



MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY | Extension

# MSU Tollgate Farm November 2021

## Upcoming Events

- [Winter Farm Stand & Wagon Rides](#): November 20: 10-3 PM, December 4: 12-5 PM
- [Perspectives: Culturally-Responsive Place-Based Education Virtual Panel Discussion Series](#): First Thursdays of the Month: December 2nd: 6:30 - 8:30 PM
- [Santa Visits and Holiday Farm Stand](#): December 4-5: 12- 5 PM
- [Volunteers & Decorators Needed For Holiday Lights at the Farm](#): December 3-15th
- [Holiday Lights at the Farm](#): December 16-20
- [December Produce Share](#): Pre-Order Coming Soon!
- [2022 Tollgate Farm Camp Registration](#): Opens Mid-December
- [Stewards Teen Leadership Program](#): Registration Coming Soon!
- [Outdoor Adventure Together: Tollgate Farm Advanced Survival Camp For Ages 12-14](#): Registration Coming Soon!
- [Educational Programs for School and Community Groups 2022](#)
- [Goat Shouts Are Back!](#) All Year Long

## News & Announcements

- [MSU Tollgate Stewards Sustainability Leadership Institute](#): Teens Steering Change
- Tollgate Garden Volunteer Recognition Event & Volunteer

## Holiday Lights at the Farm



## Holiday Fun for All Ages!

MSU Tollgate Farm is excited for our upcoming Santa Visits & Holiday Farm Stand and Holiday Lights at the Farm this December.

### Santa on the Farm & Holiday Farm Stand

On December 4-5th from 12-5 PM, Meet Santa on the Farm. \$10 per person (age 2+) admission includes visiting with Santa, wagon-ride, and meeting the goats (who needs elves when Santa has goats). Registration required. Also on December 4-5th drinks, snacks, poinsettia, holiday wreaths, and other farm products will be available for purchase. Masks required indoors.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

### Holiday Lights at the Farm Sponsored by [ITC](#)

December 16-20th, come celebrate the holiday season with a cruise through MSU Tollgate Farm! Guests will enjoy the farm from the comfort of their cars as they view holiday light displays from volunteers, sponsors, and community organizations. Add to the fun by purchasing

Award Winners

- [Growing Kindness: The Edu-Garden Bee Kind Crew](#)
- [November Oakland County 4-H Newsletter](#)

cookies and hot chocolate for your drive around the farm. All proceeds will contribute directly to supporting the farms educational programming.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

## Opportunities & Spotlights

- [A Summer Job Opportunity Like None Other!](#)
- [MSU Tollgate Kid's Corner: Fall Tree Scavenger Hunt](#)
- [Rent MSU Tollgate Farm for Your Next Event](#)

## Upcoming Events



### Pumpkinfest 2021 Survey: We Need YOUR Feedback!

Did you attend Pumpkinfest 2021? Please take a few moments to fill out our survey and let us know about your experience. Your feedback is appreciated and helps us improve year after year!

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

## Winter Farm Stand & Wagon Rides: November 20 & December 4th

Support the farm by making your holiday purchases at the farm stand. On November 20th from 10 AM - 3 PM come and purchase holiday wreaths and Tollgate Farm 4-H Club products. Then join us again on December 4th from 12- 5 PM for holiday wreaths, poinsettias, and more Tollgate Farm 4-H Club products. Fill your holiday stockings with Tollgate Farm 4-H Club made products. These products make perfect stocking stuffers and teacher gifts, including:

- Hand-made goat milk soap
- Bath fizzes
- Reindeer Hershey bars
- Assorted hand made ornaments
- Holiday chocolate bark
- Feed bag Christmas stockings

Tollgate Farm 4-H Club is open to new members age 5 - 19.

We meet Wednesday evenings and for chores on weekends. For more information: [Email](#), visit their [website](#), or [Facebook page](#).



Pre-purchase on the MSU Tollgate Farm Store below.

[VISIT THE FARM STORE](#)



## Volunteers and Decorators Needed for Holiday Lights at the Farm

Volunteers and decorators are needed for our annual Holiday Lights at the Farm on December 16-20th. Volunteers can help decorate an area of the farm, help with general set up, or help at the event. If volunteers are interested in signing up for one of our general set up dates or helping at the event, check out [our signup](#).

Interested in decorating an area on the farm with your family, friends, or organization? Decorators will provide all their own decorations, lawn decorations, lights, artificial or live cut trees, extension cords, and any other supplies on their own. They will also be responsible for setting up (December 3-15th) and taking down their display (December 21st - January 1st). Ready to decorate? Complete the application below to get started.

