

*Kalamazoo County*

4-H Family News

June 2020



MSU Extension offices 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: <https://bit.ly/2wsbfvg>.

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, both offered by MSU Extension staff and staff from other states.

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=IwAR3w11iCnLLnp-k_6djgioZ_huqz1EV6jDIlelpSQ8qVlfzA7c-S0YTDDE

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

We know that you are all wondering about the Kalamazoo County Youth Fair. After much deliberation, Kalamazoo County has made the difficult decision to cancel the Youth Fair originally scheduled for August 2020. The board is looking forward to planning the 2021 fair. There is more information about a virtual showcase later in this newsletter.

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SHOW CASE



MSU Extension Virtual Showcase

We know that there has been show many changes and cancellations of our normal routines. We are all missing the time with family, friends, schools, celebrations, etc. For most of us are missing the time we would be getting together face to face preparing for the Kalamazoo County Youth Fair. 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. We will keep you updated as we make plans for both the virtual showcase and online auction. You can find some of the specifics on the website at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/youth-members>. On this site you will get tips on taking pictures, creating videos, etc. There is also a section for potential livestock buyers to check out. You may want to become familiar with this so you can answer questions for your potential buyers. If you have specific questions please send Veronica an e-mail at bolhuisv@msu.edu

Congratulation to our 2020 Senior Scholarship Award winners:

Mattison Coburn

Daughter of Matt & Kitty Coburn
Galesburg-Augusta High School
9 year member of Kalamazoo County 4-H
Attending Albion College— biology

Emma Czitterberg

Daughter of Steve & Patsy
Portage Northern High School
5 year member of Kalamazoo County 4-H
Attending: WMU—undecided

Clare Dirksen

Daughter of James and Sarah
Kalamazoo Christian High School
11 year member of Kalamazoo County 4-H
Attending Taylor University— business

Ellen Houseman

Daughter of Galen and Mary
Hackett Catholic Prep High School
10 year member of Kalamazoo County 4-H
Attending Madonna University— dance

Johnny Hunter

Son of Rich & Connie
Climax-Scotts High School
9 year member of Kalamazoo County 4-H
Attending KVCC, WMU — anesthesiology

Sam Philion

Son of Kevin & Cindy
Portage Central High School
7 year member of Kalamazoo County 4-H
Attending GVSU—occupational therapy

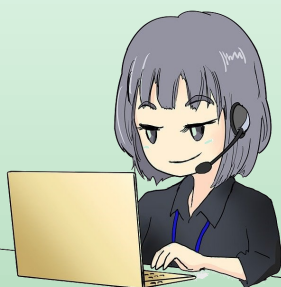
Abby VanDyk

Daughter of Jay and Sara
Heritage Christian Academy
14 year member of Kalamazoo County 4-H
Attending MSU Institute of Agriculture Technology— dairy management & secondary ag education

Upperclassman Scholarship:

Kyle Schmitt

Son of Kurt & Jennifer
Ball State University—criminal justice
6 year member of Kalamazoo 4-H



Remote Communication Tools

There are a variety of ways that we (the 4-H staff and volunteers) can use to communicate information to large groups of people without face to face access.

They include:

- ◆ Monthly newsletters
- ◆ Mass e-mails
- ◆ Text feature in 4-H online
- ◆ Social Media
- ◆ Individual e-mails
- ◆ Group texts
- ◆ Face Time, Zoom and Skype



What are some other ways that we can help continue to communicate with you efficiently and safely?

Please e-mail Veronica at Bolhuisv@msu.edu with your ideas and thoughts.

Tractor Supply—Paper Clover Fundraiser Postponed

As we continue to work through these unique circumstances associated with COVID-19 and focus on the needs of 4-H youth, Extension staff, Volunteers, and communities, the 2020 Spring 4-H Paper Clover campaign with Tractor Supply Company (originally scheduled to take place 4/29 – 5/10) will be postponed to a later date. Details regarding the new dates will be discussed between TSC and Council in May and confirmed next steps will be shared, as they become available.

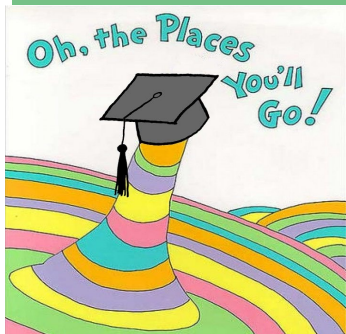
We also want to confirm that our partnership with Tractor Supply will continue with the Fall Paper Clover campaign as planned for 10/7 – 10/18.

