





## 4-H Exploration Days is an MSU pre-college program designed to:

- Increase responsibility, confidence, independence, accountability, problem-solving, decision-making and time management skills.
- Increase communication, teamwork, citizenship, and leadership skills.
- Foster ability to meet new people and make new friends from different places and backgrounds.
- Develop and expand career and personal interests.
- Increase college exploration and access to the Michigan State University campus and its resources.
- Develop social and academic skills needed for a successful transition to college and life as an adult.
- Give youth opportunities to try things that aren't available in their county.

### What's it like?

- There'll be more than 100 session choices held on and off campus. You'll choose two or three for your three-day stay.
- You'll live in a Michigan State University dorm and eat in the cafeteria—just like MSU students do.
- Sessions are taught by people who know their stuff, including MSU faculty members, 4-H volunteers and staff members and other experts.
- It's not all sessions! There's plenty of time for fun, including skating, souvenir shopping, exploring, basketball—even a great dance Thursday night.
- **The 2026 cost is \$250.** For more information please see the [Registration Information](#) page.
  - The fee includes meals, a shared room in a dorm, sessions and a t-shirt. You may wish to check with your county MSU Extension office to see if scholarship funds are available.
- A registration booklet that shows all of the sessions and details on everything happening during Exploration Days can be found here!
- **Registration opens on March 12th at 7:00 pm.** Don't wait until the deadline though, because popular sessions fill up fast!
- Contact the 4-H staff in your [county MSU Extension office](#) for more information on 4-H Exploration Days, and any specific details pertaining to your county's delegation.



## Hello 4-H families and community partners!

My name is Will Barnwell. I serve as the 4-H Program Instructor for Kalamazoo County. In this role, I support youth programming, develop hands-on learning experiences, and work alongside families, volunteers, and community organizations to create engaging opportunities for young people to learn, lead, and grow.

I want to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who participated in and contributed to our recent Elementary STEAM Experience Club at the Park Trades Center these last few weeks. Your enthusiasm and support made the program a huge success. We deeply appreciate the youth who showed up eager to learn, the families who kept them engaged, and the volunteers and partners who helped bring each session to life.

With that momentum, we're thrilled to introduce our upcoming spring clubs for 4-H and non-4-H youth at the **Community Design Studio in the Park Trade Center- Suite 320**  
**326 W Kalamazoo Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007**

### **Climate Action Advocacy Club For: High school youth (grades 9–12)**

**Dates:** March 20, April 17, May 15, 5-7 PM

This club empowers high school youth to explore environmental stewardship and climate science while developing leadership and advocacy skills. Members will learn how to take meaningful action in their communities, collaborate with peers, and build hope through hands-on, planet-focused projects.

### **Middle School Science Club For: Middle school youth**

**Dates:** March 9, 16, 23, 5–7 PM

Middle school youth are invited to experiment, investigate, and discover the world of science through hands-on STEM activities. Each session encourages curiosity and critical thinking as youth engage with chemistry, physics, engineering challenges, and more. A great opportunity for young learners who love to explore how things work.

### **Introduction to Food Systems SPIN Club For: Youth in grades K–12**

**Dates:** April 9, 16, 23, 30 & May 7, 14, 5-6 PM

Youth will dive into how food is grown, shared, and sustained while learning about seeds, soil, local food systems, and ecological resilience. This club builds practical skills and a deeper understanding of what nourishes us. Some sessions will be held at **off-site locations** such as community gardens or local farms. **These off-site meeting locations are still being finalized and will be communicated to all participants in advance.**

★ 📧 If you're interested in joining any of these spring clubs or have questions about 4-H opportunities, please contact me at: [barnwe18@msu.edu](mailto:barnwe18@msu.edu)

**We're looking forward to a season full of creativity, learning, and connection.  
Thank you for being part of the Kalamazoo County 4-H community!**



