



Jan-Feb 2024



Family News



Congratulations to Annette Kleinschmit on Her Retirement!

25 Years!



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Wow, are we going to miss Annette! She has worked with our Leelanau County MSU Extension office for 25 years! She is retiring on Leap Day, the 29th, and we will be so sad to see her go. Her knowledge, her kindness, and her great way of bringing all of us Extension folk together has been wonderful over the years. We can't forget her fantastic sense of humor, either! She has worked with all of us staff here, and supported our programs, but has been extremely involved with 4-H over the years, and was a 4-H youth and volunteer here in Leelanau, as well. She has helped our 4-H councils with funding questions and running reports, helped set up registration systems for enrollments for various programs, created flyers, answered questions on the phone and in person, and basically put together our school farm markets every year, connecting with local growers and schools. We are so very happy for her and wish her the very best in her next adventures. Thank you for all that you have done, Annette!

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Thank You Galen Leighton



A big thank you to Galen Leighton who has been one of our 4-H Exploration Days bus drivers since 2012! Galen has decided that it's time to step away from driving for us, but we just want to say how much we will miss his smiles, great sense of humor, and his get-it-done attitude. You helped make all of those round trips to campus way more fun, Galen, and thank you for being our Lead Driver and a wonderful 4-H volunteer!

A Fun Visit with Frontier Quest 4-H Club with 4-H Awards and Pizza on Groundhog Day



Several of the Frontier Quest folks couldn't make it to our rescheduled 4-H4ALL and Awards event, so they invited me to their February 4-H club meeting at the Suttons Bay Bingham Fire and Rescue Station! I helped present the annual awards to their club members, got to sample some great pizza, sang happy birthday to JC, and watched the club set up for their community service project of making cards for a local senior center. 4-H at its best! Thank you, Frontier Quest, for having me there to help celebrate you!





Third Annual 4-H4ALL and Leelanau County 4-H Awards a Success

We had a wonderful time at the Lions Club in Maple City on January 27th, first with our annual 4-H4ALL event with several local 4-H clubs in attendance, showing everyone what they do. This event was brought back after four years and hosted by the Leelanau County 4-H Youth Association, assisted by several Leelanau County 4-H clubs and 2 Grand Traverse County club leaders. 15 adult volunteers and 16 4-H members helped put on this mini-expo held at the Cedar/Maple City Lions Club in Maple City. We had 38 people attend this outreach event, where each club took part in helping teach an activity or lesson to guests (and to other 4-H youth members). We had a free drawing for anyone who came--everyone walked away with a 4-H prize (or three). The Youth Association also had two teen leaders teaching activities using the Sphero Robots and Apple iPads with A-Mazing Bowling and a message saying welcome to 4-H4ALL. We had clubs who taught guests about the dog project, face painting, cloverbud craft activities with bird house painting, livestock projects (poultry, llama, rabbit) record books, rabbit and poultry showmanship (using a fake chicken because the real ones had mites at home) and an interactive game with the Life Cycle of the Chick, horse projects with tack-cleaning and two types of saddles, as well as a large drawing of a horse with parts labeled, games, and a slideshow of all of our local clubs taking part in 4-H activities and events over the past year. We had free snacks and hot chocolate with marshmallows. People could learn more about 4-H and walk away with 4-H swag and information. Our awards were for our 4-H families afterwards, with project pin awards as well as the larger county-wide awards. We enjoyed pizza and 4-H cookies afterwards, and because the event had been rescheduled due to inclement weather, some youth could not attend. Their club leaders brought them their awards. We also want to thank the Lions Club for hosting us—they do this at no charge, and we love the space!





Third Annual 4-H4ALL and Leelanau County 4-H Awards continued...

List of Project Award Winners (alphabetical order). These youth are nominated by their leader after having taken part in a project for at least two years with dedication and enthusiasm. They received a certificate and a project pin.

