation from and to the event is arranged through the Kalamazoo County 4H program. Its cost is \$10.00 per a youth. Payment can be submitted to the Berrien County MSU Extension Office and must be received to reserve spot on the bus.

Georgia Boot – Trail Blazers



Are you a standout 4-H member with a passion for your projects? Do you enjoy making an impact in your club and community? If yes, apply to be a Georgia Boot 4-H Trailblazer today! The Georgia Boot Trailblazer contest provides an opportunity for 4-H members to share their project journey with the Georgia Boot audience!

What is a Georgia Boot Trailblazer? A passionate and dedicated 4-H member who wants to share their project journey and accomplishments with the Georgia Boot audience!

Winners will receive a prize package valued at \$800. Prize Includes:

- 2 Pairs of Georgia Boots
- A \$350 Gift Card to a qualifying farm & ranch or hardware store
- Georgia Boot & 4-H Merchandise

How do you apply? Fill out our application and record a short video introducing yourself!

Completed applications must be submitted by March 16th, 2025.

Apply online at: <https://www.georgiaboot.com/4-h-trailblazers-application/>



NEWS AND EVENTS



4-H Paint Your Own Pottery Collection



4-H members looking for a creative way to express themselves can now do so through pottery painting, thanks to the new 4-H Collection available at My Pottery Place studios starting in March 2025. This collection features a variety of pottery pieces designed to celebrate the values and traditions of 4-H, offering participants an engaging way to showcase their artistic talents while supporting the organization.

Bisque has curated a 4-H Collection of pottery pieces that will be sold in Paint Your Own Pottery Studios across the country. The 4-H Collection includes pieces such as mugs, plates, and decorative items adorned with 4-H symbols and themes. Each piece provides a unique canvas for members to personalize with colors and designs that reflect their 4-H experiences. Whether it's painting a mug to commemorate a special project or decorating a plate with a club motto, these ceramics allow for a hands-on way to blend creativity with the 4-H spirit.

Additionally, 5 percent of each 4-H Collection purchase benefits 4-H, further supporting youth development programs across the country. This initiative allows members to contribute to their organization while enjoying a fun and interactive artistic experience.

To find a local distribution go to: <https://mypotteryplace.com/pro-studio-locator/>

Berrien County 4-H Leaders Association Annual Meeting



Save the date for the 59th Annual Berrien County 4-H Leaders Association meeting! Each club is required to send at least one (1) representative.

Date: April 28, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM EST.

Location: Berrien County Youth Fair – Berrien Springs, MI

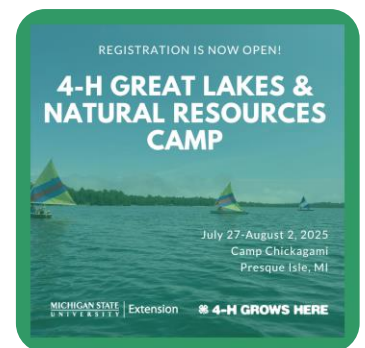
Who: Berrien County 4-H Teen Leaders (Youth 13 years and up) and Leaders/Volunteers

For questions reach out to the Berrien County MSU Extension office at 269-927-5674.

Great Lakes Natural Resource Camp

Registration is now OPEN for 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp! Spend the week at Camp Chickagami on beautiful Lake Esau. Learn about the Great Lakes and Michigan's natural resources through experiential learning opportunities, enjoy recreational sessions including swimming, kayaking, archery, outdoor skills, campfires, and more! Camp is open to youth ages 13-15. Learn more and register at https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_great_lakes_natural_resources_camp/index

County scholarships are available by contacting the local county extension office.



NEWS AND EVENTS



Upcoming Countywide Project Workshops & Kit to Go!

Registration is now open for countywide projects and project exploration kits. Pre-registration is required, and workshops are limited on a first come, first serve basis until full regardless of participation via self-paced or in-person. All supplies are included unless noted during the registration process. Club Leaders may request Kit to Go's for club members by directly contacting the Berrien County MSU Extension office at 269-927-5674.

4-H Countywide – Free Form Sculpting Workshop

Date: March 29, 2025 at 1:30 PM EST

Who: Open to youth ages 5 – 19 years as of January 1, 2025

Location: Berrien County MSU Extension Office

Register now open through 4-H Online at: <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>

Workshop is limited to 15 youth per a session on a first come, first serve basis until full.

4-H Countywide – Mini Terrariums

Date: May 18, 2025 at 1:30 PM EST

Who: Open to youth ages 5 – 19 years as of January 1, 2025

Location: Berrien County MSU Extension Office

Register through 4-H Online at: <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>

****Registration set to open on April 1, 2025****

Workshop is limited to 20 youth per a session on a first come, first serve basis until full.

4-H Kit to Go! – Sold! Making the Most out at the Fair Auction

This kit is designed to assist you with preparing for your fair/exhibition auction. Grow the potential profit of your 4-H projects through a variety of marketing and communication strategies that will give you a leg up on your competition.