There are 4 in person YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) sessions and 1 online version in 2025-2026. This is a requirement for all youth, ages 8-18, who will bring livestock to the Kalamazoo County Youth Fair 2026. There are two options- take 1 of the 5 face-to-face sessions or take the online session. The face-to-face sessions will be a minimum of 1 hour and the cost is \$3.00 per youth. The face-to-face version is meant to include all youth 8 – 18 years old. 19 yr old and above will need to take the online version. The online version is \$12.00 and the curriculum is *age specific*. This certification is good for one year. There need to be a minimum of 5 youth signed up to hold a face-to-face class. The face-to-face sessions will be held on the following dates and times:

March 4 - 6:30 pm

April 18 - 10 am

June 4 - 6:30 pm

**All certificates are due to the 4-H office no later than noon on July 1, 2026**

Youth who would like to take **the face-to-face session** will need to do the following:

- Parents will need to create a **family** profile on <https://yqcaprogram.org/>
- Parents will need to assure each child showing at fair is added and chose the face-to-face training option.
- Pay the \$3.00 registration fee.
- Youth will need to complete the pre-test.
- Once the youth has taken the face-to-face session, staff will mark your session as complete.
- **Youth will need to log back in and take the post test** (found under the child's name and a drop down that says Enrolled ILT trainings).
- Once the post test is complete the youth's certificate will be sent.

Youth who would like to take **the online session** will need to do the following:

- Parents will need to create a **family** profile on <https://yqcaprogram.org/>
- Parents will need to assure each child showing in the fair is added and chose the online training session.
- Pay the \$12.00 registration fee.
- Youth will then need to complete the course.

**Once the youth have completed either the online session or the face-to-face session and have received their certificate, the certificate will need to be emailed to [msue.kalamazoo@msu.edu](mailto:msue.kalamazoo@msu.edu) by July 1, 2026.**

You can find helpful registration videos and documents here:  
[https://yqcaprogram.org/local/resources\\_for\\_youth\\_parents.php](https://yqcaprogram.org/local/resources_for_youth_parents.php)



# Spread The Word!

## Tack sale registration is now open!

Volunteers are needed and adults must be at least a Silver Level Volunteer.

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/becoming\\_a\\_4\\_h\\_volunteer/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/becoming_a_4_h_volunteer/)

The sale will be :

Monday March 23, 2025

5-9 pm

Kalamazoo County Expo Center  
2900 Lake Street, Kalamazoo, MI

Email inquiries to

[kalamazoo4horse@yahoo.com](mailto:kalamazoo4horse@yahoo.com)



**KALAMAZOO COUNTY 4-H TACK SALE**

Monday, March 23 2026  
5pm - 9pm

**4-H GROWS HERE**

**SHOPPERS**  
Come shop private sellers and vendors in a 24,000 square foot indoor venue!  
Concessions available for purchase  
\$2/person donation to the Kalamazoo County 4-H Horse Project at entry

**SELLERS**  
Reserve by March 1st:  
Table space (table included) \$20 (\$25 if received after March 1)  
Vendor cube (table included) \$35 (\$40 if received after March 1)  
Contact [kalamazoo4horse@yahoo.com](mailto:kalamazoo4horse@yahoo.com) to reserve your space today!

Kalamazoo County Expo Center 2900 Lake Street Kalamazoo, MI 49048



## We will be updating our food booth in this year!

Helping on the food booth committee would be a great resume builder for teens who are interested in culinary arts.

Help us compare cost, choose the menu items, plan an inventory for this year's fair. Meet with adults who currently run concessions and cafeterias.

Meetings will be via zoom.....Learn by being involved.....

Reach out to Chris Chase [Myrichland4h@gmail.com](mailto:Myrichland4h@gmail.com) if Interested.



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

**to Our Amazing Volunteers!**

**Shawna G**

**Michiko Y**

**Steve W**

**Anna S**

**Stacey M**

**Meridith M**

**Jennifer M**

**Michelle H**

**Eric L**

**Paul H**



**Kelli K**

**Sarah P**

**Eunice A**

**Phillip M**

**Jennifer H**

**Pamela D**

**Jodie K**

**Jeremy J**

**Theresa C**

**Jeff H**



## Lee G. and K. Joanna Schwenk Fund for Kalamazoo County 4-H



*Lee G. and Katherine "Joanna" Schwenk.*

The [Michigan 4-H Foundation](#) is pleased to announce the establishment of the **Lee G. and K. Joanna Schwenk Fund for Kalamazoo County 4-H**, a permanent endowment created through a charitable gift annuity from the estate of Lee G. and Katherine "Joanna" Schwenk.