Jack Anderson: Goat

Morgan Barrett: Leadership

Samantha Claar: First Year

Cami Creamer: Pony

Charlotte Crowther: Cloverbud

Kinsley Crowther: Alpaca

Garrett Grant: Leadership

Kenneth Grant: Achievement

William Grant: Personal Development

Evelyn "Tiny" Grant: Cloverbud

Ava Martinson: Pony

Genevieve Martinson: Cloverbud

Teagan Martinson: Pony

JC Oosse: Achievement

Isabelle Plamondon: Mentorship

Jaxson Plamondon: Poultry

Faith Steffens: Achievement

Judy Steffens: Personal Development

Amanda Tarsa: Personal Development

Eleanor Valkner: Leadership

Zoe Walker: Pony

Special Leelanau County Awards: All of the youth were nominated by their leaders, and then they were asked to also send in an application with different requirements to our 4-H office in order to be considered for their award. We have so many young folks to be proud of!



Third Annual 4-H4ALL and Leelanau County 4-H Awards continued...



4-H Pre-Teen Member of the Year Award. This award is presented to a member who is 12 years old or younger. The member must demonstrate a strong commitment to his or her club and a willingness to be helpful and cooperative. The winner received a trophy, certificate, and a \$20 VISA gift card, and the honorable mention received a certificate and medal.

Congratulations to:

Jack Anderson, Frontier Quest, Winner



Kenneth Grant, Gotta Lluva Cool Critter, Honorable Mention

4-H Club Officer of the Year Award. Serving as an officer in a 4-H club is a very important leadership role in 4-H. The young person is expected to take on leadership within the club, assisting the 4-H volunteer with decision-making, coordination of club activities, budgeting, and communication. The winner was awarded a trophy, \$20 VISA gift card, and a certificate and pin.

**Congratulations to:
Zoe Walker, Pony Pals,
Winner**



Third Annual 4-H4ALL and Leelanau County 4-H Awards continued...

4-H Teen Leader of the Year Award. Serving as a Teen Leader is a very important role in 4-H. The young person is expected to assist the 4-H leader in teaching the younger members and to take responsibility for a segment of the club's operation. The winner received a trophy, certificate, and a \$30 VISA gift card. The honorable mentions received a medal and certificate.

Congratulations to:

Isabelle Plamondon, Frontier Quest, Winner

Morgan Barrett, Gotta Lluva Cool Critter, Honorable Mention

Garrett Grant, Gotta Lluva Cool Critter, Honorable Mention

The Michigan 4-H Key Club Award. This is the highest 4-H honor presented to an individual at the county level. The teen needs to be 16 years of age by January 1st of the current year, completed 3 years of club work, completed 4-H projects in at least two different project areas, served as a Teen Leader, and participated in three regional and/or state 4-H events. The winner received a trophy, Key Club pin, a certificate, and a \$50 VISA gift card.

As part of his award application, the winner wrote a very heartfelt essay, and I would like to share part of it with you to demonstrate why he won this award.

"I am heading into the last months of my senior year. After graduation in June, I hope to get an electrical apprenticeship and to start working right away in the field. I want to build my own house, preferably on a farm and close to my family. One day, I hope to have my own family and kids. They will definitely be in 4-H, and I hope they have the same wonderful experience that I have had. Who knows, maybe I will be a leader."

Congratulations to winner Will Grant of Gotta Lluva Cool Critter! And an extra fun fact: Will and his mom Annie both won the Key Club Award here in Leelanau! Quite the family legacy!





Third Annual 4-H4ALL and Leelanau County 4-H Awards continued...

