

MSU Extension offices remain Closed due to COVID-19

Although our physical office is closed and we are not offering in-person programs at this time due to novel coronavirus mitigation measures, your Kalamazoo County MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H team members are still working to provide you with virtual programs and resources.

Visit our Remote Learning and Resources page to browse resources and upcoming virtual events: <u>https://bit.ly/2wsbfvg</u>. Youth and families can find a variety of programs being offered including health and nutrition, STEM, parenting tips, mindfulness and so much more!

As we are all navigating this new normal we want to make sure that we are offering a variety of learning opportunities for both youth in 4-H and those who are not. Take a minute to like the Kalamazoo County 4-H Facebook page found at https://www.facebook.com/Kalamazoo-County-4-H-Youth-Program-122047197873078/. There are new programs and activities being added daily. You can also find educational opportunities, for the entire family, from MSU Extension at https://www.canr.msu.edu/family/Educational-Resources-for-School-Closures/?fbclid=lwAR3w11iCnLLnp-k_6djgioZ_hug21EV6jDIlelpSQ8qVlfzA7c-S0YTDDKE

There is a list of additional educational opportunities later in this newsletter.

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Contact Us

Veronica Bolhuis 4-H Program Coordinator (269) 383-8867 bolhuisv@msu.edu

201 W. Kalamazoo Ave. Suite 306 Kalamazoo, MI. 49007

Phone (269) 383-8830 main line (269) 384-8085 Fax Kal. Co. MSU Extension

Email msue.kalamazoo@campusad. msu.edu

Web Site http://canr.msu.edu/ kalamazoo4H

2 Kalamazoo County Virtual Showcase and Auction

Thank you for understanding that putting together the virtual showcase and auction is taking some time. A couple of counties have had virtual showcases already and many more are gearing up for them in the next several weeks. The first virtual auction in Michigan using this new platform will be starting after the July 4th weekend. We know that waiting for specific details is difficult, but we want to make sure that you have all of the correct dates and as much information as possible. With the virtual showcases that have gone on already there has been a lot learned so that we can make adjustments as we move forward.

Youth & Families: This will be a different summer, a different learning experience, a different way to showcase what you've learned over the past year. MSU Extension staff from across the state have been working to create a virtual showcase platform.

Kalamazoo County staff and volunteers have been meeting to start the planning process for what it looks like for our county. You can find some of the specifics for youth on the MSU Extension virtual showcase website at https://

www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/youth-members. On this site you will get tips on taking pictures, creating videos, submitting your entries, and more. You can also view a training video, see information for buyers and more at

https://www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/ .

Virtual Showcase: Youth ages 5-19 will be able to show off what they have learned over this past year through pictures or videos. This is the section where you will enter your livestock or educational projects. Youth will enter these projects into the FairEntry website using their 4-H online user name and password. The county specific website is still being developed by the FairEntry team, but will be up and running soon. We will send out the county specific website as soon as it is live and we have done some testing with it. Each county will have their own virtual showcase platform. Youth will receive feedback from a judge, an A, B or C placing and be able to then auction off those items. We hope that youth will take advantage of this learning opportunity. Many employers are using online sites to recruit new employees and will require potential staff to upload documentation. This is a great lifeskill to practice uploading information into an online site.

Continued on the next page

<u>Auction:</u> Youth ages 8-19 will be able to auction off their livestock and educational projects as long as the animal(s) or educational projects have been entered into the virtual showcase. Youth with livestock will also need to submit their market animal record book. There will be a fillable PDF on line by July 15th for you to use. The auction will run for 24 hours and it buyers will be able to pay by check or credit card. Those who want to pay by check will be sent and invoice following the auction.

Buyers: There is also a section for those who would like to purchase livestock or still projects to learn about registration and purchasing items. You can share the following website with your buyers and a letter will be sent to those who have registered in the past in the middle of July. <u>https://www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/potential-buyers</u>. You may want to become familiar with this so you can answer questions for your potential buyers. In the buyer letter that will be sent out, by the middle of July, there will be instructions for the buyers to register in the FairEntry platform and then bid on projects and animals. Those who wish to support 4-H youth, but don't want to buy an animal will also have the opportunity to place an add on to the youth's projects through this site. For example the individual or business wants to support Justin Clover-leaf, but they only have \$100. They can log in using the auction site, click on Justin's animal and then the add on tab. Again, buyers will be able to pay with a check if they want an invoice or they can pay with credit card when the auction is over.

