



4-H Family News

October
2025

Kalamazoo County



**Beyond
Ready**

Enrollment Reminder

Families and volunteers will need to log into the 4-H online database at -

<http://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>

to re-enroll for the new programming year.

Some reminders-

- Any youth 5-19 years old as of January 1, 2026 will be able to enroll in the 4-H program
- There is no fee to enroll in 4-H.
- Adults who would like to be a volunteer will need to go through the MSU Extension Volunteer Selection Process (VSP) prior to working with youth, unless it has been completed previously.
- VSP completion is required for both virtual and face to face programs. For information on this process please visit-
http://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/msu_extension_volunteer_selection_process
- New members may join anytime during the year, but will not be able to meet fair participation requirements if enrolled after April 1, 2026
- Re-enrollment is due no later than November 15, 2025.

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Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057507535294#>
Program-122047197873078

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Beyond Ready for National 4-H week October 5-11, 2025



120+ years of 4-H to celebrate in October 2025!

Let's have some fun in Kalamazoo County this year to celebrate!

On **Monday** of National 4-H Week, **Go GREEN** and show your 4-H state spirit! A simple, cohesive way for youth, professionals, volunteers, alumni & supporters across the country to celebrate their 4-H program being *Beyond Ready*. Wear a green hat, clothing, face paint - anything green goes. Let's paint the nation **GREEN**, on **Monday, October 6!**

Thursday October 9, 2026: **For Good**

On Thursday of National 4-H Week, help us shine a light on all the good that 4-H does! A day to recognize all 4-H'ers who are doing good and making positive impact by helping their communities and beyond. Share your own story or celebrate someone who is making a difference - another 4-H'er, volunteer or educator We want to know, on **Thursday, October 9!**

Friday, October 10, 2026: **Fall Back Friday**

Share your favorite 4-H memory, 4-H pictures, or then and now pictures. We want to see where you started, where you are now! We want to hear about those favorite memories, life lessons learned, friends you made while growing up in 4-H.

Share on social, tag others in your 4-H community, tag National 4-H and use **#4HBeyondReady #National4HWeek #Kalamazoo4H**

Kalamazoo 4-H Community Clubs are also encouraged to share 4-H information this week such as window displays in your community, library and/or school displays & more. Be creative. **Head Heart Hands Health!**

Kalamazoo County 4-H is **Beyond Ready!**



Thank you everyone for
your amazing support of
your 4-H youth and
your community!

Over 2540 pounds of meat purchased at the
4-H Livestock auction was donated to the

Kalamazoo Gospel Mission



and **Loaves and Fishes!!**



4-H Fire Education Hike

Leave your screens behind and take a hike at the Chipman Land Preserve. Youth & adults will learn the following:

- Explore the basics of fire ecology
- Careers related to fire
- What is "good fire" & why is it beneficial



**Beyond
Ready**

OCTOBER 12, 2025
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW!



MYRICHLAND4H@GMAIL.COM



CHIPMAN LAND PRESERVE

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION PROGRAMS AND MATERIALS ARE OPEN TO ALL WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, GENDER, GENDER IDENTITY, RELIGION, AGE, HEIGHT, WEIGHT, DISABILITY, POLITICAL BELIEFS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, MARITAL STATUS, FAMILY STATUS OR VETERAN STATUS



Don't you just love a Parade?



Mark your calendar for November 22, 2025 for the annual Kalamazoo Holiday Parade!

Kalamazoo County 4-H Leaders Council is once again sponsoring our entry in the parade

Candy and a 4-H information sheet will be available to hand out along the route

We will have a new parade banner this year, so we are excited about being able to display a new banner!

More information will be forthcoming: Be on the look out in October for the sign-up to participate in the parade

4-H Fire Education Hike October 12, 2025, 3:00PM

Chipman Land Preserve
8395 E Main St, Galesburg, MI 49053



Join Michele Richards for a guided hike through Chipman Preserve to discover how fire shapes our landscapes, restores ecosystems, and creates opportunities for future careers. Together we'll explore the basics of fire ecology—why prescribed burns are used to keep prairies and forests healthy—and learn about the many different jobs connected to fire, from firefighters and biologists to communications specialists and land managers. This interactive hike is designed to spark curiosity, connect science to the outdoors, and show how “good fire” makes a difference in Michigan.