The Schwenks established the charitable gift annuity in 1996, designating the Michigan 4-H Foundation as the annuity's remainder beneficiary, with the intent to create an endowed fund that would support Kalamazoo County 4-H for generations to come. Lee passed away in 2011, and with the passing of Joanna in 2025, the endowment was established upon receipt of their gift.

"The Schwenks' legacy will impact the lives of generations of young people, continuing the spirit of service and encouragement that defined their lives," said Abbey Miller, Michigan 4-H Foundation director. "We are so grateful for their thoughtfulness and forward-looking philanthropy." The full article can be found here:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/planned-gift-establishes-the-lee-g-and-k-joanna-schwenk-fund-for-kalamazoo-county-4-h>



# 2026 4-H Fair Schedule

A more detailed schedule with fun events will be in the fair book

## Monday, July 27, 2026

6:00pm Carcass Program Live Animal Evaluation

## Wednesday, July 29, 2026

10:00am Carcass Program Test and Results Announcements

## Friday, July 31, 2026

7:00pm Dairy Show

## Saturday, August 1, 2026

9:00am - 12:00pm Still project judging and display set up  
1:00pm cat show

## Monday, August 3, 2026

9:00am Horse Showmanship & English  
6:00pm Rabbit Showmanship

## Tuesday, August 4, 2026

9:00am Horse Dressage and Jumping Classes  
8:00am Poultry Show  
1:00pm Market rabbit show  
5:00pm Rabbit Agility  
6:00pm Sheep show  
6:00pm Fashion Review, Demonstration and Performances

## Wednesday, August 5, 2026

9:00am Horse Western Classes  
9:00am Swine Show  
4:00pm Feeder Calf show  
6:00pm Beef show

## Thursday, August 6, 2026

9:00am Horse Versatility & Gymkhana Classes  
9:00am Goat show

## Friday, August 7, 2026

9:00am Livestock auction  
10:00am Horse Costume Class  
1:00pm Miniature Horse show

## Saturday, August 8, 2026

9:00am Dog Show  
10:00am Livestock judging contest  
12:00pm Horse Drill Team Demonstration  
3:00pm Master Showmanship



## 2026 Kalamazoo County Youth Fair Camping Fees & Information

**Beginning on May 1, 2026 you must call to make your reservation directly with the Expo Center.**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Camping Fees:            | Weekly Rate - \$189.00 per week (8/2-8/9)<br>Reservations made after July 24 are \$224 per week   |
| Advance Reservation Fee: | One-time \$5.00 fee will be charged for all reservations  |
| Septic Service:          | A dump station with potable water is available on the grounds. On-site septic service will be available by pre-registration with your camping reservation for \$45 per dump. Dumps will be scheduled for Wednesday, August 5. |

**Call 269-383-8778 for Reservations!**

**Deadline for Camping Registration**

**July 24, 2026**

**Camping units may be dropped off from 9am-3pm on Saturday, August 1.**

**Overnight camping is NOT permitted on Saturday, August 1.**

**Overnight camping begins on Sunday, August 2.**

**All camping units must be removed from the Expo Center by 12:00pm on Sunday, August 9**

### **CAMPING POLICIES:**

- Camping will be reserved by campground area at time of reservation (see map for campground areas) and specific site numbers will be emailed out approximately 1 week prior to arrival. We will try to accommodate special requests. All requests will be considered in order by date of reservation.
- Campers may not switch from assigned site number upon arrival. All reservations must be paid by credit card at the time of reservation. There is a non-refundable \$5 reservation fee for each campsite reserved. Most sites offer water and electric hook-up.
- Showers and handicapped-accessible restrooms are available.
- Cancellations will be accepted until July 24, 2026. Reservation fees are non-refundable. If you cancel your reservation by July 24, 2026 your refund will be the camping fees paid less a \$5 cancellation fee. No refunds are available for cancellations after July 24, 2026.
- Campers must comply with all Kalamazoo County Parks & Expo Center Camping Rules.