We will be using the FairEntry Program this year for registrations. This will take the place of the paper copies of the fair forms that we have used in the past. We know that this will be new for everyone and will have a learning curve to it. Since we will be using the FairEntry program this year the fair staff has agreed to use it moving forward. One of the benefits is that it is tied to the information in 4-H online so families will log in using the same user name and password as you do when you register for 4-H. Several fairs in Michigan have used FairEntry in the past and have found it very user friendly for both youth and volunteers.

Here is the timeline that we have so far, but please know that these may need to be adjusted

Entries put into the county specific platform—August 1—4

Virtual judging of projects and animals—August 5-11

Auction—August 13 (will start 8/12 at 11pm and end 8/13 at 11pm)

Pooling location to drop off livestock animals for processing-TBD

There will also be an opportunity to be involved in a statewide virtual showcase do don't discard your photos and videos. We don't have dates yet, but will share more information when we have it.



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STATEWIDE NEWS

Exploring Topics Through a Youth Lens | A Michigan Teen Photo Project

Youth who participate in the *Exploring Topics Through a Youth Lens | A Michigan Teen Photo Project* will learn how to use photography to express their views on the issues that matter the most to young people. The project will help youth learn how to use photography, and their voices, to influence others and to help make positive changes in our communities, our state, our country, and our world.

• An optional informational webinar will be held at 4:00 p.m. on July 13 for registered participants.

• Youth participants will meet weekly via Zoom in small groups with adult staff facilitators and other youth from across Michigan to share their project photos and to discuss their viewpoints on current topics.

- The small groups will meet virtually the weeks of July 20 August 24.
- Youth will be able to use a digital camera or phone camera to participate.

• At the end of the project, youth will have multiple options to share their photos and viewpoints with others and advocate for positive changes.

- There is no cost to participate in the project.
- Open to all youth ages 13-19.

TSC Paper Clover Summer Online Fundraiser



As many of you know this spring, the Tractor Supply Company Spring Paper Clover campaign was postponed as we waited to see how the COVID pandemic would unfold. National 4-H was hopeful that this would be a short interruption and we'd be able to continue as planned. Unfortunately, months later, many of 4-H programs are restricted from in-person programming and stores are still working to minimize face to face customer interaction. The more they explored options around rescheduling it became clear that they needed to go in a different direction, one that doesn't depend on in-person interaction and that wouldn't jeopardize the success of the Fall Paper Clover Campaign by having too many similar customer asks in a short time frame.

As a result, they are excited to announce that TSC is working with 4-H to host a 100% online fundraising campaign this summer. From July 15-26, 2020 customers can donate at online check out This should work for both online (shipped) purchases and curbside pickup. The funds for this will be distributed to local 4-H programs via the Fourward Fund.





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MICHIGAN STATE



EXPLORING TOPICS THROUGH A YOUTH LENS

A MICHIGAN TEEN PHOTO PROJECT SUMMER 2020

LEARN MORE AT REGISTER BY JULY 15 @ <u>HTTPS://EVENTS.ANR.MSU.EDU/PHOTOVOICETOPICS/</u>



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4-H SUMMER Novie Series

Wednesdays July 15 - August 19 Movie Discussions 7pm EDT via Zoom

To join for free: https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HSummerMovieSeries/

All chosen movies are available on **NETFLIX**

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension

3-4 pm each day via zoom \$20 supply fee





Open to Michigan youth ages 8-19

(inclusive group meetings for youth with disabilities)

To Register: https://events.anr.msu.edu/VirtualJunkDrawer/ Space is limited. Registration closes 7/2/2020.





MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

MSU Extension launches new portal for volunteers in 2020!

In early 2020, MSU Extension launched a statewide volunteer management database and screening system called Volunteer Central. <u>https://msu.samaritan.com/</u>custom/502/#/volunteer_home

Volunteers are the core of many MSU Extension programs and the most essential partners MSU Extension has. As such, the organization has made a major investment into Volunteer Central in an effort to improve processes for both staff and volunteers. In the new system, volunteers will enjoy improved features including easy-to-read dashboards and a one-stop application process, among other advantages.



A unique feature of Volunteer Central is that each volunteer will have their own unique online account and profile. Unlike 4-H Online, *family profiles will not be permitted*. This is necessary to protect the confidentiality of each volunteer and the integrity of data in the system. In preparation for integration to Volunteer Central, *those who currently share an email address with another* 4-H volunteer should make plans to create a separate email address for each shared user. For those who may need help with this task: holiday time with family, friends or neighbors is a great opportunity to ask for assistance in this area.

