



March 2026

# 4-H Family News

## WAYNE COUNTY



**Beyond Ready**

### March Newsletter Contents:

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# Wayne County Upcoming Events

## 4-H On the Move: Detroit Cultural Connection Camp

Registration is now open! Join us for a Spring Break Alternative Camp for Teens!

4-H On the Move: Detroit Cultural Connection Camp is a three-day day camp for youth ages 13–19 designed to build cultural awareness, empathy, and a deeper understanding of Metro Detroit’s diverse communities. The centerpiece is a full-day, guided bus tour through Metro Detroit with hands-on cultural activities and community engagement—supported by a pre-tour preparation day and a post-tour reflection day to help youth process what they learn and consider how to foster positive, inclusive change in their own communities.

### Program Snapshot:

- **When:** March 30–April 1, 2026
- **Who:** Youth ages 13–19 (as of Jan 1, 2026)
- **Where:** Stationary sessions and bus pick-up/drop-off at Jefferson Barnes Community Vitality Center 32150 Dorsey St, Westland, MI 48186
- **Cost:** \$55 per participant (full camp value \$255), thanks to generous support from the Michigan 4-H Foundation and the City of Westland.

### Fee includes:

- Full-day Metro Detroit bus tour
- Pre- and post-tour sessions
- Hands-on workshops & activities
- Lunch each day
- 4-H camp T-shirt

### Scholarships (Financial Assistance)

The City of Westland is offering scholarships to help make this experience accessible.

Apply before registering: Apply here:

<https://forms.gle/yyUVD73pfzrs8ccZA>

Important: Reimbursements will not be issued after payment. Scholarship recipients will receive a coupon code to apply at checkout.

**4-H ON THE MOVE:**  
**DETROIT CULTURAL CONNECTION CAMP**

Discover, connect, and explore Detroit’s diverse cultures in a three-day 4-H day camp, featuring a hands-on cultural bus tour!

**MARCH 30<sup>TH</sup> - APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2026**

Includes: 3 days of camp, Metro Detroit bus tour, meals, workshops & activities, and a T-shirt

Youth Ages 13-19 as of Jan 1, 2026  
Contact: Ashleigh Klein (apelashl@msu.edu or 734-727-7408)

For more info & registration, visit:  
[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-cultural-connection-camp](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-cultural-connection-camp)

**\$55**  
REGISTRATION FEE

Register By March 9th, 2026! Registration link and more info:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-cultural-connection-camp>

Questions can be directed towards Ashleigh Klein ([apelashl@msu.edu](mailto:apelashl@msu.edu) or 734-727-7408)



# Wayne County Upcoming Events

## Money Smart Missions GooseChase Game

Calling all Michigan youth ages 13–19!

Get ready for the Money Smart Missions GooseChase Game — an interactive scavenger hunt that teaches money skills while you play!

April 1–21, 2026

Register by April 20 at 11:45 PM

Play on the GooseChase app

Complete fun missions, earn points, and you could win \$50 gift cards! A minimum of \$500 in prizes will be awarded.

Download the GooseChase app, create a username using your first and last name, then register at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/money-smart-mission-goosechase-game>

Questions? Contact Laurie Rivetto (rivettoL@msu.edu) or Kathy Jamieson (jamies13@msu.edu).

Sponsored by the Michigan Credit Union Foundation & Michigan 4-H Foundation.

## 2026 Money Smart Mission GooseChase Game



**Who:** Michigan residents aged 13–19

**What:** Fun online missions to show your money smarts and learn about finances and entrepreneurship!

**When:** 4/1/26 - 4/21/26

**How:** Register online to access contest





# Member Spotlight- Eva G.

## What are your recent/past 4-H achievements?

My recent achievements in 4-H include being nominated for an MSU pre-college scholarship and being selected as the Vice President of the Super Stock club.

## How and when did you get involved with 4-H?

I got involved in 4-H about a year and a half ago because I wanted to be part of a welcoming community filled with amazing people and animals as I pursue my career in Veterinary medicine.