[COMPLETE THE DECORATOR APPLICATION](#)

## Perspectives: Culturally Responsive Place-based Education Series

Join other educators for the Perspectives virtual panel discussion series to explore ways to responsibly incorporate the perspectives, principles, and people of

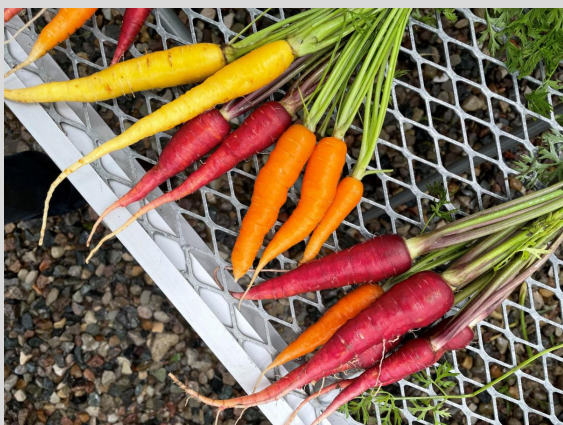
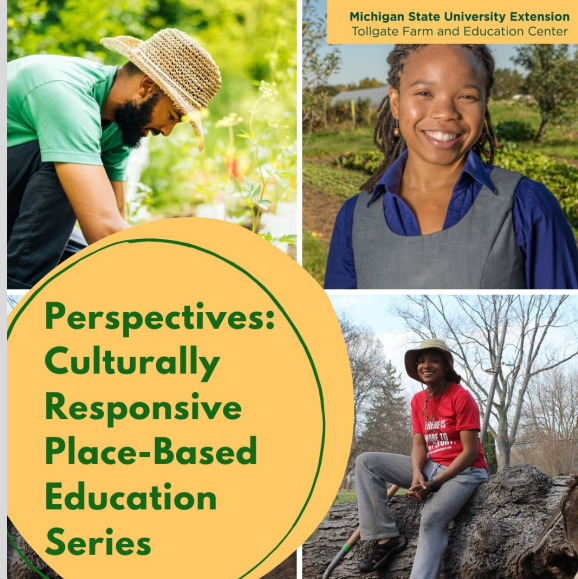
communities we serve. Educators have a chance to deepen their teaching practice in a safe online space for open conversation and community.

**Thursday, December 2, 6:30 - 8:30 PM EST**  
*Incorporating Black Perspectives in Place-Based Teaching and Learning*

- How can all educators better incorporate black perspectives into our own teaching? Through the lens of food sovereignty and local food systems, join us as moderator Naim Edwards, Director of the MSU-Detroit Partnership for Food, Learning, and Innovation explores practical ideas and strategies with panelists Shakara Tyler, Board President of Detroit Black Community Food Security Network and Dazmonique Carr, founder of Deeply Rooted Produce.

Register for one or more sessions. Sessions are recorded and provided to registrants. SCECHS are available for teachers who attend. Fees go to provide stipends for panelists. Group discounts are available for 10 or more.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



## December Produce Share: Pre-Order Opening Soon!

We are excited to announce that we will be offering a December Produce Share this year!

Curious about the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program at Tollgate, but not ready for the commitment? This is a great opportunity to try out the CSA model!

Each share will contain locally grown produce and honey and will feature some of our favorite recipes using these seasonal items. There will also be the option to add on a chicken raised at Tollgate. Pre-order will open soon! Limited Quantities Available!

[VISIT THE FARM STORE](#)

## 2022 Tollgate Farm Camp Registrations Open Mid-December!

Registration for all 2022 Tollgate Farm camps will open mid December!

Don't waste away your school breaks staying inside.. join us for a year of outside fun as we embark on adventures exploring the farm, fields, forest and pond at MSU Tollgate Farm.

**Wild Winter Camp:**

Feb 21-22, 2022: Ages 6-12

**STEAM Break Camp:**

March 28-April 1, 2022: Ages 6-12

**Summer Camp:**

8 weeks of camps: June 27-August 26, 2022:  
Ages 4-14

Be on the lookout for specifics soon! For more information you can visit the links above or [contact Sara Mund](#). Looking forward to learning and exploring with you in 2022!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE



## Stewards Teen Leadership Program: Registration Coming Soon!

Do you know a teen who loves being outdoors, likes working with kids, and wants to learn to be a stronger leader? The Stewards-in-Training (SIT) program is the start of the progressive Tollgate Teen Leadership Program. Stewards-in-Training, 13-14 years of age, learn by doing as they participate in farm camp as part camper, part helper. Stewards, ages 15-19, are the next step on the ladder of responsibility as they take on more leadership roles and serve a minimum of 2 weeks of camp. SITs and Stewards assist the educational leaders with camp activities and serve as role models for campers. By being a steward or SIT, teens gain a deep understanding and knowledge of the farm as they develop skills which will strengthen their academic and work careers.