Tractor Supply stores and team members in communities across the country have long supported 4-H and will continue to raise funds, build programs, and establish a strong partnership that will serve our communities. Despite the challenging situation we all face right now, Tractor Supply stores and employees remain critical and open to support 4-H families with the products they rely on to feed and care for their animals and pets.





We can't wait to see all of the places you go and the difference each one of you will make in this world. We believe that you all have a promising future! Believe in yourself, set your goals and reach for the stars!



Congratulations!

Congratulations to all of the Kalamazoo County 4-H youth participants who are graduating this year. We know this hasn't been the end of the year that any of us anticipated. We wanted you to know that we are proud of you and all of your accomplishments! As you go forward with your plans we hope that your time in 4-H has helped you to develop some great life skills, friendships and memories that you will take with you forever!!! Congratulations!

Aayush Mohanty

Abigail VanDyk

Amber Burland

Angelica Huntington

Anna Simmons

Arjav Patel

AydenFlickinger

Briana Kohl

Calli Kirkendall

Casidy Peck

Charlize Gibbs

Clare Dirksen

Connor Gibson

Diego Amaro

Donald Cochran

Elizabeth McQueen

Ellen Houseman

Emma Czitterberg

Ethan Lee

Grace Gibson

Hung Huynh

Jalynn Rootes Gothberg

Jiawen Fan

Johnny Hunter

Kristopher Ouvry

Lilian Gates

Marissa King

Mathew Balkema

Mattison Coburn

Megan Chow

Molly Harma

Natasha Elliott

Niya Balboa

Ranya Liu

Ryan Lehoczky

Sam Phillion

Simon Hakman

Sydney Free

Tessa Hertel

Zach Zlomek

2020 Goal Setting

Setting goals is an important life skill that everyone needs to learn. It's hard to know where your going if you don't set a goal for the destination.

The goal may be to earn money toward financial goals, maybe learn a new skill or to improve on a skill you already have. Using SMART goals is a way to help you stay on track. Now is a great time to set those goals for yourself and possibly for your 2020 fair projects. Below are several articles with details on why and how to set those SMART goals

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/setting_goals_to_make_your_best_better

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/smart_goals_help_you_achieve_success

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/achieving_your_goals_an_evidence_based_approach

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/smart_goals_make_good_new_years_resolutions



Keep an eye out on Facebook and an e-mail for a fun interactive scavenger hunt that will be coming out in the next week. It is called GooseChase and will be a lot of fun for youth of all ages.





MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

MSU Extension | Volunteer Central

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. https://msu.samaritan.com/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-H Online 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.

Facts at a Glance

More than

16,000

Michigan residents
volunteered with 4-H in the
past year alone.

Approximately

\$4.02 million

of economic impact is generated by
MSU Extension Master Gardener
annually.

More Than

200,000

youth are influenced by
Michigan 4-H volunteers
annually.

Approximately

157,430

hours were served by MSU
Extension Master Gardener
volunteers in 2018.



Nature Challenge 2020: Join us on social media to share spring observations .

Can we use technology to help us explore nature and connect with others to share our curiosity? Let's find out!

Though we've had to cancel KBS public events this spring to help reduce the impact of COVID-19, we hope to reschedule many of them. We can't wait to see you all in person again.

But right now, many of us are looking for resources to help our kids—and maybe ourselves!—engage with the natural world.

Many wonderful, free resources have been shared online. Let us add to that list with activities that include a personal and place-based connection! It's spring here in Michigan, and things are changing outdoors every day. Birds are returning, plants are pushing up through the soil and it's healthy for us to get outside—let's celebrate and connect with each other!

Join us for a nature challenge

Join us for the KBS 2020 Nature Challenge on Facebook, Twitter or Flipgrid. We'll post a weekly nature challenge—a simple question or observation that can be done in your backyard. In order to play along, take photos or make a short video reply with #KBSnature to share what you have discovered through a post on Facebook, Twitter or Flipgrid. Interact by watching other peoples' content and commenting.

How to participate

Facebook: Follow [Kellogg Biological Station](#), search #KBSnature to find the Nature Challenge posts and add your videos and comments.

Twitter: Follow [@KaraHaaSciEd](#) and add [#KBSnature](#) to your post. Videos can be up to 2 minutes 20 seconds long.