Michele is the Natural Resources and Wildland Fire Program Manager, MI Army National Guard

This is a great opportunity to leave that screen behind and get outside!

Please RSVP to : myrichland4h@gmail.com so we can get a head count and contact information in case of schedule changes.

We will be meeting at the entrance of the Preserve.



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

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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





STATES' 4-H INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

2026 OUTBOUND PROGRAMS

COSTA RICA • JAPAN • TAIWAN • SOUTH KOREA • ARGENTINA



OUR MISSION: Enhancing world understanding and global citizenship through high-quality 4-H international cultural immersion and exchange programs for 4-H aged youth.

Program Details:

States' 4-H Summer Outbound programs provide American 4-H youth with the opportunity to travel to foreign countries for a cultural immersion experience. Delegates live with volunteer host families and engage in experiential learning about a new way of life. Delegates experience aspects of daily life that allow them to more deeply understand both their host culture and their own culture. Our network of like-minded international partners recruits host families and plans enrichment activities.

2026 PROGRAM DATES*

Costa Rica: June 26-July 23

Japan 8-Week: June 11-August 6

Japan 4-Week: July 9-August 6

Taiwan: July 9-August 6

South Korea: July 16-August 13

Argentina: July 12-August 2

*All dates are approximate; final dates will be announced when applications open in the fall.

4-H YOUTH ELIGIBILITY

- ➔ 12-18 years old for Japan 4-Week & Taiwan
- ➔ 12-18 years old for South Korea
- ➔ 15-18 years old for Costa Rica, Argentina, and Japan 8-Week

Applicant must not be in college

APPLICATION DEADLINE

- Contact your State Coordinator and/or reach out to States' 4-H to learn more
- Applications open in Fall 2025

www.states4hexchange.com
exchange@states4h.org • (206) 462-2200



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

https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/index

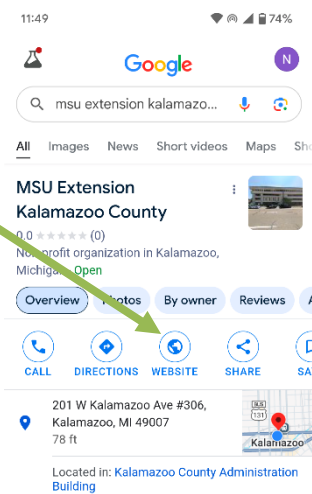
4 – Click on menu at the bottom of your screen which will bring up the next screen

5 – Click on project guidelines

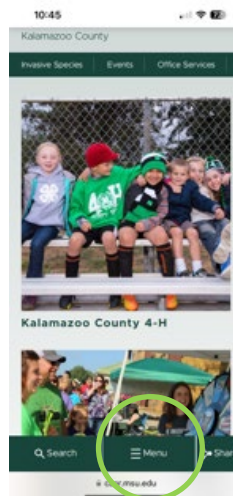
6 – Search for the project that you are looking for. Each set of guidelines is labeled to match the fair book.

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

1 & 2



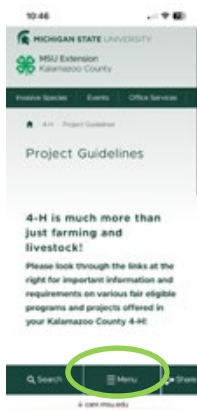
3 & 4



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!



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-

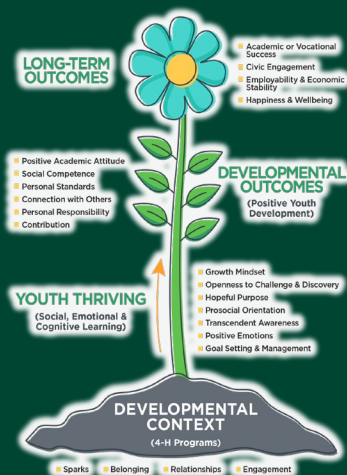
1. **Create a Welcoming Environment for All.** Encourage everyone to fully participate in 4-H. Recognize that all people have skills and talents that can help others and improve the community. Though we will not always agree, we must disagree respectfully. When we disagree, try to understand why. Our 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!



