

## $\frac{\text{MICHIGAN STATE}}{U N I V E R S I T Y} | \text{Extension}$



### Join us for the 2024 MSU Tollgate Farm Maplefest! REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

### \$17 per person 2 and under free

Hourly Limited Timeslots from 9 am – 2 pm Saturday and Sunday Limited Seating: Pre-Registration will be required (no refunds)

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 <u>HERE</u> TO REGISTER!

# We're also looking for volunteers for Maplefest!

All volunteers are required to complete the <u>Michigan State University</u> <u>Volunteer Selection Process</u>. This process helps to provide a safe volunteering and work environment for both adults and youth. Volunteers must complete an application, background check.

> To learn more about this process, contact Carmen Hamilton at **hamil466@msu.edu**. 248-347-0269 ext. 239

Winter and Spring Camp are now open for registration, and Summer Camp will be open on January 15<sup>th</sup>!

### February 19<sup>th</sup> – 20th Winter Break Day Camp (\$175) (Ages 6-10)

Don't hibernate this winter! Come to the farm to learn about all the wonders of winter in Michigan. Together, we will be exploring first-hand how animals adapt, the science of snow, and what a farm does during the cold months. Weather permitting, we will also get a chance to adapt ourselves to the great outdoors through activities such as ice fishing, cooking food over an open fire (that you will build yourself!), & creating our own cardboard sleds. You won't want to miss it!



### March 25<sup>th</sup> – 29th Spring Break Camp (\$375) (Ages 6-10):

Springtime: the most exciting time on the farm! Come see and care for all of the new life on the farm, from chicks to kids, as well as explore the fields and forests as the seasons change. Campers will also get to build a week-long S.T.E.A.M. project centering around the science of spring - truly a time of wonder-filled fun!

### <u>REGISTER HERE NOW</u>

At MSU Tollgate Farm Camp, both for our summer camps and winter/spring break camps, participants will be assigned to a developmentally appropriate group of 10-12 campers for a week of farm adventure, education, and fun! Activities are created with experiential and inquiry-based methods in order to engage campers in the science of the world around them and are led by environmental educators and trained staff.

Regardless of the week's theme, participants will spend lots of time with the farm animals and everyone will have the opportunity to perform some of the farm "chores" such as collecting eggs and milking the goats. We will be outdoors hiking, engaging in games, and paying attention to wild and domestic life on the farm. We will also visit the forest and pond for even more hands-on exploration of the natural world.

### Scholarship application for 4-H members (maximum 50% camp cost)

Tollgate strives to provide opportunities for youth and adults of all income levels and welcomes a broad cross-section of participants to experience farm-based experiential learning. The goal of the Tollgate financial aid process is to provide as many youth and adults as possible with the opportunity to enrich learning and broaden their experiences. Oakland County 4-H offers Scholarships for their 4-H members, which all of our campers become during registration. To learn more about how to apply for the Oakland County 4-H Scholarship, visit the 4-H website **Oakland 4-H Scholarships**.

### Summer Camp Registration is now open. www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/camps/

Camp at MSU Tollgate Farm is a fun and enriching opportunity to experience the natural world hands-on. With 160 acres of beautiful farm and forest to explore, our camps offer the best in farm and food, discovery science, and natural resource exploration. Campers not only learn about the natural world around them, but how to interact with it sustainably.

For camp questions, email Carmen Hamilton at hamil466@msu.edu.

# **Night Hikes** April 19 - 8:00pm I Frog-got what the Toad Said

Many of the creatures around the farm are looking for mates this time of year. Our Frog andToad friends are no exception and we'll adventure around the property to see who is serenading their would-be partners.

Cost: \$12 per person 3 and older per night hike. Registration is non-refundable.

### Click here to learn more.



### **MSU Tollgate Farm Stewards Teen Leadership Programs**

MSU Tollgate Farm Teen Leadership Programs provide a safe place for social, emotional, and physical growth. The Stewards Teen Leadership Program looks forward to hosting the 2024 stewards and stewards-in-training teen leadership program for youth ages 13-19.

#### What is a Steward?

A steward is a person whose responsibility it is to take care of something. This service opportunity offers teens a chance to enrich, mentor, and lead campers while gaining valuable leadership and life skills. In a positive educational environment, teens experience the responsibilities associated with potential career paths before entering college. The Tollgate Teen Steward (15-19 yrs) and Steward-in-Training (13-14 yrs) program is for youth interested in gaining experience serving in leadership roles.

### **Registration for the Steward Teen Leadership Program at Tollgate is LIVE!**

"Nature is a tool to get youth to experience not just the wider world, but themselves." Check out this opportunity for teens ages 13-19 to mentor and lead campers while gaining valuable leadership and life skills. Tollgate farm camp stewards learn where their food comes from and so much more. Confidence, resilience, leadership, service, friendships and fun, and practical life skills are all part of becoming a Tollgate steward. Cost to be a steward-in-training (ages 13-14) is \$200 per week. Stewards (ages 15-19) volunteer. **Spaces fill quickly.** 





### Tollgate Farm and KBS Winged Wonders Traveling Camp.

Birds of a feather really do flock together. Birders ages 9-13 join the flock July 15-19 for the 8th 4-H Winged Wonders Camp with MSU's Tollgate Farm, Kellogg Biological Station, and Corey Marsh Preserve. Two days are spent at farm camp exploring wild and farm birds plus a bus trip for 3 days at Kellogg Bird Sanctuary to camp and bird with the best of them. Fish and feed the eagles, meet raptors up close, care for the farm birds, help scientists conduct research. Partial scholarships are available through 4-H. See the Tollgate Farm camp website page for more information.

For more info on Winged Wonders Camp or to register click <u>HERE.</u>



# Picture of the month.

Such a simple picture but a picture that brings much joy to the staff here at the farm.

After numerous years of construction, Meadowbrook Road (between 12 mile and the first farm entrance) is complete!



# Looking for a unique venue for your 2024 business meeting or private event?

Tollgate's historic charm and picturesque grounds, is a perfect setting in southeast Michigan. Choose from the historic Americana boardroom, rustic barn or charming Conference Center. Outdoor options are also available with a Pavilion and gardens. Add a teambuilding activity or service project on the farm for a unique experience.

> Book your 2024 business meeting or special event at Tollgate Farm. To view our unique venue space, visit <u>https://www.canr.msu.edu/tollgate/cc/</u>

Contact **<u>bahmlisa@msu.edu</u>** to discuss your needs and rental rates.

### Attention Photographers!

We welcome Commercial Photographers to use MSU Tollgate as their outdoor studio for photo and video shoots with clients.

It's a GREAT location for wedding, family or graduation pictures.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center 28115 Meadowbrook Rd. Novi, MI 48377 248-347-0269 http://tollgate.msu.edu/



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