



4-H Family News

Oakland County



Explore the Outdoors with 4-H!

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July 8 – 10, 2025 | 9:00 – 11:00 AM Daily
Ages 9–13 | Free to Attend | Space is Limited
Kids under 11 must be accompanied by an adult

Join us for three days of hands-on, nature-inspired learning and fun!

Daily Themes:

- July 8** – Orienteering: Learn to navigate with maps and compasses in the great outdoors.
- July 9** – Cyanotype Printing: Create beautiful sun prints using natural materials.
- July 10** – Nature Mindfulness: Slow down and connect with nature through mindful activities.

Location: Holly Nature Center, 5142 East Holly Rd, Holly MI 48442

Register by selecting, "SPIN Holly Nature Center" Club in 4-H Online. Project: Environmental Science and Natural Resources.
Contact Jordan Hewitt at hewittj8@msu.edu or Amy Childers at childe63@msu.edu.






Explore the Outdoors with 4-H!

Nature-Based SPIN Club at Holly Nature Center


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 Register on 4-H Online - <https://v2.4honline.com>.

Club selection: "SPIN Club Holly Nature Center". Project selection: Environmental Science.

Contact: Jordan Hewitt at hewittj8@msu.edu or Amy Childers at childe63@msu.edu.

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Discover 4-H

FREE Family Fun Event!

August 22, 2025, 12 – 3 PM

Shepherd Park – 24198 Church St. Oak Park, MI 48237

Join us for a day of games, hands-on activities, and educational fun for the whole family! Hosted by MSU Extension, 4-H, and local partners, this event is a great way to explore what 4-H has to offer youth and families in your community.

We are looking for vendors and volunteers for this event! Please contact Cheyenne if interested, shield69@msu.edu.



Visit us at the Oakland County Fair!

Stop by the Oakland County 4-H booth located at the Daily Events Pavilion during the Oakland County Fair, **July 11-20, 2025**. Visit with 4-H staff and get creative with the hands-on activities!

For a full list of scheduled activities, check the Oakland County Fair schedule online at: <https://www.oakfair.org/>



Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase

Registration for the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase is now open! [Michigan State University Extension](https://extension.msu.edu) is excited to partner with the Michigan State Fair again this year on this exciting program for all Michigan youth ages 5-19.

The virtual platform provides a great opportunity for youth to exhibit their work in all project areas and apply for scholarships. Learn more about this free event at extension.msu.edu/MSF4HShowcase.

There is no cost to participate, and youth may engage in as many classes as they wish by submitting [project photos and videos](#). Project evaluation will occur before the start of the Michigan State Fair so that winners can be announced at the event which occurs August 28 - September 1.

Registration will close on August 8, 2025.





4-H Trail Judging Clinic

Hey 4-Hers! Want to become a Trail class expert? Join us for a fun and hands-on Trail Judging Clinic on Friday, August 23rd from 12–2 PM at New Beginnings Ranch (9105 Fish Lake Rd, Holly)! 🌞

You'll learn:

- ✓ How to judge and score Trail classes
- ✓ How the scoring system works
- ✓ Tips to ride a better pattern and impress the judges!

Perfect for any 4-H youth looking to improve both in and out of the show ring. Come learn, ride, and grow your skills with friends! ❤️

[Register Here](#)

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Oakland County 4-H Photo Challenge

June 1 – July 30, 2025. Get ready to show off your creativity and 4-H pride! Whether you're working on your fair projects or completing a cool club activity, we want to see it!

Open to: 4-H youth (individuals or clubs) and 4-H volunteers

Challenge: Submit photos that best showcase and promote the 4-H project(s) you're preparing for the fair OR a general 4-H club project you're proud of!

🌟 **Categories include:**

- Livestock & Animal Projects
- Crafts & Creative Arts
- STEM, Gardening, and More!
- Team/Club Project Displays
- Volunteer Highlights

📸 Enter by tagging @OaklandCounty4H and using #OC4HPhotoChallenge2025 and use the [link here](#). Questions? Jordan Hewitt at Hewittj8@msu.edu.

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Exploration Days was a Huge Success!

40 youth from Oakland County experienced college life firsthand during Exploration Days, a 3-day event held on Michigan State University's campus. Participants stayed in dorms, dined in campus cafeterias, and attended a variety of classes across campus. This immersive experience helps youth develop independence, explore career and personal interests, and envision their futures. Our youth had a fantastic time, made new friends from across Michigan, and returned home inspired and empowered!



Bowers Farm Progress Showdown!

In preparation for the upcoming Oakland County Fair, Bowers Farm 4-H Club and FFA youth demonstrated their showmanship skills and the progress they have made with their animals on June 28th at the Progress Showdown Event! Youth put their showmanship skills to the test in front of a guest livestock judge and were applauded for their dedication and progress. These youth have worked hard all year to develop their skills in animal handling, grooming, and presentation, while also learning valuable life lessons about responsibility, patience, and sportsmanship. Much appreciation to the Bowers Farm 4-H Club Leaders, Kate Bell and Chris McCoy — as well as *all* of the parents and members of the 4-H and farm community that provided this event opportunity for youth and for the passion and dedication you all have for supporting youth at the farm! And congratulations and best of luck to the youth that are showing at the Oakland County Fair!



FAIR WEEK

July 11-20 @ Springfield Oaks County Park

Sun

Livestock Arrive at the
Fairgrounds
6pm Sheep Show

Mon

6pm Cattle Show

Tue

9am Rabbit Show
6pm Goats Show
9am Chicken Show

Wed

6pm Swine Show

Thu

Club Picnic
5pm Sweepstakes

Fri

6:30pm
Small Animal Auction
FB Member Dinner

Sat

6:30pm
Large Animal Auction

Sun

Clean Up!

