

LAPEER COUNTY "4-H CHALLENGED ME" CLUB COACH APPLICATION

Lapeer County 4-H is excited to offer a unique opportunity for special needs youth to participate in a livestock show designed especially for them at the Eastern Michigan State Fair. Challenge Members will learn about livestock including pigs, sheep and goats and will be assigned a 4-H or FFA member (coach) who will work hand in hand with each child and family. Challenge members will work with the animal they will be showing and the coach will teach the child about basic care, handling and how to show the animal in the show ring. We understand that each child has different learning and physical abilities and we will work closely with all participants to make this a great experience. Program will conclude with a 4-H Challenge Show will be held Saturday morning of the Eastern Michigan State Fair, in the Walker Memorial Barn.

Challenge Youth:

- Must be eligible (enrollment not required) for special education services through a Michigan public school.
- Are asked to share pertinent medical and behavioral information. Providing this information is optional and will not exclude a child from participating in 4-H Challenged Me. This information will be shared with the 4-H/FFA Coach that club members are matched with, to make all reasonable accommodations to meet the physical and social needs of each child, to ensure the safety of participants and that each participant has the best experience possible.
- There will be a limited number of partnerships for cattle. Those applying to be members for cattle will be evaluated and screened to ensure the safety of both members and coaches. Those not selected to work with cattle will be matched with coaches with another species.

Youth Coaches:

- Must be actively enrolled in Lapeer County 4-H or Lapeer County FFA and be interested in serving as a coach to youth, sharing their knowledge and skills with a 4-H Challenged Me club member.
- Must agree to allow club members to show their animal in the 4-H Challenge Showmanship Show and to meet with club member for project area education, as well as handle and practice with their animal.
- Help ensure a safe, non-threatening learning environment for Challenge youth to learn about and handle their project animals. Reasonable accommodations should be considered depending on Challenge youth's physical limitations.
- Should attend coach and member orientation.
- There will be a limited number of partnerships for cattle. Those applying to be coaches for cattle will be evaluated and screened along with their animals to ensure the safety of both members and coaches.

Expectations:

- 4-H Challenged Me Club Leaders will help coaches identify and accommodate member's needs. Club Leaders will discontinue the member/coach relationship at either parties request and will make every attempt to match challenge youth with a new mentor and/or attempt to identify an appropriate alternative activity.
- Strive to meet a minimum of eight times to learn about, handle and practice with the animal
- It is required that parents or a responsible adult remain with participants during meetings with 4-H/FFA coaches and be available at the show.

If you are interested in being a "4-H CHALLENGED ME" Club Coach, please complete the form below and return it to: Tiffany Howell: 5940 Clear Lake Rd. North Branch, MI 48461 or email tiffanyhowell@hotmail.com by April 1. Applying to be a coach does not guarantee you will be matched with a Challenge member.

Coach Name:	Age (as of January 1 of current year):
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
4-H or FFA Club Name:	
Species Shown (circle all that apply): Lamb Swine Goats Cattle	
Parent/Guardian Name:	
Home Phone:	Cell Phone:
Email:	T-Shirt Size: circle Youth: S M L Adult: S M L XL XXL Other _____
Coach Signature:	
Parent/Guardian Signature:	

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