**AS A REMINDER: Golf Carts, Gators, ATV's (4-wheelers), UTV's (side-by-sides), ORV's, mini-bikes, go-carts and similar motorized devices are prohibited. Bicycles and Class 1 E-bikes (pedal assisted, up to 20mph) are permitted in the campground area only. Class 2 and 3 E-bikes and other electric motor devices are prohibited.**



# NEW PROJECT GUIDELINES

We are working hard to add some new projects to our guidelines and the 4-H fair book. When we add new guidelines, we will post them both in the newsletter and on the Kalamazoo County 4-H Facebook page.

In January we added:

- Social recreation guidelines (under youth organizations)
- Languages/passport (under youth organizations)
- Beekeeping (under youth science)

In February we will be adding the following guidelines:

- Backyard BBQ/Grilling (under culinary arts)



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## Help Us Tell the 4-H Story

Are you a current or former 4-H member? We want to hear from YOU! 4-H youth and alumni — help us share the amazing impact of 4-H by telling your story:

• **Who are you?**

• **What kinds of projects** have you done or are you working on now?

• **Where** has the 4-H program taken you — or where is it leading you?

• **Why** was 4-H important in shaping your goals, your life, or who you are today?

• **When** were you (or are you) part of the program?

We're still collecting and sharing the incredible stories of Kalamazoo County 4-H youth and alumni! Your story helps show how 4-H builds skills, confidence, and leadership — helping you be **Beyond Ready** for anything.

Share your 4-H story here:

[https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6DsEDcIMZ3PZ3IY](https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6DsEDcIMZ3PZ3IY)



# DAIRY CLUB



Meeting at Vlietstra dairy Farm -  
Monday March 23  
Monday April 20  
Monday May 18

Meetings will be weekly starting the week of June 8- night *tbd* by club members.

All meetings are at 6:30 -dress for the weather and wear footwear appropriate for being around animals- no sandals . Join the Kalamazoo county 4-H Dairy Club on Facebook for up-to-date information.

## 2026 Money Smart Mission GooseChase Game



**Who:** Michigan residents aged 13-19

**What:** Fun online missions to show your money smarts and learn about finances and entrepreneurship!

**When:** 4/1/26 - 4/21/26

**How:** Register online to access contest



**Calling all Michigan youth ages 13-19!**  
Get ready for the **Smart Money Missions GooseChase Game** — an interactive scavenger hunt that teaches money skills *while you play!*

**April 1-21, 2026**

**Register by April 20 at 11:45 PM**

**Play on the GooseChase app**

Complete fun missions, earn points, and you could win **\$50 gift cards!** A minimum of **\$500 in prizes** will be awarded.

Download the GooseChase app, create a username using your first and last name, then register at:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/money-smart-mission-goosechase-game>

Sponsored by the Michigan Credit Union Foundation & Michigan 4-H Foundation.



# Poultry Project News

## Things to know:

Spring is coming and so are the market poultry chicks and turkey poults. I hope that you all got your birds ordered! Please mark the pick up dates on your calendars (**maybe in RED**) and if you have a schedule conflict connect with one of the other 4-H families to pick your birds up for you. If you have a problem, please let Cheri or Jackie know so that we can work out a solution.

FYI - we have a Poultry Project meeting scheduled for **Thursday, March 19th at 7pm in the Expo Center, room B.**

### Pick up dates:

- Turkey - 3/25
- Heavy Duck - 5/13
- Roaster - 5/28
- Pekin Duck - 6/10
- Broiler - 6/17
- Cornish - 6/24



[https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo\\_county\\_4\\_h\\_1/Project-Guidelines/Small-Livestock](https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/Project-Guidelines/Small-Livestock)

| Bird type                      | How birds are sold  | Recommended number of birds to order              | Estimated pick up date                                    | Cost per bird                  |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|
| Turkey - white broad breasted  | 1 male and 1 female | At least 6 if you want one of each gender to sell | March 24  | \$9.98                         |
| Turkey - bronze broad breasted | 1 male and 1 female | At least 6 if you want one of each gender to sell | March 24  | \$10.68                        |
| Cornish Cross Chicken          | Pen of 3            | 5-6   | Roasters: May 27<br>Broilers: June 16<br>Cornish: June 23 | Male: \$4.78<br>Female: \$4.63 |
| Duck - Rouen                   | Pen of 3            | 4-5   | May 12  | \$8.15                         |
| Duck - Pekin                   | Pen of 3            | 4-5   | June 9  | \$8.15                         |



## Spring International Pen Pal Program

We are happy to announce that this spring States' 4-H are offering another round of the **Spring Pen Pal Program!** They are currently working to recruit international youth, but please mark your calendar for the below dates.