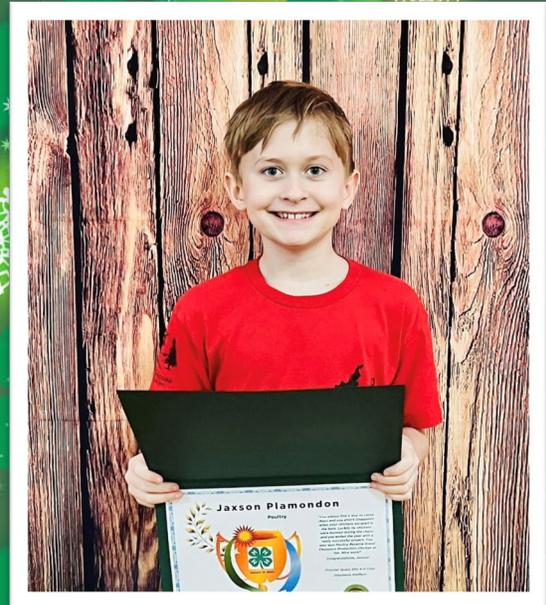
Leelanau County 4-H Club of the Year Award is presented to a club based on the educational and social activities it offers its members and the community service projects the club members participate in. This year's club of the year exemplifies the Head, Heart, Hands, and Health of 4-H. The leader said this about her club: "The camaraderie, willingness to jump in and help, fantastic work ethic, quick and creative thinking, humor, and fun-loving attitudes make for an easy club to guide and grow with. Their list of accomplishments in 4-H, school, and home is a nod to 4-H opportunities and family and community support. I am so very proud of all of them and can't wait to see how they change the world!"

Congratulations to Gotta Lluva Cool Critter, with leader Renee Hobbins!





Third Annual 4-H4ALL and Leelanau County 4-H Awards continued...

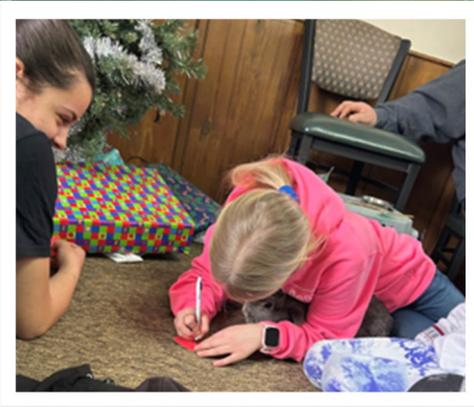




Third Annual 4-H4ALL and Leelanau County 4-H Awards continued...



4-H GROWS HERE





County 4-H Ski and Snowboard Program Great Fun but Short Season

Sixty-one 4-H Youth (including three teen chaperones) and six 4-H Volunteers took part in the Leelanau County 4-H Ski and Snowboard Program at The Homestead Resort in Glen Arbor this winter. The program took place just one day in January, rather than the planned four days, due to a lack of snow and the need for the resort to cancel the program. This was a very sad outcome for us, after working hard to bring it back. Youth attended a one-hour lesson with a Homestead instructor and at least one 4-H chaperone, and then had the chance to ski or snowboard for the remaining four hours with their families. The 4-H volunteers took part in the program by filling a chaperone role, assisting the resort's certified instructors during the lessons. Families were reimbursed for 75% of their registration fees. We also sent the 4-H Ski and Snowboard ribbon and a personalized note to each youth after the cancellation, thanking them for their participation, since we weren't able to hold our usual hot chocolate/cookie/ribbon celebration at the end of the program. Leelanau County 4-H hats were mailed to every volunteer and instructor with a thank-you. We couldn't do this program without our volunteers! We hope to run a modified version of the program again next year, and hopefully our winter weather will cooperate with us!





4-H TRACTOR SAFETY PROGRAM

For 14 and 15 Year Old Youth



Teens can improve their chances of employment this summer by completing a tractor safety training course!

Successful completion of a tractor operation safety course is required for all youth under the age of 16 who perform farm jobs classified as hazardous, under the U.S. Department of Labor's Hazardous Occupation Order.

To become certified, participants must attend all three course meetings, & pass an in-person written test and tractor driving test.

