



## BERRIEN COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

## 4-H Family News

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 2 - December 2020 &amp; January 2021

## Berrien County MSU Extension Office

**CURRENTLY CLOSED UNTIL DECEMBER 8, 2020****Please call ahead for item drop off or pick-ups**

The **Mission** of our 4-H Youth Development Program is to provide personal growth opportunities for youth in Berrien County through educational programs and activities which utilize quality volunteers, trained staff, and community partners.

Our **Vision** is to make a positive difference in the lives of Berrien County youth.

**Reminder:**

With the recent easing of restrictions regarding public gatherings from the State of Michigan, it is an important time to remind the 4-H community that MSU Extension's guidance regarding face-to-face programming has not changed. No face-to-face MSU Extension youth events or programs may take place anywhere in the state until further notice. This applies to events and activities led by Michigan 4-H volunteers, including 4-H club meetings or in person gatherings of any size. We welcome and encourage 4-H clubs and groups to continue meeting virtually at this time; please let us know if we can assist you in identifying options for your virtual meeting spaces.

For questions, feel free to contact the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269-927-5674.

**Contact Us**

Berrien County  
MSU Extension Office

1737 Hillandale Road  
Benton Harbor, MI  
49022

**Office Hours:**

Monday thru Friday

8:30 a.m.—Noon

&

1:00—5:00 p.m.

**Phone**

269-927-5674

**Fax**

269-944-4128

**Web Site**

[http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/berrien/berrien\\_county\\_4\\_h](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/berrien/berrien_county_4_h)

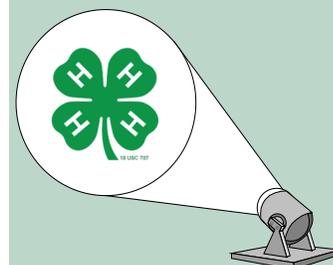
**Facebook**

Berrien County 4-H  
Youth Development

**Your 4-H Youth  
Development Staff**

Kelly Stelter  
4-H Program  
Coordinator  
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Leo Stanley Outstanding  
4-H'er—Matthew  
Carpenter

## 2020 Berrien County 4-H Member & Leader Recognition Celebration!

The Berrien County 4-H Youth Program proudly recognized 4-H members and leaders annual achievements during the 2020 4-H Member and Leader Recognition Celebration on Sunday, November 8, 2020 via zoom. This year the program provided award recipients and their families with a buffet style dinner following the awards presentation. Congratulations to 4-H Members and Leaders on their successful 2019—2020 4-H Year. We would like to take a moment to make everyone aware of the top awards given out during this year's celebration.

### Leo Stanley Outstanding 4-H'ers Award

*The Leo Stanley Outstanding 4-H'er Award is the highest honor a 4-H'er can receive and is sponsored by the Southwest Exchange Club of Michigan. Selection is made encompassing a member's whole 4-H career. A maximum of two youth can receive this honor in a given year.*

Matthew Carpenter

Town and Country Paws & Pals 4-H Club and Baroda Bunnies 4-H Club



### County Project Medals

*The county project medals recognizes members within a project area that they have completed for at least three years. Youth are only able to receive one project medal in a project area in their 4-H career.*

#### Beef Project

Lillian Moore—River Valley Wranglers 4-H Club

Matthew Moore—River Valley Wranglers 4-H Club

#### Companion Animal Science Project

Alyssa Garrison—Town and Country Paws & Pals 4-H Club

#### Llama Project:

Kyle Smith—Fuzzy Friends 4-H Club

#### County Medal Recipients:

Above: Kyle Smith &  
Matthew Moore

Below: Lillian Moore &  
Alyssa Garrison



### Clover Years of Service Awards

*Presented to 4-H Leaders for achieving milestones for years of service.*

#### 5 Years:

Karen Metz – Countrysiders 4-H Club

Connie Peterson – Best Friends 4-H Club

Janet Scott – Countrysiders 4-H Club

#### 25 Years:

Rob Lausch – Stewart 4-H Club

Linda Shannon-Challiet – Best Friends

Brian Troxell – Tractor Operator Program

#### 10 Years:

Kaitlynn Miller – River Valley Wranglers

#### 30 Years

Eve Quint – Galien Chanters 4-H Club

#### 15 Years:

Debbie Schmaltz – Boots N Saddles

#### 35 Years

Sue Glossinger – Rainbow Tracks 4-H Club

#### 20 Years:

Pam LaPorte – Tumbleweeds 4-H Club

#### 50 Years

Suzette Hendershott – On the Rail

### Berrien County 4-H Alumni Scholarship Award

The Berrien County 4-H Alumni Scholarship is awarded annually to a Berrien County 4-H alumni who has completed 5 years of membership including their senior year of high school, maintained a GPA of at least a 2.8 or higher, interviewed with the selection committee and submitted 3 letters of recommendation. Recipient received a \$1,000.00 scholarship towards their continuing education.