Check out Bowers 4-H Youth Animal Showings Above



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2025 4-H State Shooting Sports Tournament



4-H State Shooting Sports Tournament

August 2, 2025

Registration is open for the 2025 Michigan State 4-H Shooting Sports Tournament! To be held August 2 at the Saginaw Field & Stream Club in Saginaw, this event provides 4-H shooting sports members with the opportunity to test their skills, earn recognition and build camaraderie with other 4-H members from all over the state.

Events at the tournament include: .22 rifle, 3-D archery, air rifle, BB gun, hunting and wildlife, muzzle loading, pistol, target archery, trap and skeet.

The deadline to register is **July 13, 2025**.

To learn more, visit www.canr.msu.edu/events/2025-4-h-state-shooting-sports-tournament

July 8-10: Garden Writers Workshop

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Young writers will learn about the wonderful world of writing in the garden. Using the garden as their inspiration, campers will connect writing to nature by creating poems, stories, plays and much more.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/garden-writers

July 9: Adulting 101 – Mastering Meal Planning

Online

Learn how to eat healthy on a budget and stretch your food dollars, including how to cook once and eat twice, making a meal plan that will save you money at the store, and other great tips!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulting-101-mastering-meal-planning

July 16-17: Saginaw Bay Fish Camp

Haithco Park, Saginaw

All campers will receive a fishing rod with a reel, tackle box, t-shirt and snacks. Learn about knot tying, tackle crafting, casting, aquatic ecology, angler ethics and more! Open to 4-H members ages 8-12.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/saginaw-bay-4-h-fish-camp-2025

July 16 - August 13: Guiding Principles for Highly Successful Parenting Webinar Series

Online

This free course is for parents of toddlers to teens to learn strategies for helping children, parents and families be successful. This series will meet online each Monday for five weeks from 7:30 – 9 p.m.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/guiding-principles-for-highly-successful-parenting-webinar-series-july-2025

July 17: Bubble Day at the Children's Gardens

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Come celebrate summer vacation at the garden with bubbles!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/bubble-day

July 24: Bug Day at the Children's Gardens

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Join for a tribute to insects in the gardens. We will collect, observe and even make bugs! Our friends from the MSU Bug House will be back this year with their collections of insects from all over the world!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/bug-day

July 29-31: Camp Monet

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Young artists will spend three days in the gardens creating marvelous projects. Campers will use inspiration from the garden to make projects that involve sketching, painting, sculpting, dying, weaving and much more! Lunch will not be provided, so please bring a lunch each day.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/camp-monet





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Join the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase!

MSU Extension is thrilled to partner again in 2025 with the [Michigan State Fair](#) on an exciting program for Michigan youth: the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase. This statewide showcase provides a virtual platform for youth across Michigan to exhibit their work in all project areas and apply for up to \$10,000 in scholarships. Any Michigan youth ages 5-19 is encouraged to participate; 4-H membership is not required.

[Registration for this event is now open!](#) The diverse array of [classes](#) celebrate all the projects and programs in which youth have developed skill and mastery. This includes livestock and animal showmanship classes, as well as still exhibits, educational projects and more.



There is no cost to participate and youth may engage in as many classes as they wish by [submitting project photos and videos](#). **Be sure to submit your entries by the registration deadline of August 8 at 5 p.m..** Project evaluation will occur before the start of the Michigan State Fair so that winners can be announced at the event which occurs August 28 – September 1.

In addition to the opportunity to showcase their skills, recognize their accomplishments and receive constructive feedback for growth and development, participants in the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase will also have the opportunity to apply for up to \$10,000 in scholarships. Learn more, find helpful resources and registration links at www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/.

2025 Mark of Excellence Award Winners

Every year, counties across Michigan offer 4-H youth, ages 10 and 11, the opportunity to participate in Michigan 4-H State Awards' 4-H Mark of Excellence essay contest. The essay theme is "Beyond Ready" and the youth referred to the various ways that 4-H is helping to prepare them to be ready for their future, be it work, college or life in general.

As part of the contest, up to two 4-H youth essays from each county are selected to be recognized as award winners. In 2025, the following 28 4-H members from 22 counties were selected as the 2025 Mark of Excellence county winners.

- Simran Adnani, Wayne County
- Abigail Baker, Cass County
- Claire Blaszyk, Oakland County
- Snyder Dunlap, Jackson County
- Lilly Edick, Gladwin County
- Alicia Etter, Sanilac County
- Chloe F., Ingham County
- Adreann Guikema, Newaygo County
- Colton Guy, Barry County
- Autumn Johnloz, St. Joseph County
- Nolan King, Branch County
- Jude Martin, Ionia County
- Madison McGuire, Midland County
- Richie McNutt, Washtenaw County
- Trula Michel, Monroe County
- Penelope Moore, Sanilac County
- VanAnder Noordyk, Marquette County
- Victoria Perez, Washtenaw County
- Madeline Piwowarski, Wexford County
- Breelyn Pullins, Berrien County
- Hadley Schafer, Monroe County
- Kristina Schwarz, Oakland County
- Asher Smith, Livingston County
- Jolene Smith, Ionia County
- Bette Stemaly, St. Joseph County
- Autumn Wellington, Lapeer County
- Tierney Westrate, Allegan County
- Josephine Wiltshire, Osceola County

Each recipient will receive a medal, and their winning essays will be added to the Mark of Excellence history book at the Michigan 4-H Foundation and State 4-H Office at MSU Extension. Congratulations to our winners!

To learn more about the Michigan 4-H State Awards, visit www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4-h-awards-and-recognition-program/Youth-Recognition/index.