LEARN MORE

## Outdoor Adventure Together: Tollgate Farm Advanced Survival Camp For Ages 12-14: Registration Coming Soon!

Take survival camp to a whole new level and challenge yourself with exciting wilderness skill-building experiences. Test your limits in the forest and fields of Tollgate as you develop a survival mindset. Try your hand at fire-building, wilderness first aid, outdoor cooking, shelter-building, climbing, and team-building

trust initiatives. Outdoor Adventure Camp Aug 16-20 for ages 12-14. If COVID protocols allow, an optional Thursday overnight campout on the farm will be included. Want to see all the fun campers had last year? Read more about Outdoor Adventure Camp below.

[READ MORE](#)



## Come Visit MSU Tollgate Farm in 2022: Educational Programs for School and Community Groups

Designed for diverse audiences and a variety of ages, school and community programs at MSU Tollgate Farm are interactive, educational, and fun. Aligned with education standards, our outdoor farm visits allow visitors to get to know life on the farm up close and personal. Students use the process of science to investigate phenomena taking place as they make connections to classroom learning. Opportunities exist for place-based projects that encourage learners to make a positive difference in their world. Learn more about MSU Tollgate Farm visits with the button below.

To request a program for your class or group, please fill out [this reservation form](#) to tell us about your group and email [koehle43@msu.edu](mailto:koehle43@msu.edu).

Tollgate strives to provide opportunities for youth and adults of all income levels and welcomes all 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 the opportunity to enrich learning and broaden their experiences. To learn more about how to apply for financial aid, [visit the Tollgate financial aid webpage](#).

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Preparing for Maple Sugaring Season at Tollgate Farm

We love nothing more than to share maple sugaring season with you. Late February through March, we bundle up and trek out to the sugar bush with school and community groups for this hands-on program that investigates one of nature's sweetest treats. From tapping to tools to tasting, discover one of Michigan's best treasures. Explore the regional history of maple sugaring as you take a wagon ride to explore the sugar bush, the source of sap, and how to tap a maple. Visit the sugar shack as we investigate the science involved in making syrup and sample the results of the process firsthand! To schedule your program, email [koehle43@msu.edu](mailto:koehle43@msu.edu).



[LEARN MORE](#)



## We aren't Kidding Around! Goat Shout-Outs are the Best for your Special Occasion

Send a message to a loved one or friend for their special occasion with the help of the MSU Tollgate goat herd. Write a brief custom message and a staff member will craft a 30 second private video link from our goats to your recipient. Messages like, "Happy Birthday Jack. You are no longer a kid!" or "Congratulations on your graduation from doe and buck!", are a perfect way to share some love. Requests will be fulfilled within 7 business days and will be sent by email. All proceeds from the \$20 fee go to supporting the care of livestock at the farm.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

## News and Announcements

### MSU Tollgate Stewards Sustainability Leadership Institute: Teens Steering Change

Environmental issues are at the forefront of the news as world leaders gathered last week in Glasgow to confront climate change. Here at Tollgate, good things are happening as young sustainability leaders gather to create and steer

environmental change of their own design. Youth from across SE Michigan met on October 28th to kick off the Stewards Sustainability Leadership Institute, an extended youth environmental leadership experience for ages 13-19. Youth-led, SSLI encompasses research, outdoor learning, youth adult partnerships, a mentorship model, and capstone sustainability projects to affect positive change. Kudos to these strong youth leaders who are making SSLI come to life! Interested in learning how you can support their efforts? Email [koehle43@msu.edu](mailto:koehle43@msu.edu).



[LEARN MORE](#)



## Tollgate Garden Volunteer Recognition Event & Volunteer Award Winners

This week, the Tollgate Garden Volunteer Recognition Event was hosted by MSU, the Tollgate Garden Advisory Committee, and the [Americana Foundation](#). This event recognized the work of the Tollgate garden volunteers and awarded 2 outstanding volunteers for their work in 2020-2021. This year the Golden Shovel Award, presented to the first-year Tollgate Garden Volunteer who registers the most visits to the farm, was awarded to Lynette Leroux. Lynette has taken many of the beautiful photos you see on our social media and in our newsletter (she took the pumpkinfest photo). Congratulations Lynette!