- **Program Dates**
  - **March 1:** US registration opens
  - **April 1 - June 1:** Pen pal program runs with weekly emails
- **Age:** Participants must be between the ages of 9 – 18 as of April 1, 2026.
- **Frequency:** participants will be expected to send one email/letter weekly for the duration (approximately 10 emails/letters). There will be weekly discussion topics to help get the conversation going, but these are only suggestions.
- **Regular Email Schedule Between Participants:** For example, international students send emails to their U.S. partners every Monday, and U.S. students reply every Friday.
- **Cost:** \$10 USD that can be paid online only.
- **Registration deadline:** Friday, March 20, 2026, or when all spots are filled.

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### The Michigan 4-H Teens as Teachers Healthy Living Program

seeks teens who want to take an active role in promoting health, wellness, and leadership within their communities. The program empowers teens to serve as peer educators and role models who help younger youth make informed, healthy choices while developing their own character, confidence, and leadership skills.

Through the Teens as Teachers program, teens will receive leadership and facilitation training that prepares them to lead 4-H Healthy Living programs focused on:

- Mental health and emotional wellness
- Physical fitness and healthy lifestyles
- Substance use prevention and positive decision-making

•Youth who participate will earn a scholarship to Exploration Days and \$100.00 after teaching their first session.

Want to know more?

Learn more and register here:



<https://events.anr.msu.edu/register.cfm?eventID=0035887EF7B36417C9FE2F1F67ADB67DE5AFC2FCB42E4107841B259E86FE37A3&regisProcessID=AFA1CCA327BB0978F6C70D75CF73DECC5D2959163F8101E360B92EACEEFA8E0>



Join us on for **Wild Spartans**

Tuesday, March 10th, 2026 at 6:30 pm EST for  
**“The Land Has A Story To Tell- But Are We Listening?”**

You will meet Zach Wilson, Forest Ecologist for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission.

You'll learn about his work, and the education and career path he followed to get there. Youth are encouraged to ask questions to learn more through a live Q&A.

This free virtual series is open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 12-19 years. Monthly sessions are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm EST.

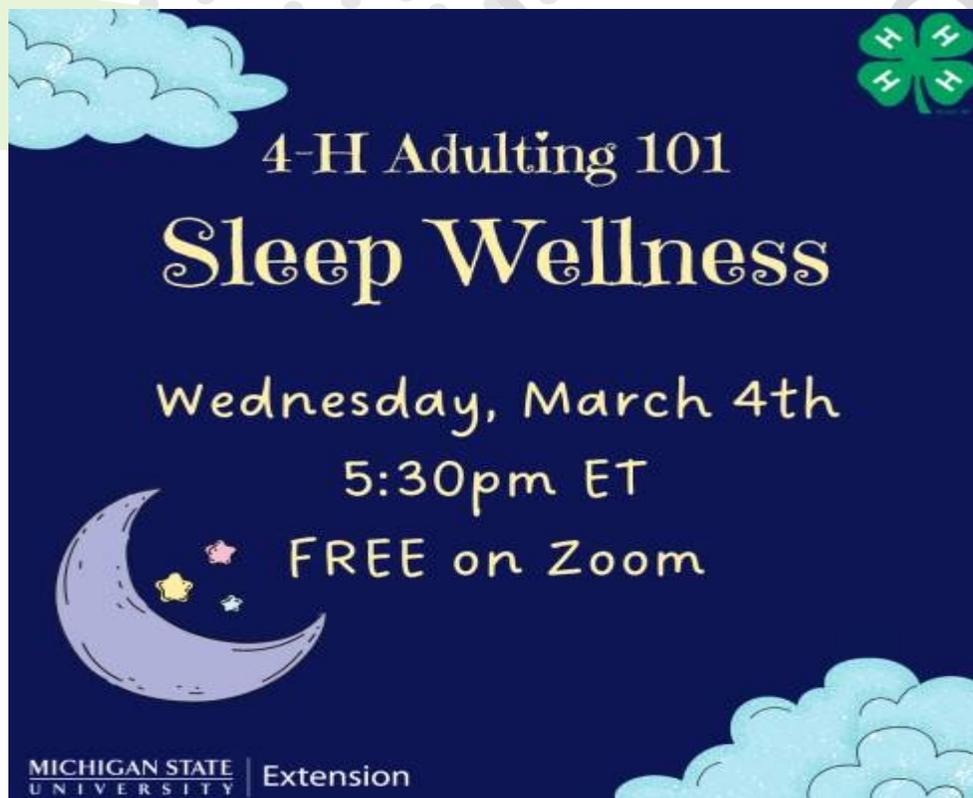
Pre-registration is required:

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/WildSpartansSeriesFall2025Spring2026/>



Join Us Online  
**WILD SPARTANS**  
SCIENCE \* RESEARCH \* CAREERS \* CONSERVATION  
“THE LAND HAS A STORY TO TELL- BUT ARE WE LISTENING?”  
WITH ZACH WILSON  
FOREST ECOLOGIST, GREAT LAKES INDIAN FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION  
March 10 | 6:30 PM EST  
Registration required:  
<https://events.anr.msu.edu/WildSpartansSeriesFall2025Spring2026/>





## Adulting 101

Are you ready to leave for college or be out on your own? Are you prepared to do adult tasks and have skills to be successful? Michigan State University Extension's Adulting 101 programs help teenagers and young adults demystify the obscure reality of being an “adult” through engaging educational sessions. Each FREE session is packed full of important life skills and tools necessary to live independently!

### **Sleep Wellness-Wednesday, March 4 at 5:30 p.m. EST (This will not be recorded)**

Daylight saving time can throw off your sleep schedule, leaving you tired and irritable. Join our Sleep Basics Workshop to learn practical tips for adjusting smoothly, boosting energy, and making the most of longer days.

### **Eat Smart: Meals on a Budget- Monday, April 13 at 5 p.m. EST**

Think eating healthy has to be expensive? Think again! Learn how to stretch your food budget, score deals on fruits and veggies, and find out if store brands really stack up to name brands. We'll share simple tips to plan meals that save money and taste great — plus how to cook once and eat twice!

Find More Here

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-2026>



## Ready to Join?

Scan the QR code below to view the 4-H Future Squad Website and Interest Form



For program support, questions, or assistance with registration, please contact Laurie Rivetto at [rivettoL@msu.edu](mailto:rivettoL@msu.edu)

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# 4-H Future Squad

## A Virtual 4-H Club to Grow YOUR Future

Youth aged 12-19 are invited to join 4-H Future Squad, designed for youth to build skills, confidence, and connections for a successful future.

The club will meet virtually October 2025 – May 2026.

Topics for education include financial literacy, college and career readiness, stress management, building healthy relationships, studying abroad, goal setting, nutrition, and much more... based on the topics you share that will help you be beyond ready for your future!

Current meeting dates and times will be communicated via e-mail and on the Upcoming Programs webpage.

## Why Join 4-H Future Squad?

- **Adulthood is a big job — we'll help you get ready!**  
Learn essential skills alongside new friends and mentors who can guide you toward your goals.
- **Gain access to all 4-H benefits and statewide events**  
A variety of events will be shared with the group often, and youth are encouraged to participate!
- **Attend as you can!**  
Join 4-H Future Squad as your primary or secondary club – attend as many sessions as you wish.



# Beyond Ready





## Michigan 4-H Youth Code of Conduct



The opportunity to participate in or attend 4-H activities is a privilege. All 4-H participants – youth, families, volunteers, and Extension staff who participate in or attend any activity or event sponsored by the Michigan State University Extension 4-H Youth Development Program are expected to uphold the values of the Michigan 4-H program.