Karen Smith

Alumni of the Fuzzy Friends 4-H Club, Galien Chanters 4-H Club,  
and Baroda Bunnies 4-H Club

### Joseph Cerny & Evelyn Cerny Memorial Scholarship Award

The Berrien County 4-H Alumni Scholarship is awarded annually to a Berrien County 4-H alumni who has completed 5 years of membership including their senior year of high school, maintained a GPA of at least a 2.8 or higher, interviewed with the selection committee and submitted 3 letters of recommendation. Recipient received a \$1,000.00 scholarship towards their continuing education. Scholarship is sponsored by the Cerny Family.

Darlene Mattson

Alumni of the Best Friends 4-H Club and  
Straight Shooter 4-H Club

### Outstanding 4-H Leader

The Outstanding 4-H Leader Award recognizes 4-H leaders for their volunteer service and leadership within their 4-H clubs as well as their leadership on county programs, committees, and activities that benefit the more than 500 youth and their families enrolled in Berrien County 4-H.

Allen Metz

Countrysiders 4-H Club

Rick Widdis

4-H Tractor Operator Program

### Virtual Celebration Presentation:

If you missed this year's 2020 Berrien County 4-H Member and Leader Recognition Celebration, don't worry. The recorded video presentation will be available for viewing on the Berrien County 4-H website at:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/berrien/berrien\\_county\\_4\\_h/scholarships-awards/awards](https://www.canr.msu.edu/berrien/berrien_county_4_h/scholarships-awards/awards)

Please note, the celebration video won't be available until after December 10, 2020.

All members and leaders who received awards during the virtual celebration will receive their certificates, pins, etc. via mail. At this time all awards have been mailed, if you have not received your awards by January 4, 2021 please contact the Berrien County MSU Extension Office.

Outstanding 4-H Leader and Member awards must be picked up at the Berrien County MSU Extension Office. Please call head to arrange pick-up.

3



Alumni Scholarship  
Recipient—Karen Smith



Joseph Cerny & Evelyn  
Cerny Memorial Scholarship  
Recipient—Darlene  
Mattson



Outstanding 4-H Leader  
Above: Rick Widdis.  
Below: Allen Metz



## 4

### Berrien 4-H'er wins overall individual for the MI 4-H Virtual Horse Judging Contest

Recently, members of the Berrien County 4-H program competed in the Michigan 4-H Virtual Horse Judging Contest. 4-H'ers were tasked with a variety of classes to evaluate 4-H youth competed individually and as a team. Members who competed included Sarah Jannings, Haileigh Badtke, and Emma Fanslau.

A big congratulations to Emma Fanslua for winning overall individual for the Senior Division!

Emma is a member of the River Valley Wranglers 4-H Club where she has participated in a variety of horse and pony project opportunities including being a member of the Horse Judging Team.

In addition to winning high individual, the team also placed 6th overall for the contest.

### 4-H Equine Educational Activity Scholarship Awarded

Congratulations to Victoria Dumke for being selected as the 2020 Berrien County 4-H Equine Educational Scholarship Award recipient which is sponsored by the Berrien County 4-H Horse Leaders Association.

Victoria was recognized with a certificate and a scholarship award in the amount of \$500.00 to go towards her continuing education.

Victoria is a member of the River Valley Wranglers 4-H Club. Throughout the years she has participated as a member of the 4-H Horse and Pony project, where she has gained knowledge on a variety of topics such as grooming, horse health, safety when working with horses as well as gaining a deeper understanding of ideal movement and confirmation by being a member of the Berrien County 4-H Horse Judging Team. Besides project mastery she has learned life skills that have impacted her success in throughout her life such as public speaking, self-confidence, and leaderships to name a few. Victoria was a member of the State Champion Horse Judging where she was able to compete nationally representing Michigan 4-H with her teammates. Victoria is currently attending Ferris State University majoring in Accounting.