Who: Leelanau 4-H will host this training for 14 & 15 Year Old Youth. Youth must be 14 by June 1st, 2024.

Space is limited! (16-19 year olds are encouraged to participate, but priority is given to 14-15 year olds). Class curriculum follows *Gearing Up for Safety: Production Agriculture Safety Training for Youth*

Where: NW MI Horticulture Research Center, 6686 S. Center Hwy., Traverse City. (County Road 633 between Suttons Bay & Traverse City)

When: Sundays, May 5th, May 19th & June 2nd, from 3-5 p.m. An in-person written and driving test will be given on Sunday, June 9th* by appointment between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (using SignUp Genius)

(*Rain date will be Saturday, June 15th.)

Cost: \$60 per person - includes: classes, manual, certificate, and snack on test day. Some scholarships are available if finances are an issue.

The registration deadline is Friday, April 26th, 2024. Contact the Leelanau MSU Extension office with any questions - 231.256.9888 or collierr@msu.edu.

4-H Tractor Safety Registration is a TWO step process...

1. Register and pay online at: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/TractorSafety2024/>
2. Become a 4-H member and create a profile online at: <https://v2.4honline.com/>

Leelanau County 4-H Tractor Safety Opens for Registration Friday, March 1st!

Teens can improve their chances of employment by completing a tractor safety training. MSU Extension/Leelanau 4-H will host an in-person 4-H Tractor Safety Program for 14 and 15-year-old youth on Sundays, May 5, May 19, and June 2 from 3:00-5:00 pm at the NW MI Horticulture Research Center (between Suttons Bay and Traverse City on County Rd 633). The written and driving test will be held in-person, by appointment, on Sunday, June 9 between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm. Rain date will be Saturday, June 15. Participants must attend all four days to become certified. The cost is \$60 per student, which includes the classes, manual, certificate, and snack on testing day. Scholarships are available if finances are an issue. Youth must be 14 years of age by June 1, 2024. Space is limited to 20 youth. The registration deadline is April 26, 2024. Registration is online-only in a two-step process. First, register and pay (starting March 1st) at <https://events.anr.msu.edu/TractorSafety2024/> and second, become a 4-H member with Leelanau County and create a family account online at <https://v2.4honline.com/> choosing the Tractor Safety program as their club. Once registered, participants will receive more information about signing up for the testing day. For more information, contact Rosali Collier, Leelanau County 4-H Program Coordinator, at collierr@msu.edu or 231-256-9888.



Tanner 4-H Exhibit Building: Theme for club booth displays this year is "Oh, the Places You'll Go with 4-H!"

[4-H Scholarships and Awards](#)

LINK

For all youth who are interested in applying for scholarships this year, the Johnson Foundation scholarship is loaded on the Livestock Council website, and our office has hard copies available.

[Register for the NWMI 4-H Livestock Council Education Expo!](#)

LINK

See the flyer for more information. Sunday, March 3rd, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Remember that it's at the Grand Traverse Resort this year (in Acme)! This is a great way to get both of your required education sessions completed in one day, and experience some extra fun, like the thank-you note station, cloverbud crafts, and vendor tables. Lunch (slice of pizza and a pop) is provided for all 4-H youth. Bring money with you if you would like more. Youth: be sure to register in 4-H Online before you go so that you are active 4-H members for this year!