Flipgrid: Flipgrid is a free tool and you can choose whether to create an account or participate as a guest. Downloading the app on your phone or tablet is the easiest way to create and add content. Teachers, if you already use Flipgrid with your students you are welcome to copy this idea and make your own grid/topics, please just [send an email](#) so I can follow up with you. For those with a Flipgrid account: Link to: [KBS K-12 Partnership Grid](#); Link to 1st Topic: [Intro to your backyard challenge](#). For those using Flipgrid as a guest: [link](#) to [Intro to your backyard challenge](#); [Things in Motion Challenge](#)

Regardless of which social media platform works best for you, we hope you enjoy this challenge to get outside and share your observations with others!

Challenges

Challenge #1: [Intro to Your Backyard](#)

Challenge #2: [Things in Motion](#)

New Challenges will be posted on Fridays!

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*Kara Haas is the Science Education and Outreach Coordinator at KBS. Visit our [K-12 Education webpages](#) to learn more about the resources and programs for students and teachers.*



## Opt in to Text Alerts

Want to get important Kalamazoo County 4-H messages right on your phone? Then you should sign up for text alerts from 4-H Online! This is a great way to get quick messages about meeting cancellations (winter is here!), newsletters, and other updates. Just follow the steps below.

**1** Log into your 4-H Online profile at [mi.4honline.com](http://mi.4honline.com)

**Member List**

**4-H Member**

4-H is the largest youth development organization in Michigan. In fact, each year more than 200,000 young people explore what interests and excites them through Michigan 4-H. From program areas ranging from science and technology to clothing and textiles, and so much more, 4-H provides fun, educational opportunities that become the foundation for a lifetime of success.

4-H is offered in almost every community in Michigan. Youth ages 5 to 19, from cities, suburbs, towns, and rural settings participate as 4-H members. Adults age 19+ can join as volunteers.

**4-H Volunteer**

Plain and simple, 4-H needs you. Our organization depends on volunteers to deliver its programming to youth. There are more than 20,000 4-H volunteers in Michigan and we could not exist without them. You don't have to know anything special to be a volunteer. You just have to want to make a difference in the lives of kids and families. We'll train you. We'll support you. We'll respect you. We'll thank you. *If you have already completed the Volunteer Selection Process (VSP) and are serving as a screened adult 4-H volunteer - Thank you! Please add yourself as a member at this family profile.*

**Contact**

For more information on how to get involved as a volunteer, contact your county MSU Extension office.

**Member/Volunteer List**

|    | Name   | Role  | Membership ID | Enrollment Status | Last Active Year | Edit |
|----|--------|-------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|------|
| 1) | Sparty | Youth | 18551855      | Active            | 2019-2020        | Edit |
| 2) |        |       |               |                   |                  | Edit |
| 3) |        |       |               |                   |                  | Edit |

**Youth Personal Information**

**Profile Information** \* Required Fields

Email: Sparty1@msu.edu joe@4honline.com

**\* First Name:** Sparticus

**\* Last Name:** Spartanson

Preferred Name: Sparty

Address: 325 W. Shaw Lane

City: East Lansing

State: Michigan

Zip: 48824 12345

Birth Date: 01/01/1855 mm/dd/yyyy

Gender: Male

**\* Primary Phone:** 517-555-1855 555-555-1234

Home Phone:   
 Email:   
 Cell Phone: 517-555-1855 555-555-1234

You wish to receive notices via text message: ☒ AT&T <txt.att.net>

From the list above, please enter the school name and type, in the fields below

Name:   
 Type: Select a school type ...

Grade: Post High School Education

**Return to Member List** **Continue >>**

**Archive Member**  
Removes this member from the member list, but member can be reactivated. Select this option if this member may return.

**Delete Current Year**  
Delete only the current year enrollment record for this member.

We'll do our best to only use this feature a couple of times a month or when absolutely necessary. Thank you for helping to keep the lines of communication open.





## Virtual 4-H programming guidelines for volunteers



When face-to-face programming is not possible due to social distancing, virtual 4-H experiences are opportunities for 4-H groups to continue engaging together. Though virtual programs may never fully replace the relationships built by meeting in-person, they can also supplement face-to-face programming. But how can you make sure virtual programs are successful?

MSU Extension recently released a helpful document that can guide 4-H volunteers in using technology to the fullest potential. This resource provides volunteers with expectations for leading virtual programs with youth and best practices for success.

Access "Virtual 4-H Programming Guidelines for Volunteers" online at

[canr.msu.edu/resources/virtual-4-h-programming-guidelines-for-volunteers](https://canr.msu.edu/resources/virtual-4-h-programming-guidelines-for-volunteers).