## What drew you to being a part of the 4-H program?

I really appreciate the opportunity to work hands-on with animals and gain experience showing them during fair. I was also very interested in joining the 4-H Exploration Days on the MSU campus to gain some pre-college experience.

## What have you gained from being a part of 4-H?

I have not only gained leadership skills, but I also gained new friends from near and far during my time at the 4-H Exploration Days and at our Super Stock club.

## What advice would you give someone else in 4-H or thinking about joining 4-H?

I would say that joining 4-H has been a wonderful experience for me. If you are thinking about joining, you definitely should! You will not only learn a lot about your animal but also gain valuable knowledge throughout. There are also lots of volunteer opportunities!

## What is your favorite memory of 4-H?

Some of my favorite memories were made at the 4-H Exploration Days. Ice Skating at the Munn Ice Arena with my friends was probably one of my favorite activities on campus.

## What are your plans for the future?

My plans for the future are to attend MSU to pursue my career in Veterinary medicine.



**Do you want to be featured under our member spotlight in an upcoming Newsletter? If so, take a moment to complete this form**

<https://forms.gle/U5nBbBYPS3YaNvqZ7>



## Member Spotlight- Linda (LJ) G.



### **What are your recent/past 4-H achievements?**

Showing and selling chickens and rabbits at the county fair. First place in chicken showmanship and second place in rabbit showmanship.

### **How and when did you get involved with 4-H?**

My cousins were in a 4-H club and invited me to join. I got involved last year. I'm so happy I did it!

### **What drew you to being a part of the 4-H program?**

Probably working with the animals and of course, my cousins!

### **What have you gained from being a part of 4-H?**

I've gained confidence and friends as well as learning more about animals and how to take care of them.

### **What advice would you give someone else in 4-H or thinking about joining 4-H?**

Well, if you did join, I would say be confident, you will learn lots of things, how to take care of an animal for example and you can make lots of friends during this experience and if you don't, come talk to me. :)

### **What is your favorite memory of 4-H?**

Probably showing animals. This was fun, holding them and learning about them-it has some good memories. And of course, making new friends. At fair last year after the fair day ended, a bunch of the kids in our group had a water balloon fight...I was soaking wet and so were they!

### **What are your plans for the future?**

Do 4-H again, to learn new things, do more animals (ducks, pigs, sheep) and to be more confident about myself and others.

### **Is there anything else you want to share about yourself, 4-H, or recent experiences that we may include?**

4-H was great, it was fun, anyone who wants to join will have a fun time, it's really just a fun experience. Showing your animals -chickens or whatever you have is just fun. You'll get dirty, chores are not that fun, but when someone is helping it could be a little fun because you're not doing as many things. My favorite thing about doing chores are seeing my animals, petting them, giving them food and water... finding the eggs the chickens lay... we have two that like to roam the barn, so we find eggs all over and in things... like the pig feeder and we even found another one on one of the tractors! Ha ha!

**Do you want to be featured under our Volunteer spotlight in an upcoming Newsletter? If so, take a moment to complete this form**

<https://forms.gle/DbH1CYaWRE7bvTUr6>



# Announcements

## 4-H Mark of Excellence Contest

It's that time of year—grab your pen and spark your imagination! ✨

The 4-H Mark of Excellence Contest is officially open!

This year, youth can choose to submit either a video or a short journal reflection based on the theme “Beyond Ready!”

### 📌 Eligibility:

- ✓ Must be a current 4-H member
- ✓ Ages 10 or 11 as of Jan. 1, 2026
- ✓ Each county may select up to TWO winners

### 📌 Submission Options:

- 📺 Video (max 2 minutes, mp4 or YouTube link)
- 📄 Journal reflection (500 words or fewer; handwritten or typed)

Entries are due to Ashleigh Klein or LaToya Cain-Jones by May 1, 2026 to be eligible for submission to Wayne County 4-H.