For information on the Berrien County 4-H Equine Educational Scholarship Award go to: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/berrien/berrien\\_county\\_4\\_h/scholarships-awards/scholarships](https://www.canr.msu.edu/berrien/berrien_county_4_h/scholarships-awards/scholarships)



Pictured Above: Victoria Dumke with her horse

### MI 4-H Horse and Pony opportunities coming in January 2021!

#### *Ride Across Your State Challenge—2021*

Join this program in 2021 to ride across the state of Michigan. Take time to log your miles in the saddle so you can earn prizes along the way!

Bonus, there will be team competitions, Michigan history lessons and much more! All ages are welcomed to participant. More details to be released in January!

#### *Michigan 4-H Virtual Equine Science Camp—2021*

Our Michigan 4-H Virtual Equine Science Camp will include a fantastic kit (t-shirt, stethoscope, thermometer, feed samples, printed materials, and more!) shipped directly to all participants as well as interactive evening meetings beginning in March. Open to ages 11-19 and space will be limited! For more details and registration information will be available in mid-January.

Check out the latest as new information comes available at the Michigan 4-H Horse Program Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/MI4HHorseLeaders>



### Berrien County 4-H Horse Challenge Pattern Winner Announced

Congratulations to Emma Fanslau of the River Valley Wranglers 4-H Club for winning the 2020 4-H Horse Challenge Showmanship Pattern.

The 4-H Horse Challenge Showmanship Pattern was sponsored by the Berrien County 4-H Horse Leaders Association.

Emma was awarded a prize of 4-H horse grooming products.

## 2020 Thanks 4 Giving Community Service Project

On November 21, 2020, in collaboration with Berrien County Farm Bureau, Farm Bureau Insurance Agent Charitable Fund and Southwest Michigan Collegiate Farm Bureau, local Berrien County 4-H Clubs came together to participate in the Thanks 4 Giving community service project. Clubs were asked to provide items and assist in assembling baskets to give out to individuals and families in need throughout Berrien County during the Thanksgiving holiday.



This year, 110 baskets were assembled and distributed to families across Berrien County. Each bushel basket was overflowing with enough food for a family to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving feast, including a turkey, locally grown lettuce, apples, potatoes, sweet potatoes, stuffing mix, canned vegetables, cranberry sauce, fresh baked dinner rolls, a pumpkin pie and vouchers for milk and butter from local grocery stores. Each basket contained at least 35 pounds of food and a total of 3,850 pounds of food was distributed! Basket items were sourced through local producers and business in Berrien County.

Furthermore, Berrien County Farm Bureau gave three door prizes away in the amount of \$100.00 to selected participating clubs. The winners of the door prizes were as follows:

Great Expectations 4-H Club  
Town and Country Paws & Pals 4-H Club  
On the Rail 4-H Club

Winning Club's were emailed with more information on prize. For questions contact the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269-927-5674.

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## 4-H Senior Award Recipients for Class of 2021

4-H Senior Awards were presented to Berrien County 4-H members who have been a member for five or more years and have plans to graduate from high school this current 4-H year during the 2020 Berrien County 4-H Member and Leader Virtual Recognition Celebration on Sunday, November 8, 2020.



4-H Senior Cords have been mailed to recipients. Please note, cords will not be replaced if lost once received. 4-H Families are asked to request permission from their designated school in advance if there are any restrictions when it comes to wearing cords during graduation. If school restrictions do apply, we ask that all families respect school policy accordingly.

2021 4-H Senior Award Recipients are as follows:

Olivia Borst – Al-Bar  
Jazmin Finch – Backyard Renegades  
Evie Clare – Baroda Bunnies  
Lilly Siewart – Double Bridle  
Elijah Darda – Great Expectations  
Katelyn Glendening – High Spirits  
Alexandria Smith – High Spirits

Ben McKee – Redbud Country Goat  
Parker Lyden – Redbud Country Goat  
Sarah Jannings – River Valley Wranglers  
Zachary Smith – Straight Shooters  
Jae Walker – Tryon 4-H Saddle  
Madeline Stockman – Tryon 4-H Saddle  
Melody Hackett – We Can Ride

5

## Acts of Kindness SPIN Club



Are you interested in getting involved in your community from the comfort of your home? During the Acts of Kindness SPIN Club, we'll explore ideas for generous actions that encourage youth voices and promote the common good, even when we are apart.