2024 EDUCATION EXPO SCHEDULE MARCH 3, 2024 GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT AND SPA

Time	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4
9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.	RABBIT BREEDS AND CAVY CARE Lisa Ralph & Tristin Klockziem <i>New Rabbit Breeds and Cavy Care</i> REGISTER HERE	HORSE SAFETY Dorothy Mueller <i>Horse Safety, making your horse safer to be around.</i> REGISTER HERE	GOAT FEED AND NUTRITION Lowe's Pellet & Grain <i>Goat Feed & Nutrition</i> REGISTER HERE	ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS NWMI Livestock Council Teen Reps & MSU Extension Staff REGISTER HERE
10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.	LAMB FITTING & SHEARING Thunderstruck Lambs <i>Tips and tricks for fitting and shearing your lamb projects.</i> REGISTER HERE	HORSE - ENGLISH & WESTERN DRESSAGE Dorothy Mueller REGISTER HERE	MAGNA WAVE Liv Rice <i>A non-invasive technology that generates gentle electromagnetic pulses to help with pain and inflammation.</i> REGISTER HERE	SWINE MANAGEMENT GIVING MEDICATION FOR YOUR SHOW HERD Casey Zangaro <i>Disease prevention and management</i> REGISTER HERE
11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.	LAMB NUTRITION Auburn Moyer <i>How to have happy, healthy lambs!</i> REGISTER HERE	LLAMA / ALPACA PERFORMANCE CLASSES Diana Kotesky <i>Defining the difference in classes, what to expect, and how to raise your scores. Information on the obstacle and pack classes at the fair!</i> REGISTER HERE	MAGNA WAVE Liv Rice <i>A non-invasive technology that generates gentle electromagnetic pulses to help with pain and inflammation.</i> REGISTER HERE	SWINE SHOW NUTRITION Casey Zangaro <i>Nutrition with a focus on corrections for gain and reaching the target weight.</i> REGISTER HERE
12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.	CATTLE NUTRITION <i>Proper nutrition for show cattle</i> REGISTER HERE	RECORD BOOKS FOR BEGINNERS Renee Hobbins <i>Tips and tricks to make a basic record book better!</i> REGISTER HERE	DIFFERENTLY ABLED SESSION <i>Record book decorating, Q&A, and animal care. Information for new DA families.</i> REGISTER HERE	POULTRY NUTRITION Jacob Stieg <i>Poultry Nutrition for a healthy flock</i> REGISTER HERE
2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.	BUTCHERING W/EBELS Tom Ebels <i>Techniques and methods processors use to butcher larger animals.</i> REGISTER HERE	ADVANCED RECORD BOOKS NWMI Livestock Council Teen Reps <i>Take your record book to the next level!</i> REGISTER HERE	LIVESTOCK MARKETING & FINANCIALS MSU Extension Staff and friends <i>Learn how to market your animal to buyers and incorporate finances into your market project.</i> REGISTER HERE	POULTRY SHOWING, BREED, MARKETING Jacob Stieg REGISTER HERE
3:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.	BUTCHERING W/EBELS Tom Ebels <i>Techniques and methods processors use to butcher larger animals.</i> REGISTER HERE	CALF CASTRATION DEMONSTRATION & EQUINE CLONING ISSUES EXPLORATION FFA Members from the Northwest Ed FFA Chapter REGISTER HERE	3-D PRINTING Brandon Williams REGISTER HERE	ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS NWMI Livestock Council Teen Reps & MSU Extension Staff REGISTER HERE



NORTHWEST MICHIGAN 4-H LIVESTOCK COUNCIL PRESENTS

EDUCATION EXPO 2024

AT THE
GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT AND SPA

NWMI Livestock 4-H members are to complete two required educational credits for the current year and the Education Expo is your one stop shop! All sessions are youth oriented and 4-H focused.

MARCH 3, 2024 9:00AM – 4:00PM

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



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension



[Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council](#)

Next meeting: March 4, 2024: Dairy Feeder, Goat, Junior Beef, Lamb, Poultry registrations due by midnight. See the Livestock Council website for all of the registration links.