All 4-H youth participants must conduct themselves according to the following standards that apply to all Michigan 4-H programs, including virtual programs, and interactions such as social media and internet engagement-

- 1. Create a Welcoming Environment for All.** Encourage everyone to fully participate in 4-H. Recognize that all people have skills and talents that can help others and improve the community. Though we will not always agree, we must disagree respectfully. When we disagree, try to understand why. Our first priority is to create a safe, inclusive space for learning, sharing and collaboration that is welcoming to people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives. Diversity includes, but is not limited to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.
- 2. Bring Your Best Self.** Conduct yourself in a manner that reflects honesty, integrity, self-control, and self-direction. Accept the results and outcomes of 4-H activities and programs with grace and empathy for other participants. Accept the final opinions of judges and evaluators. Be open to new ideas, suggestions, and opinions of others.
- 3. Obey the Law.** Obey the laws of the locality, state and nation and Michigan State University and Extension policies and guidelines. Commit no illegal acts. Do not possess, offer to others, or use alcohol, illegal drugs, marijuana, or tobacco products, which include e-pens, e-pipes, e-hookah, e-cigars, JUULs, vapes, vape pens or other electronic nicotine delivery systems. Do not attend 4-H activities under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances. Do not possess or use weapons or firearms except as expressly permitted as part of supervised 4-H shooting sports programming. This includes dangerous or unauthorized materials such as explosives or similar items.
- 4. Honor Diversity – Yours and Others'.** Respect and uphold the rights and dignity of all persons with whom you interact as part of Michigan 4-H.
- 5. Create a Safe Environment.** Be kind and compassionate toward others. Be considerate and courteous of all persons and their property. Do not carelessly or intentionally harm or intimidate anyone in any way (verbally, mentally, physically, or emotionally). Do not insult, harass, or bully others or engage in other hostile behaviors, including sexual harassment, sexual assault or sexual abuse. Abstain from sexual behavior and intimate physical/sexual contact in either public or private situations at an MSU Extension youth 4-H activity or event.
- 6. Be a Team Player.** Work cooperatively with all individuals involved in 4-H programs and activities. Be responsive to the reasonable requests of the person in charge such as volunteers and staff. Respect the integrity of the group and the group's decisions.
- 7. Humane Treatment of Animals.** Treat animals humanely and provide appropriate animal care.
- 8. Participate Fully.** Participate in and contribute to planned programs, be on time and follow through on assigned tasks/responsibilities in a manner that fosters the safety, well-being, and quality of the educational experience for self and others.

**Have fun!**

# Starting a School or Community Garden this Spring? MSU Extension Can Help!



## Starting a School or Community Garden: Essential Steps for Success Online Course



Learn from MSU Extension educators about the essential steps to starting a successful and sustainable school or community garden. Through online activities and assignments, explore garden management topics and apply knowledge to your own garden project.

## Starting a School or Community Garden: In-Person Workshops

Join MSU Extension to learn more about starting a school or community garden. These two-part workshop series will include discussion, group activities, and demonstrations.

### Flint

**Dates:** March 27 & April 10, 2-4pm

**Location:** Crim Fitness Foundation



### Kalamazoo

**Dates:** March 28 & April 25, 10am-12pm

**Location:** Kalamazoo Valley Community College Food Innovation Center



### Contacts:

**Mariel Borgman**

Community Food Systems  
Educator

Email: [mborgm@msu.edu](mailto:mborgm@msu.edu)

**Barslund Judd**

Consumer Horticulture Educator

Email: [juddbars@msu.edu](mailto:juddbars@msu.edu)

**Kelly McClelland Horton**

Community Food Systems  
Educator

Email: [mccle100@msu.edu](mailto:mccle100@msu.edu)

### Questions?

810-244-8555

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**We are excited to share that we have a new look for our project guidelines!**

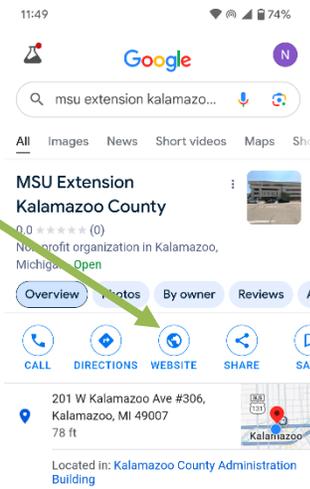
Finding the guidelines on a mobile device has some extra steps.