Michigan youth ages 9-13 are invited to join us for discussions and activities related to service learning, and participants will learn how to match their interests to community needs through investigation, planning, action and reflection.

Michigan AmeriCorps members will lead the meetings from 4:00-5:00 PM EST Mondays from December 14th until January 18th.

To receive club access, please make sure all youth interested are registered on 4-H Online. Please visit <https://bit.ly/AOKSPIN> to receive more information about this club.

## MSU Extension Caregiving Online Classes Available



### *Reducing Challenging Behavior in Infants and Toddlers*

Is your toddler struggling with tantrums? Biting? Infancy and toddlerhood is a fun and busy time in a child's life but can be challenging! Learn more about how to reduce challenging behaviors in infants and toddlers during this Extension Extras Parenting Hour: Tuesday, December 1, 8:00PM to 9:30PM.

### *Mathematics for Infants and Toddlers*

Did you know that you can help build your children's math skills from as early as infancy? Learn more about how to support the development of key mathematics skills in infants and toddlers. Tuesday, December 8, 8:00PM to 9:30PM.

Pre-registration is required for both classes and can be done online at:

<https://bit.ly/3mrRSqB>

## Berrien 4-H'er wins Overall High Individual

Recently, members of the Berrien County 4-H program competed in the Michigan 4-H Virtual Horse Judging Contest. 4-H'ers were tasked with a variety of classes to evaluate 4-H youth competed individually and as a team. Members who competed included Sarah Jannings, Haileigh Badtke, and Emma Fanslau.

A big congratulations to Emma Fanslua for winning overall high individual for the Senior Division! Emma is a member of the River Valley Wranglers 4-H Club where she has participated in a variety of horse and pony project opportunities including being a member of the Horse Judging Team.

In addition to winning high individual, the team also placed 6th overall for the contest.



Pictured Above:  
Emma Fanslau of the River  
Valley Wranglers 4-H Club

## Berrien County 4-H Club Game Night Series—Starting January 2021



Beginning January 2021 is the 4-H Club Game Night Series hosted by the Berrien County 4-H Youth Development program. Each month a new game or activity will be released via the 4-H Spotlight and posted to the Berrien County 4-H Facebook Page. Club Coordinators will get the challenge mailed and/or emailed to them directly in advance as well. Each activity/game will have a specific topic focus around a life skill.

### *Rules:*

- ◆ Only open to active Berrien County 4-H Clubs in good standing.
- ◆ All members participating for that month must be enrolled in 4-H Online
- ◆ Clubs must follow all Michigan and County 4-H policies.
- ◆ Club's are encourage to do this in a virtual setting during their monthly meeting. If you need assistance setting up a virtual meeting contact the Berrien County MSU Extension Office or Kelly Stelter, 4-H Program Coordinator at [grandtke@msu.edu](mailto:grandtke@msu.edu) Virtual setting includes: Zoom, WeChat, Google Classroom, Private Club Facebook Group, private club group text, etc.
- ◆ Club Coordinators or designated Club Representative must submit their club's entry submission no later than the last day of the corresponding game for that month to be eligible for prizes. Example: January's game will need to be submitted by January 31. Late submissions will not be eligible for that months prize however, it will be counted for the overall grand prize at the end of the Series.

### *Submission Details:*

- ◆ Email to Kelly Stelter, 4-H Program Coordinator at [grandtke@msu.edu](mailto:grandtke@msu.edu)
- ◆ Dropped off or mailed to the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at:  
1737 Hillandale Road, Benton Harbor, MI 49022
- ◆ Faxed to the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269-944-4128

### *Prizes:*

- ◆ Each month all club submissions that are correct will be entered into a drawing to select one cash prize of \$50.00 to go towards club resources/supplies.
- ◆ Grand Prize to be selected at the end. Each time a club participates they will be entered into the grand prize drawing. (Submissions do not need to be correct to receive credit).
  - ◆ 1st—4-H Club Connection Activity Night worth up to \$250.00
  - ◆ 2nd—4-H Club Connection Package worth up to \$150.00
  - ◆ 3rd—4-H Club Connection Package worth up to \$100.00

# 4-H Club Game Night Series—January

## Focusing on Team Building

Deadline to submit: January 31, 2021 by 5:00 p.m.

⇒ Using the 12 clues provided, see if your 4-H Club can solve the mystery.

### *Solve the Mystery!*

*Who baked which pie? What prize did each pie win?*

Clue #1—There were six entries in the pie contest at the county fair.