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development



Why 4-H? This is a question asked many times of our youth and adults. What made you want to get involved and what keeps you coming back?

This is the SPARK of 4-H and serves as one of the four developmental context areas of the Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development. We strive to reach our members where they are and help them grow through the 4-H program.

To do this, we need to know what your spark is...

- Is there a specific project that brought you here?
- Is there a project you would like to see us add?
- Did you show up because you had friends in the program?

Reach out to your local 4-H staff to share your ideas.

October 4: MSU Tollgate Pumpkinfest

Tollgate Farm, Novi

Pumpkinfest is a family-friendly event at MSU Tollgate Farm. Enjoy a harvest celebration of wagon rides, u-pick pumpkin patch, cider, donuts, food, music and activities on the farm.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/pumpkinfest-2025

October 5-11: National 4-H Week

Nationwide

For over 100 years, 4-H has inspired families, shaped careers, and impacted communities. During this week, celebrate the impact of 4-H in various ways!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week

October 6: 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Beyond Ready: Equipping Youth With Skills for Life

Online

Life doesn't come with a manual—but 4-H comes pretty close! Join Michigan 4-H State Leader Jodi Schulz for a fun and practical look at how volunteers can help young people build the skills they need to be Beyond Ready. This session will be offered twice:

- 12 p.m.: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-beyond-ready-equipping-youth-with-skills-for-life
- 7 p.m.: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-beyond-ready-equipping-youth-with-skills-for-life-7pm

October 14: Wild Spartans – Helping Others Help Nature

Online

Join 4-H staff for a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! This session will feature Trish Brockman, and ecologist with Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc., who will help to explore the world of helping threatened and endangered wildlife. Open to youth ages 12-19.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-monthly-wildlife-fisheries-webinar-series-2025-2026

October 23: 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Officers in Action: Empowering Youth through Leadership Roles

Online

Understanding the development of youth is crucial for building strong, positive relationships. Learn how to support club officers in meaningful ways that promote responsibility, teamwork and real-life leadership skills. This session will be offered twice.

12-1 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-officers-in-action-empowering-youth-through-leadership-roles-noon

7-8 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-officers-in-action-empowering-youth-through-leadership-roles-7pm





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Do you know someone deserving of the Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year?

Can you think of someone who displayed extraordinary sportsmanship at a recent 4-H animal science program? Perhaps at a club meeting, clinic, or the county fair? Nominate them for the 2025 Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year Award!

This annual award recognizes one youth member and one adult 4-H leader who exemplify the definition of sportsmanship and have gone above and beyond to lend a helping hand to those around them during animal science programs. Nominations are due **October 15**. You can find full details, including the nomination form, at: www.canr.msu.edu/resources/competitive_event_resources.



Join the 4-H Future Squad!

Hey, leaders of tomorrow - if you're age 12-19 and ready to grow skills, make friends, and become beyond ready for your future, join the 4-H Future Squad!

4-H Future Squad is a virtual 4-H club that was inspired by Generation Z youth seeking life skill development for a better future for themselves and their peers. This will be the fifth year of the program, which is designed to help youth feel prepared and ready to take on the future and adulthood.

The club will meet twice a month October 2025 through May 2026, virtually through Zoom. 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!

Club meetings for the 2025-2026 year will take place on a variety of days of the week. Current meeting dates and times will be communicated via e-mail. This club can be your primary or secondary club. For more information and to get registered, visit: www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-future-squad/.

4-H scholarships available!

Outstanding Michigan 4-H members who are involved at county, regional, state, national or international levels are eligible to apply for Michigan 4-H scholarships to help fund their college experience.

A number of scholarship opportunities exist, ranging in value from \$500 to \$10,000 (over the course of four years). Each scholarship has specific eligibility, be sure to read the requirements to see if you qualify. All applications are due by November 1.

Learn more and access applications materials at:
www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4_h_scholarships.