Once you have created a new email address, please either:

- 1. Log in to 4-HOnline and add the newly created email address to the volunteer with whom it should be associated; or
- 2. Contact your local 4-H program coordinator and share the newly created email address and the volunteer with whom the account should be associated.

The email addresses in 4-H Online and shared with 4-H program coordinators will be used to create access accounts for current volunteers in Volunteer Central. In the coming weeks, look for additional information about Volunteer Central and when current volunteers will have access to the system. In the meantime, please contact your local 4-H program coordinator with any questions or concerns.



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Share Your 4-H Story!



Across the state, Michigan 4-H is growing true leaders for today and tomorrow. From Marquette to Monroe, these young people are impacting their clubs, communities, country and world.

To help share this impact with others, we're looking for youth to share their own testimonials of how 4-H has influenced their own personal growth and development.

Submissions will be posted on the <u>Meet</u> <u>Michigan 4-H'ers section</u> of the MSU Extension website and promoted digitally in newsletters and social media.

To learn more and download the guidelines, visit www.canr.msu.edu/

4-H Events and Workshops

July 6: Live Family Meditation

Online

Mindfulness is a great way to manage stress and deal with strong emotions. Join Kylie for 10 minutes of live meditation for the whole family.

https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/live-family-meditation-7-6-20

July 6: Zipping Around the Zoos

Zoom

This three-week digital SPIN club focuses on different animals from around the world. Each club meeting will run for an hour and a half and visit 10-15 different types of animals. https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-spin-club-zipping-around-the-zoos-part-2

July 9: 4-H at 4 on Thursdays—American Sign Language Zoom

Youth ages 8 - 12 years old can learn basic American Sign Language.

https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/july-9-american-sign-language

July 14: 4-H Teen Tuesday—Virtual Club Meetings Zoom

Current 4-H members can connect each Tuesday with their peers across the state while learning about a wide array of 4-H project areas. https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/july-14-4-h-teen-tuesday-virtual-club-meetings

July 20: Virtual Junk Drawer Robotics

Zoom

Learn about different aspects of robotics while building your own robots with items that some may consider junk, but we call treasure!

https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/virtual-junk-drawer-robotics

July 21: 4-H Teen Tuesday—Community Service from Home

Zoom

Current 4-H members can connect each Tuesday with their peers across the state while learning about a wide array of 4-H project areas. https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/july-21-4-h-teen-tuesday-community-service-from-home

July 29: Teen Spokesperson Virtual Camp

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4-H Virtual Communications Contest



Looking for ways to grow your public speaking, demonstration and other verbal communication skills? The new Michigan 4-H Virtual Communications Contest is for you!

Now through July 24, youth of all ages have the opportunity to take part in a variety of online communication contests. Whether you're a Cloverbud or a senior, take part in this virtual experience that will help you grow your skills while having fun. Contests include:

Impromptu Public Speaking: June 29—July 3. During the week of June 29^o contestants will be sent a Zoom link and call time. On the call, youth will receive three easy topics from which to choose. Contestants will have 10 minutes to prepare their 2-3 minute speech on one of the topics (no research required). Once their allotted prep time is over, contestants will perform their speech online and then receive questions from the judges. This fun, interactive contest features simple and fun topics; if you love public speaking or just want to give it a try, this is great place to start.

Demonstrations: July 6-10. Youth will record a video of themselves performing a demonstration or illustrated talk. A demonstration is defined as a step-by-step procedure with an end product or result while an illustrated talk is a presentation of an idea or topic that uses visual aids to convey the message. Utilizing visual aids to help convey the major points of the presentation or demonstration, youth will record a 9-12 video (Cloverbud demonstrations should be 3-4 minutes) and upload their presentation for evaluation.

Clowning or Acting: July 13-24. This contest will give new life to the art of clowning in 4-H and can be modified for aspiring actors as well. Youth will record a 3-12 minute skit and upload their video for judging. Watch for resources and classes to be shared prior to the week of this contest and give clowning/acting a try even if you have never done it before!

To take part in one or more of these contests, visit <u>https://events.anr.msu.edu/</u>

<u>MI4HVirCommContest/</u> to register and read the complete contest rules. Each contest will place the top 10 winners with the top three receiving medals and all participants receiving a participation certificate. Questions? Contact Roxanne Turner at <u>turnerr@msu.edu</u> or Emily Hoover at <u>hooverem@msu.edu</u>.