Clue #2—Judges awarded prizes for first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth place.

Clue #3—The contest judges awarded first prize to the apple pie.

Clue #4—The peach pie won second place.

Clue #5—The Cherry pie was so sour the judges did not place it in the top five places.

Clue #6—Betty's pie placed lower than Andy's pie and high than Dave's pie.

Clue #7—Ellen's pie was one of the best she ever made.

Clue #8—Sarah substituted brown sugar for regular sugar in her pie.

Clue #9—Sarah did not receive either first or sixth prize.

Clue #10—Andy has never entered a fruit pie in the county fair.

Clue #11—The chocolate pie placed one place higher than the pecan pie.

Clue #12—One person who two prizes, for fifth and sixth places and one of these pies was Blueberry.

<b>1st Place:</b>	<b>2nd Place</b>	<b>3rd Place</b>
<b>4th Place</b>	<b>5th Place</b>	<b>6th Place</b>

7

### 4-H Cloverbud

### Social/Emotional Wellness Kits



Complete activities together with your child to help them explore their emotions. Supplies for activities are included in the kit and can be shipped directly to your home.

Activities include creating a calming jar, reading a book and discussing the characters' emotions, making feelings masks and more.

Post photos of your completed projects to a padlet board (instructions included with kit) to compare how others are completing the activities.

Open to youth ages 5—8 years. Parents, teachers, grandparents, etc. are all welcome to participate.

Register at:

[https://  
events.anr.msu.edu/  
MissaukeeCloverbudWell  
ness/](https://events.anr.msu.edu/MissaukeeCloverbudWellness/)

Kits will be mailed out starting January 7.

8

## Volunteer Training Opportunity



With more virtual programs and meetings taking place, have you considered how you are keeping youth and adult participants safe and creating a positive learning environment?

Attend Success and Safety in Volunteer-Led Virtual Programs and learn about best practices and strategies to use when programming virtually with youth and adults.

This hour-long session will cover important points to remember and resources to help you in your role.

Register for December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12:30pm EST at <https://bit.ly/361FZkN>

OR

December 14th at 3:00 pm EST at <https://bit.ly/214yC42>

### Urban Backyard Birding 4-H SPIN Club

Many exciting birds call Grand Rapids their home throughout the winter. Throughout this program you will complete hands-on activities and get to know or rediscover the birds found in our own Grand Rapids area yards and neighborhoods. The program will end with participating in The Great Backyard Bird Count, a nationwide science project.



Who: Open to youth ages 5—19 years.

Where: Meet via Zoom on Thursdays from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. EST. Beginning January 7 and ending February 18.

Cost: Free

Register online at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/urban-backyard-birding>



### Adulthood 101—Winter Series Free online classes for High School Youth

This exciting series of Adulthood 101 is being offered for high school youth to help prepare for life on your own. Different session topics will be offered on Thursdays in January starting at 4 p.m. EST. Each session will last approximately an hour. Topics include:

January 14 - International Conversations: Join us to explore cultural values from around the world.

January 21 - Goal Setting: Turn your goals into reality with these SMART tips.

January 28 - Food Safety: We all love to eat! Learn how to properly store, cook, and handle your food with safety in mind.

Register online at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulthood-101-winter-series-jan-14>

### 4-H in the Kitchen Live! Eggnog Scones

There's a chill in the air, snow is on the horizon and the Holiday season is now upon us! For many, the Holidays mean family get-togethers and lots of great food. Well, 4-H in the Kitchen is about to get into the season with a special holiday episode!



Join us and our special guest Chef, the mistress of muffins, the baroness of biscuits, Ruth Myers, to learn how to make a special batch of eggnog scones that will be perfect for your next holiday gathering. Open to youth ages 8—19 years.

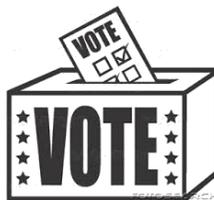
Participants will receive the recipe and a Zoom invite 2 days prior to the event. All participants will also receive a special digital scone recipe book, chocked full of all the best scone recipes for all occasions!

Cost is free.

Deadline to register is December 16, 2020. For more information and to register go to: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-in-the-kitchen-live-eggnog-scones>

## Leaders Council Annual Election

The Leaders Council Annual Elections are now under way! This year, adult leaders and teen members are encouraged to practice responsible citizenship by casting their ballot.