For more information, check out:

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_scholarships\\_and\\_recognition\\_program/4-h-awards-and-recognition-program/youth-recognition/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4-h-awards-and-recognition-program/youth-recognition/)

Share how 4-H is helping you be beyond ready for the future!





# Volunteer Tip of the Month

## Celebrate 4-H on the Road!

Michigan 4-H is rolling out something new and exciting — the new Michigan 4-H Youth Development license plate! It's more than just a specialty plate — it's a fun way to show 4-H pride while supporting youth programming across the state.

Looking for easy ways to bring that excitement into your club meetings?

Try these simple ideas:

- **Color & Connect:** Set out a 4-H license plate coloring page as an arrival activity. Great for all ages and an easy conversation starter. [Michigan 4-H license plate coloring page](#)
- **Dream Destination Prompt:** Ask, “Where would you drive with your 4-H license plate?” Let members add their ideas and even “plan” a pretend trip together.
- **License Plate Icebreakers:** Have youth design their own personalized plate that represents their interests, projects, or personality — then share with the group to build connection. [Michigan 4-H License Plate Icebreaker Activity One](#), [Michigan 4-H License Plate Icebreaker Activity Two](#)
- **Year-End Reflection:** Use the template to create mock plates that highlight favorite memories and what “drives” their 4-H passion. [Michigan 4-H License Plate Activity template one](#), [Michigan 4-H License Plate Activity template two](#), [Michigan 4-H License Plate Activity template three](#)

The new plate is available through the Michigan Department of State for \$35, with \$25 directly supporting Michigan 4-H Youth Development. These simple activities are a great way to build community, spark reflection, and celebrate 4-H pride in your club.

Read the full article for more ideas:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/on-the-road-with-4-h-fun-ways-to-celebrate-the-new-michigan-4-h-license-plate>

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

## On the road with 4-H:

Fun ways to celebrate the new Michigan 4-H license plate with the 4-H community.

Get your 4-H plate at the Michigan SOS!

Learn more:  
[extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate](https://extension.msu.edu/4-HPlate)





# Success Story

## Celebrating the Magic of 4-H in Wayne County

On January 31, 2026, the Wayne County 4-H community gathered at the Wayne County Community College District Downriver Campus to celebrate the accomplishments of youth and volunteers during the 2024–2025 program year at the annual Wayne County 4-H Recognition Event.

Planned by a dedicated committee of volunteers and youth, the event highlighted strong youth leadership and voice. Youth met monthly from September through January and played a key role in shaping the celebration. Following the theme “The Magic of 4-H,” the program was hosted by 11 youth presenters, showcasing the confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills developed through 4-H.

Before the awards ceremony, families enjoyed a carnival-style open house with games, 4-H trivia, line dancing, and a photo booth. Texas Roadhouse provided lunch, creating a welcoming space for families to connect and reflect on their 4-H experiences. A silent auction raised \$870, with an additional \$250 donated by a 4-H volunteer, supporting future recognition events. The event recognized Cloverbuds, long-term members, and dedicated volunteers, and celebrated outstanding youth and community partners through county awards.

Special congratulations to the 2024–2025 Wayne County 4-H County Award recipients:

- Sportsmanship Award: Caoilainn James
- Leadership & Personal Growth Award: Amelia Harris

### Project Area Award Winners

#### Junior Division:

- Jesse B. — Excellence in Leisure Education; Engines & Transportation
- Andrew H. — Excellence in Engines & Transportation; Birds & Poultry

#### Intermediate Division:

- Simran A. — Excellence in Physical Science
- Amelia H. — Excellence in Communication and Leadership Skills Development
- Colton L. — Excellence in Swine; Horse & Pony

#### Senior Division:

- Luke B. — Excellence in Beef
- Gabby C. — Excellence in College & Independent Living; Horse & Pony

### Volunteer & Community Awards

- Volunteer of the Year: Debbie L.
- Leader of the Year: Melissa L.
- Friend of 4-H: Osborne Concrete Company

Congratulations to all award recipients for their dedication, leadership, and achievements. Your hard work truly reflects the spirit of 4-H and makes Wayne County 4-H stronger.