Also awarded was the Ginger Meyer Award, given annually to the MSU Tollgate Garden Volunteer who shares many of the treasured qualities of Ginger Meyer. Ginger Meyer, and her husband Adolf, purchased Tollgate in 1951. The Foundation that the Meyer's established donated Tollgate Farm to MSU in 1987. The volunteer chosen to receive the Ginger Meyer award shows a commitment to Tollgate, a love and knowledge of gardening and a willingness to share that knowledge with others. Kathryn Fitzpatrick has certainly displayed all of these traits through her leadership of Tollgate's Plant A Row (PAR) garden. Kathryn and her team work very hard to produce over a ton of vegetables every year. These vegetables are then donated to local food banks to feed the needy. Congratulations Kathryn on winning this much deserved award!

Interested in volunteering at Tollgate? Check out the link below on how to volunteer.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Growing Kindness: The Edu-Garden Bee Kind Crew

As we wrap up a wonderful 2021 growing season for the Tollgate education garden, we want to recognize our edu-garden volunteers, each of whom tirelessly gave of their time and creativity to help create and care for a fun child-friendly garden

space. The edu-garden beautifully bloomed in 2021 under the loving care of volunteers Kathy Begin, Dawn Snook, and Nancy Turner. To learn more about the edu-garden and these volunteers, click the link below.

[READ MORE](#)



**Oakland County Youth & Families**

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension** November 2021

**EMAIL ETIQUETTE AND WHAT TEENS SHOULD KNOW**

**Email etiquette and what Teens Should Know**  
By Kathy Begin, MSU Extension

When is it more appropriate to send an email rather than a text? Although text messages get read more often and quicker than emails, emails are still an important form of communication, especially during job searching, professional networking, applying for scholarships, communicating with teachers and supervisors, and sharing detailed information.

Helping teens to understand email etiquette will help ensure they are creating a [positive first impression](#) and increase the likelihood that their communication will be read and taken seriously.

Teens looking for jobs, scholarships or other opportunities should consider using these tips to create a positive first impression when emailing:

- **Include a greeting and closing.** Use a proper greeting, such as "Dear..." or "Good Morning..." End the email with a closing, such as "Sincerely," "Thank you," "Respectfully yours" or "Regards." Include contact information including name, phone number and email so it is easy for the reader to get in touch with you.
- **Identify the subject.** Make sure the reader knows what the email is about. The email message should include a clear and concise subject line. Are you asking the reader to act on your message? If so, include the action in your subject line (i.e., "Promote..." "Share..." "Read..."). "Request information..." If you are looking for work, list the position you are applying for in the subject line. If the message is time sensitive, you might want to include a date in the subject line, like "Request needed by August 1st." "Spam (372) Trash"
- **Watch your tone.** Think about the impression you are making in the email. Since written words do not come with facial expressions, gestures or other nonverbal clues, it can be easy to misread the tone. Do not use all capital to highlight something. This can be misinterpreted as shouting at the receiver. If you are upset or feeling emotional, you may want to wait until you are in a better frame of mind before writing the email.

## This Month's 4-H Newsletter is Here!

Oakland County 4-H Connections is a monthly newsletter for 4-H members, families, and the general community with news and information about 4-H youth development activities in Oakland County.

[READ MORE](#)

## Opportunities and Spotlights

### A Summer Job Opportunity Like None Other!

Come join our amazing summer camp team and positively impact the lives of the youth that we serve, as you spend your summer teaching, playing, and learning in the great outdoors.

The 2022 Summer job openings include: Educational Leaders, Communication Leader, Garden Kitchen Leader, Horse Camp Coordinator, and Horse Camp Instructor.

Job applications will be open early next year, however, feel free to contact [mundsara@msu.edu](mailto:mundsara@msu.edu) if you are interested in



learning more or would like to be one of the first to know when these summer job applications open.

[LEARN MORE](#)



## MSU Tollgate Kid's Corner: Fall Tree Scavenger Hunt

Looking for a fun and educational activity to do with your kids? We've got you covered with our seasonal activity in MSU Tollgate's Kid's Corner. Get outside this November and enjoy the change of seasons with our Fall Tree Scavenger Hunt. See if you can find all the trees and tree parts listed!

[GET THE ACTIVITY](#)



MSU Tollgate Farm and Education Center  
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