Date: June – July 2025

Who: Open to youth ages 5 – 19 years as of January 1, 2025, as well as Clubs, Groups, & 4-H Leaders

Registration is now open online at: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/Berrien4HSOLD/>

Limited to 100 kits on a first come, first serve basis until full. Kits are set to be distributed starting on June 1, 2025.

4-H Kit to Go! – Wonders of the Monarch Butterfly

This kit is designed to gain an understanding of the monarch butterfly. From life cycle, to habitat to migration habits. Take flight with us as we discover more about the wonders of the Monarch butterfly.

Date: May 2025

Who: Open to youth ages 5 – 19 years as of January 1, 2025, as well as Clubs, Groups, & 4-H Leaders

Register through 4-H Online at: <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>

****Registration set to open on April 1, 2025****

Limited to 20 kits on a first come, first serve basis until full.

4-H Kit to Go! – Gelatin and Meat Proteins

What is meat? Meat is made up of muscle fiber, connective tissue and fat. Muscle fibers are comprised of protein. Join us in this science experiment kit focus on how meat is made up of collagens and the chemical reactions that form bond create its taste/textures.

Date: April 2025

Who: Open to youth ages 5 – 19 years as of January 1, 2025, as well as Clubs, Groups, & 4-H Leaders

Register through 4-H Online at: <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>

****Registration set to open on March 10, 2025****

Limited to 20 kits on a first come, first serve basis until full.

4-H Mark of Excellence

Michigan 4-H State Awards Program

Grab your pen! Spark your imagination!
Dive into the world of 4-H! Twist and turn your way through your 4-H memories, as you capture your adventure and discoveries!



Beyond Ready

Eligibility:

- Be a current 4-H member between the ages of 10 and 11 as of January 1, 2025. Enrollment in previous years not required.
- Individuals may only be selected for this award once.
- Each county can select up to two (2) winners to receive the Mark of Excellence Award each year.

Submission Details:

- Contestants are asked to create either a video or a journal reflection focusing around the theme of “4-H Beyond Ready”
- Entries should be legible, readable or easily viewable.
- Video submissions must be no more than 2 minutes in length. Videos should be in mp4 format or provide a YouTube Channel link.
- Journal reflections must be 500 words or less and can be hand-written or typed.
- Submission can be either video OR a journal reflection.
- Must include first name and county.

Award:

- Selected winners will receive a certificate and medal.

Learn more at:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4-h-awards-and-recognition-program/youth-recognition

Submissions may be posted on the Michigan 4-H section of the MSU Extension website and promoted digitally in newsletters and social media.

Deadlines:

- Submit to your local 4-H Office by April 1, 2025 for judging.
- Selected winners will be notified by April 14, 2025 of their achievement from their local 4-H Office.

Questions:

- Contact your local County 4-H Office

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MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension

NEWS AND EVENTS



Berrien County 4-H Alumni, Cerny & Horse Leaders Scholarships



Calling all current high school seniors, high school graduates or high school diploma equivalents!

New for 2025, the Berrien County 4-H Alumni, Cerny Memorial & Equine Educational scholarship have been combined into one (1) application. Application has been updated along with requirements.

For application and eligibility FAQ go to:
https://www.canr.msu.edu/berrien/berrien_county_4_h/scholarships-awards/scholarships

Applications can be submitted online at:
<https://events.anr.msu.edu/Berrien4H2025Scholarships/> or to the Berrien County MSU Extension office by May 15, 2025. No later submissions accepted. Interviews are scheduled for June 12, 2025.

MI 4-H State Horse Show



The State 4-H Horse Show is an annual, three-day event that brings together 4-H members from counties across Michigan. Members are selected by their county 4-H programs to participate in this event.

Date: August 14 – 17, 2025

Where: MSU Pavilion – East Lansing, MI

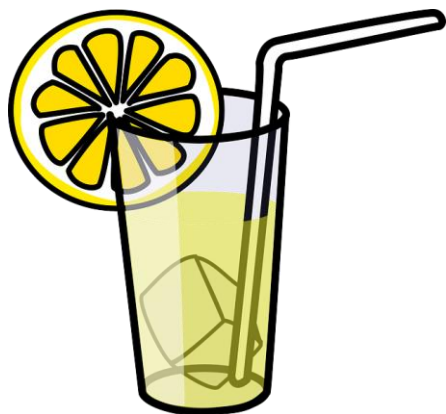
Who: Open to youth ages 12 and Up as of January 1, 2025

For more show schedule, eligibility, etc. go to:
https://www.canr.msu.edu/horses_ponies/registration-information

Berrien County Application can be submitted via 4-H Online in the events section.

Deadline for Application: July 1, 2025 – No late submission accepted.

4-H Lemonade Stand Fundraiser



It's that time of year again, Teen/Service 4-H Club will be hosting its annual 4-H Lemonade stand during the Berrien County Youth Fair.