# Success Story

## Celebrating the Magic of 4-H in Wayne County Con't



**Co Hosts Ryan M. and Amelia H.**



**Sportsmanship Award Winner: Caoilainn J.**



**Leadership & Personal Growth Award Winner: Amelia H.**



**Amazing Wayne County 4-H Volunteers**



# Fun Stuff

## 10 minute STEM challenge

### The Challenge:

Using only 20 marshmallows and 20 toothpicks or uncooked spaghetti noodles, build the tallest freestanding structure you can in 10 minutes!

### Rules:

- You may only use 20 marshmallows and 20 toothpicks/noodles
- Your structure must stand on its own (no hands!).
- You have 10 minutes to build.
- Measure from the table to the highest point

### Before you start building, ask:

- What shape is strongest?
  - How can I make a stable base?
  - Should I build wide first, then go up?
- (Hint: Triangles are often stronger than squares!)

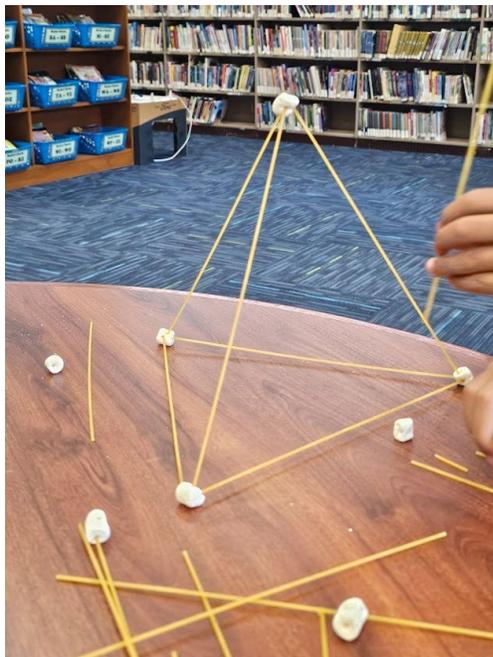
### After your build, ask:

- What worked?
- What made it fall?
- What would you change next time?

Engineers rarely get it perfect the first time, redesign is part of the process!

## Bonus Challenge

See if your structure can withstand an “earthquake” by shaking the table your structure is sitting on





# Fun Stuff

## **4-H Service Project: Park Clean-Up Challenge**

As we transition from winter into spring, it is the perfect time to give back to our community! This month, we're encouraging clubs and families to participate in a Park Clean-Up Service Project.

### **Why It Matters**

Parks are places where families gather, kids play, and communities connect. Keeping them clean helps:

- Protect wildlife
- Keep our water systems healthy
- Create safe, welcoming spaces
- Show 4-H pride in action
- This is a great way to live out the "Hands to larger service" part of our pledge.

### **How to Participate**

- Choose a local park, playground, walking trail, or community space.
- Set a date and time (even 1 hour makes a difference!).
- Bring gloves, trash bags, and water bottles.
- Sort and properly dispose of collected trash.

### **Take a group photo to share with the Extension office!**

### **Make It a Club Event**

Clubs can:

- Track how many bags of trash were collected
- Write thank-you notes to park staff
- Add a short reflection time after the clean-up

Send photos and totals (bags collected, number of members participating, hours served) to [syso1ho1@msu.edu](mailto:syso1ho1@msu.edu) so we can highlight your club in next month's newsletter!

