



Schoolcraft County

4-H Family News

NOVEMBER 2016

The proverbial cart is before the horse

4-H is regaining a foothold here in Schoolcraft County. In the past two months, three new clubs have formed and held their first few meetings. We have a dozen members enrolled and more forms in route to the office. This is excellent progress, however, I have many more youth wanting and waiting to join a 4-H club—but no club that fits what they are looking for! Specifically, there is a handful of youth looking for a club focused on small farm animals, such as chickens and rabbits. You absolutely don't have to be an expert to lead a club—we have curriculum to help you learn right alongside your club members. Some of the best learning experiences are ones that youth and adults share.

I have renewed excitement for a shooting sports club after visiting the Demmer Shooting Sports Center at MSU last week. It is a beautiful facility that allows for the indoor and outdoor practice of archery and rim-fire .22 and smaller firearms. If you are interested in becoming a certified 4-H shooting sports volunteer for this future club, please contact me. Once I have 12 adults in the central U.P. interested, I can arrange to have the training done locally, rather than downstate. I suspect we will start with archery certification and expand to other disciplines as necessary. When thinking of the history and future of our region, a shooting sports 4-H club seems like a natural fit.

True leaders in Schoolcraft County...

Thompson Township Fire Chief Jon Burk is breaking new ground here in Schoolcraft County. I am thrilled to announce that his Schoolcraft County Fire Explorer Club is the first of its kind in Michigan. Teens who are 16- to 19- years old are able to receive hands-on training for skills that will serve them into adulthood. There is a need for younger individuals to take an interest in joining voluntary public service groups, such as fire departments and emergency medical technician crews. 4-H is an excellent conduit for preparing youth for careers, leadership positions and honing decision-making skills—elements that make this a promising partnership. Directors of the Children & Youth Institute with MSU Extension are watching to see how this program works, with the hope of using it as a model for the state.

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In the works for Schoolcraft County...

- ✘ Cloverbud Club for 5–to 8–year olds; watch for a start date to be announced.
- ✘ 3rd & 4th grade science SPIN club; looking for a leader or two for this 6-8 week club.
- ✘ Shooting sports club

4-H Workshops

The following is a list of the state-wide 4-H events that youth and adults can attend. If there is an event that you'd like to attend, please contact the office as there may be funding available to help with registration fees.

2017

January 28-29: Youth Leadership and Global Citizenship Spectacular
Contact Brian Wibby (wibby@msu.edu)
Kettunen Center, Tustin

February 4-5: 4-H Winterfest
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4_h_winterfest_2
Kettunen Center, Tustin

February 17-18: 4-H Veterinary Science Teen & Adult Leaders Workshop
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4-h_veterinary_science_teen_and_adult_leaders_workshop
Kettunen Center, Tustin

February 18-19: 4-H Beef, Sheep & Swine Teen & Adult Leaders Workshop
<http://bit.ly/2ceXN18>
Kettunen Center, Tustin

March 18-19: 4-H Robotics Workshop
Registration details will be announced soon.
Kettunen Center, Tustin

Other 4-H Events

November 5: Michigan 4-H Night (Detroit Pistons vs. Denver Nuggets)
<https://palace.tfaforms.net/115>
The Palace of Auburn Hills, Auburn Hills

November 25-29: National 4-H Congress
<http://national4-hcongress.com>
Atlanta, Georgia

2017

January 22: 4-H Day at the Breslin
Contact Jane Love (lovejan@msu.edu)
Jack Breslin Events Center, East Lansing

January 28: 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Show
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4_h_rabbit_and_cavy_show
MSU Pavilion, Lansing

For the most up-to-date events listing, go to <http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events>