2022 Farm Bureau Insurance - Record Book Winners

- 1. Jack Anderson - \$60
- 2. Madelynne Johns - \$40
- 3. Aizlyn McKinley - \$20

Goats

- 1. Bella Wolf - \$60
- 2. Grace Watson - \$40
- 3. Miranda Ashley - \$20

Llama

- 1. Kylie Brogh - \$60
- 2. Judy Stephans - \$40
- 3. Miranda Ashley - \$20

Rabbits

- 1. Evelyn Appier - \$60
- 2. Brookelynn Rosa - \$40
- 3. Mariah Herrington - \$20

Sheep

- 1. Ella Noonan - \$60
- 2. Ariyah McKinley - \$40
- 3. Kenneth Grant - \$20

Jr. Beef

Farm Bureau Record Book Winners: Congratulations to everyone!



Save the Dates for These Upcoming Programs!

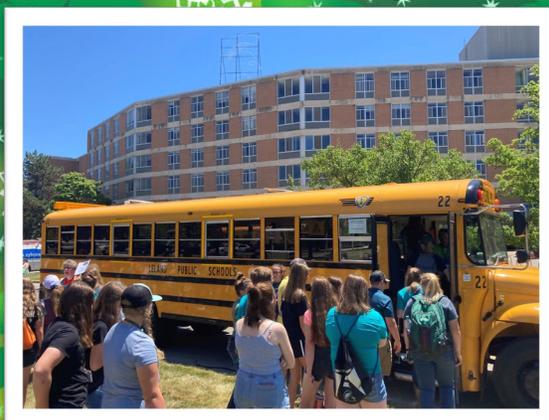
4-H Capitol Experience: For youth in 9th grade through 12th grade. 4-H and non-4-H members welcome! (Non-4-H members will be asked to sign up in 4-H Online) This 3-day event allows youth to meet with peers to talk about issues that are important to them, network with folks that work in a wide variety of roles related to public policy, and see state government in action. Sunday March 17 through Tuesday, March 19 in-person at the University Quality Inn and Michigan's State Capitol in Lansing. The cost is \$365 includes conference registration, lodging, and meals. Leelanau County 4-H has some great scholarships! Register Now Until March 4 at: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/CapEx2024/>

Leelanau County 4-H Babysitting Club: Held at the Suttons Bay Bingham Fire and Rescue Station, Sundays, April 7, 14, 21, and 28, from 1-4 pm. Cost is \$30. For youth in grades 6-8. Includes certification in CPR/First Aid, manual, first aid kit, babysitting bag, supplies, and snacks. Registration will open in March.

4-H Exploration Days on the MSU Campus: This pre-college program held on the MSU campus June 19-21, 2024, will be open for registration in just a few weeks! Leelanau County scholarships are available, and all 4-H adult volunteers will have their fees paid for. We will take two school buses round-trip so that families don't have to worry about transportation. Want to go with a friend? Sign up together and ask to share a dorm room!

- 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, bowling, basketball—even a great dance Thursday night.
- The 2024 cost is \$220. For registration information please see <https://bit.ly/2GRhuwv>
- The fee includes meals, a shared room in a dorm, sessions and a t-shirt. 4-H Scholarship funds are available.
- Registration opens March 25th, 2024. You will be asked to put \$50 down as a deposit. Registration books that show all the sessions and details on everything happening during Exploration Days will be available online and from county Extension offices in by the end of February. Booklets will be taken to all of our county schools once the sessions list is released, including the scholarship application form and the bus form.
- Registration deadline will be April 19th. Don't wait until the deadline though, because popular sessions fill up fast!

Please go to the 4-H Exploration Days website at https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/ for more information or contact Rosali Collier at collierr@msu.edu





STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Youth in Action Awards Applications Open



Apply now for the 2025 4-H Youth in Action Awards! Each year, the program recognizes four confident young leaders with diverse backgrounds and unique perspectives in the pillar areas of agriculture, civic engagement, healthy living and STEM.

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 15-19. The deadline to apply is April 1. Learn more and apply at <https://4-h.org/programs/4-h-youth-in-action-program/application/>.