Adults will vote for two (2) adults and teen members will vote for two (2) teens. Ballots are sent via mail to eligible voters. If you have not received your ballot, please contact the Berrien County MSUE Office. Ballots must be returned by 5:00 PM on January 4, 2021 either via fax, mail or drop off.

This year's 2020 Leaders Council Candidates are:

### *Adult Candidates:*

Angela Widdis

### *Teen Candidates:*

Daniel McKee

Laila Roman



## Exoplanets Fermi Paradox—Youth Astronomy Program

With an estimated 60 billion exo-planets in our Galaxy alone, “where is everybody” is a very reasonable question to ask! This question has been a long standing debate in astronomy for decades and became a paradox known as the Fermi Paradox. In this talk, we will elaborate on the Fermi Paradox, the possibility of life evolving outside our solar system, and if the live on Earth is a unique one. This live presentation and discussion will be on Thursday, December 17 at 7PM and will be open to all 12-18 year olds. Zoom information will provided via confirmation once registered.

Register for free at: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HNightSky3/>

## Families at the MSU Broad Art Museum Club

Each month, we send an email to all of our FAB Club Members (it's FREE!). The email is themed and offers a video (usually featuring an artist on view at the museum), a book read online with discussion questions, and an artmaking prompt that you can do as a family. Check out our November video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWOzUoEusfw&feature=youtu.be>



You will find each month archived on our website <https://broadmuseum.msu.edu/msu-broad-online#paragraph-89>. If you would like to receive this and other family content, you can join our mailing list here: <https://broadmuseum.msu.edu/families>. You'll also receive notifications for our afterschool programs, camp, and other virtual events via this email.

Also, offering each week is a free artmaking program every Thursday on Facebook Live, where you can create from the comfort of your own home. A studio Educator will lead you through live projects you can follow along with or simply watch and learn. Tune in Thursday nights at 9 pm (starting January 8 pm), gather your materials and join the fun!

Learn more and watch archived videos here: [https://www.facebook.com/events/3392668640820295?active\\_tab=discussion](https://www.facebook.com/events/3392668640820295?active_tab=discussion)

9

LEADERSHIP



## 4-H Officer Training

Interactive training led by 4-H Educators will cover topics including parliamentary procedure, officer roles, and best practices around club finances, fundraisers and budgeting.

### Who:

Open to 4-H Teen Leaders, Officers, and those aspiring to hold officer positions. Training is designed for youth ages 11 and up, but appropriate for youth and adult volunteers of all ages.

### Date:

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

### Time:

6:00—7:30 p.m.

### Cost:

Free

Register online by  
December 16 at:

[https://  
events.anr.msu.edu/  
CLUBOFFICERTRGMAC  
OMB/](https://events.anr.msu.edu/CLUBOFFICERTRGMAC/OMB/)

**Connect with  
youth from across  
the globe!**



Sign up for the States' 4-H Winter Pen Pal program for your chance to make international friends! Learn about culture and daily life in another country while sharing your own experiences with a peer across the globe.

The pen pal program will run from mid-January through mid-April. After being matched with a similarly-aged young person from another country, youth will write to each other twice a month. Topical prompts will be provided to jump start conversations but the possibilities are endless!

To get matched in the program, visit [www.surveymonkey.com/r/7N8RBHY](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7N8RBHY).

## Volunteers & Leaders—Annual National Background Check

It's that time of year for volunteers to complete their national background check. NEW this year, background checks will be conducted through the MSU Extension Volunteer Central Dashboard.

4-H Leaders & Volunteers will need to log into their account using their temporary password and authorize the completion of their annual check. In addition this year, annual Code of Conducts will be signed through the MSU Extension Volunteer Central as well. Background Checks and code of conducts must be submitted no later than November 1, 2020. If you have not done so, please contact the Berrien County MSU Extension Office ASAP. All Leaders who fail to comply will need to re-do their volunteer selection process.

## Club Coordinator—Annual Financial Summary Report Forms PAST DUE

This is a friendly reminder that the deadline to submit Annual Financial Report Forms were due on November 1, 2020. If your club still needs to submit these forms please do so ASAP to the Berrien County MSU Extension Office in Benton Harbor. Forms can be mailed to 1737 Hillandale Road, Benton Harbor, MI 49022, dropped off at the after hours drop mailbox out front or faxed to 269-944-4128.