Below are some screenshots and directions:

- 1 – Search MSU Extension Kalamazoo County
- 2 – Click on website <https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/index>
- 3 – Click on Kalamazoo County 4-H
- 4 - Click on menu at the bottom of your screen which will bring up the next screen
- 5 - Click on project guidelines
- 6 – Search for the project that you are looking for. Each set of guidelines is labeled to match the fair book.

For example, the member record book in the fair book is under Department 82. Educational projects.

1 & 2



3 & 4



5



6



We are still working on updating some of the guidelines. If they don't have a green border at the top with a list of the project objectives and life skills, they will be updated soon!



## Use of the 4-H Emblem – Quick Reference

Complete official Emblem rules available online at

[http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/emblem/4h\\_name.htm](http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/emblem/4h_name.htm).

The 4-H Name & Emblem belong to the 4-H Youth Development Program, under the authority of USDA and anyone wishing to use it must obtain permission prior to use.

### Requirements

- Clover has four leaves and an “H” on each leaf.
- The numeral “4” separated from a capital “H” with a hyphen (not a dash, slash, or space).
- Clover’s stem **must** point to the right as you look at the image.
- Emblem should appear in specific colors and in its entirety.
- The statement “18 USC 707” **must** legibly appear either to the right of the base of the stem or below the lower right leaf of the clover.
- The Emblem should be kept upright.
- The “18 USC 707” should be the same color as the leaves.
- Clover may be outlined, green outline for white clover or white outline for green clover.

### Colors of Emblem

- Clover is 100% PMS 347 green, H’s reversed out to the color of the paper on which the emblem is printed. *This is the official and preferred color of the Emblem.*
- Clover can be green and H’s can be white, metallic gold, or black.
- Clover can be black and H’s can be white or black.
- Clover can be white and H’s can be white, green, or black.
- Clover can be metallic gold and H’s can be white or black.
- **One color printing** – green or black only accepted colors

### Do NOT

- Flip, rotate, or turn image on its side
- Place over or obscure the emblem with a photo, drawing, symbol, word or other figure or object.
- Place text over on top of Emblem
- Superimpose an image over the top of one or more of the leaves
- Use to imply endorsement of any product or material



Appropriate Use



Appropriate Use



Inappropriate Use



Inappropriate Use



# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Preparing youth to be Beyond Ready



## Beyond Ready

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

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

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

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

#BeyondReady

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

Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office, Ann Arbor

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

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

### March 10: 4-H Give Green Day

Online

Help us reach our goal of raising \$5,000 in a 24-hour period on Give Green Day to support learning experiences for Michigan 4-H youth.

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

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

Online

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

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

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

Online

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

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

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

Detroit

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

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

### April 1: Smart Money Missions Goosechase Game

Everywhere

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

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





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

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

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

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



Online applications to host can be found at: <https://www.states4hexchange.org/apply/host/>. For more information, contact Michigan 4-H International Exchange Program Coordinator Jan Brinn [brinn@msu.edu](mailto:brinn@msu.edu).

## Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers



## Get your tickets for Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers

Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at Comerica Park to watch the Detroit Tigers take on the Miami Marlins on Sunday, April 12. Michigan 4-H will be honored as the Group Charity of the Game. To celebrate, 4-H youth, volunteers, staff and their families will enjoy a discounted ticket to the game, as well as:

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

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

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

Learn more at [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers).

## 4-H Youth in Action Program applications open

Apply now for the 2027 4-H Youth in Action Awards! This program recognizes four confident young leaders with diverse backgrounds and unique perspectives who are making a difference in their communities. Winners will have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to share their stories along with unforgettable experiences, celebration on the national stage, recognition in the media and a \$5,000 college scholarship.

This opportunity is open to youth ages 14-19. The deadline to apply is April 13. Learn more and apply at <https://4-h.org/programs/4-h-youth-in-action-program/>.