March 3-May 4: JOANN 4-H Campaign

Stores across Michigan

While visiting your local JOANN store, you can support 4-H by adding a donation or rounding up at checkout. The funds donated will support the 4-H program with 50% going back to local 4-H programming and 10% supporting Michigan 4-H.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/joann-s-clover-for-kids-campaign

March 12: 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

March 16: Michigan 4-H Hippology Contest

East Lansing

Youth aged 5-19 are eligible to demonstrate their comprehensive equine knowledge and skills in an engaging setting.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-hippology-contest-2024

March 18: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar - Group Management For 4-H Clubs and Groups

Online

Learn and share techniques to support a successful group setting and help spark youth engagement. This series will provide volunteers with a variety of learning opportunities to help them grow as a volunteer and support Michigan 4-H'ers. This session will be offered twice, once as a daytime option and once as an evening option.

- **12 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-group-management-for-4-h-clubs-and-groups
- **7 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-group-management-for-4-h-clubs-and-groups7pm

March 19: Keeping Your Money Safe

Online

Join this session to gain insights on researching and evaluating financial institutions (banks and credit unions) to make the best choice for your financial future.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/safemoney

April 28: Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers

Comerica Park, Detroit

Watch the Detroit Tigers take on the Kansas City Royals with other 4-H'ers! Michigan 4-H will be the Group Charity of the Game; discounted tickets available with a portion benefitting 4-H.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Registration is open for 4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resource Camp!

4-H Great Lakes and Natural Resources Camp is an annual three-time national award-winning camp that mixes summer fun and hands-on science education. The camp will be held July 28 - August 3 on the shores of Lake Esau at Camp Chickagami in Presque Isle. This pre-college program is for teens who will be age 13 to 15 during camp.

Campers will increase their science literacy and stewardship as they learn from natural resource experts in fields such as Great Lakes coastal and fisheries management, limnology, wildlife, forestry, geography, geology and environmental education. In addition to hands-on learning, attendees will also enjoy exciting natural resources recreation activities such as kayaking, snorkeling, sailing, fossil hunting, archery, photography and evenings around a campfire. First-time campers also go charter fishing and learn to fillet their catch.



Registration is now open! The registration fee is \$500 and includes six nights of lodging, all meals and snacks, a t-shirt and program and activity costs. Space is limited to 70 campers so register today. For more information and to register, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_great_lakes_natural_resources_camp/.

4-H Exploration Days registration coming soon!

4-H Exploration Days is Michigan 4-H's largest pre-college program and could be the highlight of your summer—maybe even change your life! This exciting event is open to any Michigan youth ages 12 –19 as of Jan. 1.

4-H Exploration Days, scheduled for June 19-21, is designed to help youth build the skills they need to successfully transition to college and to life as an adult. Michigan 4-H youth who participate have the opportunity to stay in MSU campus residence halls while attending classroom and field trip sessions.

With more than 100 session choices held on and off campus, there are topics for everyone

including animal science, business and entrepreneurship, international language and culture, performing and visual arts, and science, engineering, and technology. As youth gain important life skills like decision making, problem solving and communication, they'll also have time for fun with free time activities such as skating, basketball and a dance.

Registration for 4-H Exploration Days will open March 25. The cost for the 2024 event is \$220. Check with your local 4-H program coordinator for additional information regarding county sign-ups and scholarships or visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days.

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

Making your summer plans? Consider hosting a Japanese youth this summer through the States' 4-H International Exchange Program! Michigan will be hosting 18 Japanese youth and two chaperones. These visitors will quickly become a part of your family for their 3 ½ week stay (the last full week of July to the middle of August) and gain a fun American experience through your exceptional hospitality. In addition, your children will build lifelong friendships and gain new perspectives on their own country, too!

Host families must complete the States' 4-H International Exchange Programs online application, have a youth to match a host brother/sister (within three years of age), be a Michigan 4-H Gold-level volunteer, participate in a family interview as well as a home visit process. For more information contact Jan Brinn at brinn@msu.edu or John Wurm at wurmj@msu.edu.