## 4-H Events and Workshops

### June 2: 4-H Teen Tuesday—Meet the Michigan 4-H State Youth Leadership Council

#### Zoom webinar

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.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-teen-tuesday-meet-the-michigan-4-h-state-youth-leadership-council-1](https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-teen-tuesday-meet-the-michigan-4-h-state-youth-leadership-council-1)

### June 4: 4-H at 4 on Thursdays

#### Zoom webinar

These weekly 45 minute sessions are designed to provide an overview of a variety of 4-H programs and activities for 8 to 12 year-old youth.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-at-4-on-thursdays](https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-at-4-on-thursdays)

### June 4: Ocean Explorers

#### Zoom webinar

Join your 4-H friends and marine educator Madison Dix on a virtual discovery of sea life! Learn about amazing creatures, their habitats, and stewardship issues surrounding ocean ecosystems.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/2020-4-h-ocean-explorers-1](https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2020-4-h-ocean-explorers-1)

### June 4: Adulting 101 Series— Household Tasks

#### Zoom webinar

This event will help youth navigate life and college. In this session, learn the right way to iron, make a bed, sew a button, set a table and more.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-mayseries-householdtasks](https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-mayseries-householdtasks)

### June 9: 4-H Teen Tuesday—Making Money at Home This Summer

#### Zoom webinar

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.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/june-9-4-h-teen-tuesday-making-money-at-home-this-summer-1](https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/june-9-4-h-teen-tuesday-making-money-at-home-this-summer-1)

### June 20: Missaukee 4-H Summer Classic Virtual No-Fit Heifer & Steer Show

#### Zoom webinar

Join this opportunity to build confidence and hear feedback from judge Randy Barnes This show is open to all Michigan 4-H members.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/missaukee-4-h-summer-classic-virtual-no-fit-heifer-steer-show](https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/missaukee-4-h-summer-classic-virtual-no-fit-heifer-steer-show)

### Update on Face-to-Face 4-H Programming

On April 2, 2020, MSU made the decision to modify or suspend youth events scheduled to take place this summer on MSU's campus. This, combined with Gov. Whitmer's announcement that in-person K-12 instruction is suspended for the remainder of the academic year, has informed changes to MSU Extension's youth programming. These changes include:

- All on-campus MSU youth events scheduled to occur before September 1, 2020 will be modified to an online space, postponed or cancelled.
- No face-to-face MSU Extension youth events or programs will take place anywhere in the state, including summer camps, until September 1, 2020. This applies to events and activities scheduled through September 1 that are led by Michigan 4-H volunteers as well.

Given the fluid nature of this situation, it may be a few weeks before decisions are reached about which programs will become virtual versus which will be postponed or canceled; information will be shared as soon as it is available. Regardless, all program participants will receive a full refund for any out-of-pocket event fees already paid for affected programs. Staff will be in contact regarding this matter in the coming weeks; we appreciate your patience with this process.

This decision has implications on 4-H classes and activities at county fairs. MSU Extension is working with the Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions, as well as local fair boards, to pursue new delivery methods for these 4-H events. Please watch for more information in the coming weeks.

Youth safety and security are a guiding principle of Michigan 4-H; this decision is a reflection of that and our ongoing commitment to helping Michigan youth be physically and emotionally safe. Although the right thing to do for the health and wellbeing of MSU Extension staff, volunteers, program participants and all Michiganders, this is still a heartbreaking decision for us.

Now more than ever, MSU Extension remains committed to delivering meaningful experiences to youth and volunteers through a variety of supplemental offerings that support the educational development of Michigan youth. We will continue to update our [Remote Learning and Resources](#) space ([extension.msu.edu/Online4MI](http://extension.msu.edu/Online4MI)) with online programs, so be sure to visit the site frequently.

### ***MSU Extension offers at-home hands-on learning for youth***



To support families and caregivers with youth at home during the COVID-19 pandemic, MSU Extension has put together a weekly list of DIY activities and online events. Choose from daily childhood development, career exploration, STEM, healthy living and leadership activities - or choose them all! There's even two quick resources to support parents and caregivers during these unprecedented times. We hope this helpful resource will provide a weekly dose of fun and learning while staying safe at home.

View the resources at [extension.msu.edu/weeklyactivities](http://extension.msu.edu/weeklyactivities).

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### ***Managing Youth Stress***



The novel coronavirus pandemic has been stressful for everyone. Families and youth are navigating new challenges, including social distancing, uncertain health outcomes and "a new normal." These new stressors may spill over into their relationships and compound other stressful conditions in the family.

To help families better understand this stress and how to cope, MSU Extension has developed a new resource, "Managing Youth Stress."

To access the resource, visit [www.canr.msu.edu/resources/managing-youth-stress](http://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/managing-youth-stress).



## 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](http://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](mailto: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.
- 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."