They need club help, both youth and adults to assist during the week of the BCYF. Clubs may sign up for just one or multiple two (2) hours shifts. Clubs will earn a portion of the profits for that day.

If interested reach out to Bobbi Lawson at bobbilawson85@gmail.com or Freida Keefer at freida.keefer@yahoo.com to for questions and shift sign up.

Shifts are filled on a first come, first serve basis. Each shift is required to have a Gold Level volunteers always present in the booth.



NEWS AND EVENTS



4-H Versatility Scholarship Event

Date: Sunday, August 10, 2025 at 3:00 PM at the Berrien County Youth Fair

Eligibility: Open to any Berrien County 4-H member who has completed the 8th grade by July 15, 2025.

Maximum years of participating in the event is not to exceed five. Exhibitors must be enrolled in Berrien County 4-H Horse and Pony Project by July 1, 2025.

Purpose: The Purpose of the Berrien County 4-H Versatility Scholarship Event is to identify and recognize the most versatile 4-H teen member and horse team in the Berrien County 4-H Horse and Pony Project. The scholarship recognizes the outstanding 4-H horse and rider versatility combination at the Berrien County 4-H Versatility Event.

2025 Gymkhana will be Speed and Action

Amount of Scholarship: \$500.00 to Champion, \$250.00 to Reserve Champion and \$250.00 to the Sportsmanship Award Recipient

Member and horse must be pre-registered or post marked for the Berrien County 4-H Versatility Event by Monday, July 15, 2025.

NEW for 2025, registration is completed via 4-H Online in the event section at <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>

For eligibility, rules, requirements and application can be found by calling the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269-927-5674. or online at http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/berrien/berrien_county_4_h

Michigan 4-H State Awards

The Michigan 4-H State Awards Program is a hands-on learning experience that allows 4-H members to develop and practice “adulting” skills such as resume writing, filling out an application, and interviewing. Applications and interviews are based on communicating your 4-H participation and learning experiences.

Applicants are eligible to compete for cash prizes and be recognized for their 4-H involvement. 4-H members who meet the minimum application score are eligible for a \$50 scholarship toward their 4-H Exploration Days registration. The 2025 Michigan 4-H State Awards will be presented during the 4-H Exploration Days on June 18 at MSU.

Who: 4-H members 12-19 years old (on January 1)

Submit an application: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/StateAwards25/>

Application deadline: April 1

Find complete information on the website: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/.../4-h.../youth-recognition/>



A State 4-H Award is the highest honor bestowed on Michigan 4-H youth!

Information and application: <https://tinyurl.com/46afjtc8>

Application deadline: April 1

Submit application: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/StateAwards25>

Recognition event: June 18



NEWS AND EVENTS



4-H Youth in Action Program applications open



Apply now for the 2026 4-H Youth in Action Awards! Each year, the 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 March 31. Learn more and apply at <https://4-h.org/programs/4-h-youth-in-action-program/application/>.

April 10: Driving Success with Workplace Professionalism

Online

Through a partnership with Toyota, youth will experience a variety of career paths in the automotive industry as well as build workforce readiness skills. This webinar will provide insight on professionalism in the workplace.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/workplace-professionalism

April 16: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar - 4-H Club Fundraising 101

Online

This webinar will provide an overview of Michigan 4-H fundraising policies, ensuring that your efforts align with guidelines and best practices for success.

- **12 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-4-h-club-fundraising-101-noon
- **7 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-4-h-club-fundraising-101-7pm

April 24: 4-H Fly Fishing Series

Adrian, Michigan

Learn to use fly fishing equipment, practice fly casting techniques and tie a variety of knots. Learn about environmental and water quality concerns, as well as a fish's ecosystem as you practice imitating insects and other water critters. Registration deadline is April 18.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-fly-fishing-series

April 30: Make the Most of Your Market Animal Project – Goal Getters

Online

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

www.canr.msu.edu/events/market-animal-project-webinar4-30

May 1: Engineering the Future with Careers in Integrated Vehicle Systems (IVS)

Online

Through a partnership with Toyota, youth will experience a variety of career paths in the automotive industry as well as build workforce readiness skills. This webinar focuses on careers in IVS, the backbone of advanced safety in automobiles.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/careers-in-ivs

May 3: Spring 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Workshop for Adults and Teens

Owosso, Michigan

Learn about 4-H Shooting Sports mission policy, risk management and safety, discipline-specific equipment use and care, how to teach shooting fundamentals to youth, range set-up, and more.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/spring-2025-4-h-shooting-sports-instructor-workshop-for-adults-and-teens



Berrien County MSU Extension
1737 Hillandale Road
Benton Harbor, MI 49022



4-H Spotlight

Berrien County 4-H Youth Development



Facebook – “Berrien County 4-H Youth Development”

Instagram - @realberriencounty4-H

