



# 4-H Family News

Oakland County



## Exploration Days – June 19 – 21, 2024



Join 1,000 youth from across Michigan on MSU's campus to explore YOUR future! Live like a college student and learn about future careers at 4-H Exploration Days. This three-day pre-college program is designed to help you explore careers, build skills and envision your future. Choose from more than 100 fun learning sessions on a variety of topics that are led by MSU faculty, 4-H staff and volunteers, and other experts! You'll stay in and eat at MSU residence halls, attend sessions in buildings throughout campus, and of course have fun at free-time activities across the university!

**Registration opens on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM and closes on April 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**Cost: \$220 - Scholarships are available! Please contact Cheyenne Shields for more information at [shield69@msu.edu](mailto:shield69@msu.edu)**

[View session listing here!](#)

## CONTACT US

MSU Extension – 4-H Youth  
1200 N Telegraph Rd  
Building 34 East  
Pontiac, Michigan  
48341

## PHONE & EMAIL:

248-858-0889

[msue.4hoakland@campusad.msu.edu](mailto:msue.4hoakland@campusad.msu.edu)

## WEBSITE:

[Canr.msu.edu/oakland/4-h/](http://Canr.msu.edu/oakland/4-h/)

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## Discovery Day 2024

Discovery Day is Saturday, **April 27, 2024!** 10 AM – 2 PM at Springfield Oaks Park in Davisburg. Discovery Day is a FREE family event open to the public providing fun and educational activities for the whole family! There will be information about joining 4-H and exhibiting at the Oakland County Fair. **Sign up [HERE](#) to request a table to showcase your club or community organization.**



4-H horse clubs will also be presenting educational info and demos. Details about some of the programs listed below will be available. Concessions will be available!

- **Oakland County 4-H Horse Achievement Level Program**
- **BOH Proud Equestrian Program** – therapeutic riding program at Bloomfield Open Hunt Club
- **Horse Protégé Program** – novice/mentor program (April-August) for horse project members and horse enthusiasts
- **Oakland County 4-H Horse Camp**, 6/16-20, Springfield Oaks County Park
- **Camp Counselor-in-Training Program** for youth 16-19
- **Oakland County 4-H Horse Shows:** 5/10 & 5/11, 5/17 & 5/18, 6/7 & 6/8, 8/9 & 8/10.
- **State 4-H Horse Show, 8/16-18/24 & Delegate Selection**



Any questions about Oakland County 4-H horse programs, please contact Debbie Morgan at [morga194@msu.edu](mailto:morga194@msu.edu).

## 4-H Livestock Novice/Mentor Program



The 4-H Livestock Novice/Mentor Program is for youth ages 5 to 7 (as of January 1, 2024) OR inexperienced livestock project members in their 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Matching the inexperienced youth with experienced livestock project members (from the same club) provides an impactful mentoring and learning opportunity for all. Program participation is a large commitment by the novice, mentor, and their families. **For more info and registration details, please contact Debbie Morgan at [morga194@msu.edu](mailto:morga194@msu.edu) 248-347-3860, ext. 279 by 4/1/2024.**

## 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Ceremony- SAVE THE DATE

The 4-H Achievement Awards is a fun evening that honors youth 4-H members and volunteers for their efforts and accomplishments throughout the year. It is their commitment and dedication that encourages each individual to grow, makes our community stronger, and contributes to shaping the future.

**The next 4-H Awards Ceremony will be held on Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024.** Please be sure to mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details to come.





## Visit us at Cranbrook - Spring into Science

Spend spring break at the Institute and explore the natural world around us! As the seasons begin to change, learn about the wonders of our ecosystem with various local environmental organizations through engaging hands-on activities.

- Bee-come a beehive keeper
- Craft your own germination necklace
- Battle water pollution
- Explore the creepy invasive critters of the Great Lakes
- Investigate Michigan's wildlife
- Become a recycling superhero
- Stop and smell the wildflowers
- And more nature-based fun!



4-H will have a table set up March 27 - 29 from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm.

## Mark Of Excellence Award!

Are you a young person ages 11-12? Apply for the Mark of Excellence Award. The essay theme is "Because of 4-H, I can..." Tell us how #MI4H has made an impact on your life for a chance to be recognized!

### Submission Details:

- Contestants are asked to create either a video or a journal reflection focusing around the theme of "Because of 4-H I can..."
- Entries should be legible, readable or easily viewable.
- Video submissions must be no more than 2 minutes in length. Videos should be in mp4 format or provide a YouTube Channel link.
- Journal reflections must be 500 words or less and can be handwritten or typed.
- Submission can be either video OR journal.
- Must include first name and county.



[Due to County office by April 1st!](#)

## 2024 Maplefest at Tollgate Farm



Registration for 2024 Maplefest at Tollgate Farm is now open!

Identify and tap a maple tree, tour the sugar shack, explore fun maple-themed activities, take a wagon ride, taste maple sap, syrup, and sugar, and explore maple tools and technology.

Enjoy an 'all-you-can-eat' pancake celebration in the historic 19th-century barn. Pancakes (prepared by Chris Cakes of Michigan), sausage, and of course, pure maple syrup will be provided!

Click Here - <https://www.canr.msu.edu/.../maple-tapping-and-pancake...>



# 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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/](http://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](http://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](mailto:brinn@msu.edu) or John Wurm at [wurmj@msu.edu](mailto:wurmj@msu.edu).