Connect with fellow 4-H'ers online!



While 4-H'ers across the state continue to maintain their social distance this summer, many are missing the interactions with their follow 4-He'rs and peers. To provide a space for 4-H'ers across the state to virtually connect and learn from one another, Michigan 4-H will be hosting two virtual series throughout the summer.

Teen Tuesdays: Now through August 25, current 4-H members ages 13-19 are invited to join this weekly online experience that will feature a different theme each session. In addition to learning about a new topic,

each virtual forum will provide a space for online interaction and discussion. View scheduled topics and register online at https://events.anr.msu.edu/teentuesdays/.

4-H at 4 on Thursdays: Now through August 27, current 4-H members ages 8-12 are invited to join this weekly online experience that will demonstrate a different hands-on project, experiment or craft



4-H Grows Here, There & Everywhere!

As the world continues to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic, Michigan 4-H youth are sticking together while staying physically apart. Although saddened to miss their favorite summer events and county fairs, 4-H'ers across the state know they play an important role in helping to keep communities safe during the novel coronavirus outbreak.



Though they maintain their social distance, 4-H'ers continue to use their head, heart, hands and health through a multitude of online educational opportunities and virtual learning showcases that illustrate how 4-H grown continues while safe at home.

Tell us how your 4-H year has continued in alternative ways during the COVID-19

STATEWIDE NEWS AREA

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4-H Spartan Coding Camp goes virtual!

Explore the exciting field of computer coding at MSU Extension's newest premier pre-college program—virtually! Whether you have prior computer coding knowledge, or have never even thought about it, you will gain valuable coding skills at this fun STEM summer camp being hosted online from June 22-25.

Virtual 4-H Spartan Coding Camp campers will enjoy experiences such as:

- Developing your own tech ideas; designing and coding an application from scratch; and attracting users to your product!
- ° Learning the fundamentals of launching a product.
- ° Discovering the essentials of web design and development.
- ° Practicing coding skills in HTML, CSS, JS, Ruby, Rails and Github.
- ° Enhancing your passion for technology and growing real-world skills.
- ° Exploring career opportunities available at MSU!

After the camp is over, youth will continue to learn and practice at their own pace with nearly 60 hours of self-paced online lessons that allow you to further hone your coding skills.

4-H Spartan Coding Camp is open to youth entering grades 9-12 in the fall of 2020. Attendees should have a computer with internet and the ability to video conference (microphone and webcam). Registration is now open. Learn more at www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-spartan-coding-camp/index.

The cost to attend this four-day camp is \$320 and includes tech support, post-camp support, and program fees. Current Michigan 4-H members receive a \$20 discount. Questions? Contact Christine Miller at 517-552-6905 or johns832@msu.edu. 4-H Spartan Coding Camp is offered in collaboration with CodeNow

Michigan 4-H'ers pledge their hands to larger service in a time of need

Across the state, county and globe, COVID-19 has upended everyday life in nearly every way. In Michigan, families and communities struggle to adapt to closed schools and businesses while working to preserve their own health, well-being and sense of normalcy. For many Michigan 4-H'ers, lending a helping hand is part of that normal, and many have sprung into action to help their communities during this unprecedented time.

Across the state, 4-H'ers have found many ways to serve their communities while practicing social distancing. Among them were:

- Kalkaska County 4-H member Amy Saxton issued a 4-H Dare to Serve Challenge for other
 4-H'ers to join in her Cards for a Cause efforts, encouraging youth to send cards to individuals living in adult foster care homes not able to receive visitors at this time.
- ° Similarly, 4-H'ers in Lapeer and Schoolcraft counties wrote letters and cards of kindness to residents of local senior centers and nursing homes.
- Alger County 4-H'ers volunteered to shop for seniors who didn't feel safe traveling to the store to purchase their groceries and other supplies.
- ^o 4-H'ers across the state sewed masks at home to donate to people in need.
- ° The Sebations, a 4-H family in St. Clair Co., re-purposed a fair billboard thanking essential workers.

"I continue to be impressed by the overwhelming generosity and creativity of our 4-H members, volunteers and staff across the state to continue the 4-H mission," said Jacob DeDecker, Michigan 4-H state leader. "Our 4-H community remains committed to helping one another."