Forms that need to be submitted include the Annual Financial Report, Civil Rights Statement, Club Profile and Inventory Record. Forms can be found online at: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/berrien/berrien\\_county\\_4\\_h/leader-resources/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/berrien/berrien_county_4_h/leader-resources/)

## Club Coordinator—Financial Bank Statements Due January 10

This is a friendly reminder that the deadline to submit Club Bank Statements for December 31 statements are due on January 10th. All Clubs must submit their bank statement. Statements can be mailed to 1737 Hillandale Road, Benton Harbor, MI 49022, dropped off at the afterhours drop mailbox out front or faxed to 269-944-4128.

Please note, clubs that already have their statements mailed directly to the Berrien County MSU Extension Office on monthly/bi-monthly basis may disregard.

## Supportive Teens Empowering Peers (4-H SPIN CLUB)

Are you missing the ability to connect with friends and peers? Looking for an opportunity to get to know other teens in your area? The 4-H STEP (Supportive Teens Empowering Peers) SPIN Club provides an opportunity for teens ages 13- 19 to connect virtually with peers through fun games, social interaction, and more! Created by teens from the Michigan 4-H State Youth Leadership Council with support from 4-H staff.

When: Wednesdays, 4 - 5 p.m. EST, January 6 - February 24  
Online via Zoom meeting

For more information and to register go to: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-step-spin-club-jan-6-feb-24>

## Virtual showcase and auction success

When the COVID-19 pandemic led to the cancellation of many Michigan fairs, MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H were proud to team up with local community partners to provide an online platform that supported the 4-H experience and continued longtime traditions. Though not the same as a county fair, 4-H virtual learning showcases and auctions provided a space for youth to demonstrate their mastery of skills developed in 4-H, receive feedback on their efforts and market and sell their 4-H projects. Though there were many learning curves and bumps in the road, the 2020 4-H virtual showcase and auction season led to many successes and for that, we say THANK YOU. Here's a look back at the 2020 4-H virtual showcase and auction season:

- 58 counties offered a 4-H virtual showcase and/or auction for youth
- 17 virtual auctions were held
- 7,294 entries were submitted
- 2,699 youth participated
- 3,764 buyers/donors registered for virtual auctions
- \$1.4 million was spent by donors and buyers at 4-H virtual auctions

“We are grateful to partners who have collaborated with us to host these virtual events for 4-H'ers, as well as all the buyers who supported them,” said Jake DeDecker, MSU Extension’s state 4-H leader for Michigan 4-H. “We’re also grateful to each of the youth who took part in this new experience and made the best of a tough situation.”

Participating youth also had positive feedback:

- *“The week at the county fair is always a huge event for my family that we look forward to year round. This year sure was different, but we are so blessed to have the virtual option and thankful for all of the hardworking volunteers that put these events on!”*
- *“Thanks so much for all of your support this year, we can’t thank you enough! What a challenging year for sure. Thank you for making a virtual fair happen when everyone could have simply just cancelled everything. You made it possible and we can’t thank you enough.”*



11

**Support Michigan  
4-H with holiday  
shopping!**



Get ready for the holidays  
AND support 4-H with  
purchases on  
AmazonSmile, SHOP 4-H  
Online and at JOANN's  
Fabric.

AmazonSmile will give  
0.5% of eligible purchases  
to the Michigan 4-H  
Foundation when you shop  
at [http://smile.amazon.com/  
ch/38-1539997](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-1539997).

Buy your favorite Michigan  
4-H'ers 4-H apparel and  
essentials at the SHOP 4-H  
Online Store ([https://shop4-  
h.org/?rfsn=871792.16dd0](https://shop4-h.org/?rfsn=871792.16dd0))  
and 5% of the purchase will  
go back to Michigan 4-H!

JOANN's Fabrics shoppers  
who use their free 4-H  
loyalty card ([http://  
www.joann.com/4-h/](http://www.joann.com/4-h/)) will  
save 15% while also giving  
2.5% back to the National  
4-H Council.

Berrien County MSU Extension  
1737 Hillandale Road  
Benton Harbor MI 49022

The Michigan 4-H Creative Arts Celebration will be going virtual this year! Adult and teen 4-H leaders are encouraged to join this exciting online event to learn new ideas for working virtually with youth in the areas of visual and performing arts, crafts, sewing, clothing and textile projects. Stay tuned for registration information!

**Location:** Online via Zoom

**When:** February 19-21, 2021



Save the Date!  
**Michigan 4-H Creative Arts Celebration**