**\*Any youth that send pictures to [syso1ho1@msu.edu](mailto:syso1ho1@msu.edu) will receive a small gift.**



# Fun Stuff

## **Did You Know?**

- 4-H began in 1902 as agricultural clubs for young people who wanted to learn by doing.
- The four H's stand for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. Representing learning, caring, serving, and living well.
- The official 4-H colors are green and white. Green represents growth, and white represents purity and high ideals.
- The 4-H clover has four leaves, each with an "H," and it is protected by federal law as an official emblem of the 4-H. The class of protection is on par with the protection of the presidential seal and the Olympic Emblem.
- Today, 4-H serves nearly 6 million youth across the country through clubs, camps, school programs, and special interest groups, supported nationally by the National 4-H Council.
- 4-H has been helping young people grow into confident leaders for more than 120 years, and you are part of that story!



# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Preparing youth to be Beyond Ready



## Beyond Ready

4-H's approach to readiness begins with participation in high-quality positive youth development programs.

4-H has historically helped young people prepare for work and life through the development of competencies, skills and tangible assets, resulting in youth who are healthy, productive and engaged.

The complex landscape youth face today calls us to go a step further in preparing them to navigate their readiness pathway during and after their 4-H experience.

Is your club intentionally preparing youth to be Beyond Ready for the changing world? Watch here for tips to use with your club.

#BeyondReady

### March 5: Future Ready – Exploring College and Career Paths Workshop

Washtenaw County MSU Extension Office, Ann Arbor

This workshop will feature an interactive panel discussion about the variety of opportunities available for high school graduates in college, trades and more. Ideal for youth ages 12-19.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/future-ready-exploring-college-and-career-paths-workshop](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/future-ready-exploring-college-and-career-paths-workshop)

### March 10: 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 10: 4-H Wild Spartans - The Lands Has a Story to Tell – But Are We Listening?

Online

Explore the stories that nature and humans weave with Zach Wilson, forest ecologist for the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission. Learn about his career and education, and ask questions via a live Q&A. Suited for youth ages 12-19.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-march](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-march)

### March 25: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Using AI Responsibly in 4-H

Online

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming the way we learn, work and interact. Learn what AI is, how it impacts youth development, and how to use it responsibly within 4-H. Explore MSU Extension guidance, discuss ethical considerations, and share tips for supporting youth navigating technology.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-from-sparks-to-skills-using-ai-responsibly-in-4-h](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-from-sparks-to-skills-using-ai-responsibly-in-4-h)

### March 30- April 1: 4-H on the Move: Detroit Cultural Connection Camp

Detroit

An unforgettable spring break alternative! Build cultural awareness, empathy, and a deeper understanding of Detroit's diverse communities through guided tours, hands-on activities, and an opportunity to make a positive impact.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-cultural-connection-camp](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-cultural-connection-camp)

### April 1: Smart Money Missions Goosechase Game

Everywhere

This fun money management scavenger hunt game is played on the Goosechase app and is open to youth 13-19 years old residing in Michigan.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/smart-money-missions](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/smart-money-missions)





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## Open your home to a student with the 4-H International Exchange Program!

Invite an international youth (ages 12-17 years) or adult chaperone into your home and share an American experience! Michigan 4-H is looking for host families interested in opening their homes and hearts this summer. Consider sharing the clover and giving a lucky Japanese youth and your family the experience of a lifetime!

The Japanese delegation will arrive in Grand Rapids mid-July and depart mid-August, meeting their hosts for a 3.5-week stay. A host family must complete the States' 4-H International Exchange Programs online application, have a youth to match as a host brother/sister (within three years of age) be Michigan 4-H adult Gold volunteers, and participate in an interview and home visit process.



Online applications to host can be found at: <https://www.states4hexchange.org/apply/host/>. For more information, contact Michigan 4-H International Exchange Program Coordinator Jan Brinn [brinn@msu.edu](mailto:brinn@msu.edu).

## Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers



## Get your tickets for Michigan 4-H Day with the Detroit Tigers

Join Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension for a fun day at Comerica Park to watch the Detroit Tigers take on the Miami Marlins on Sunday, April 12. Michigan 4-H will be honored as the Group Charity of the Game. To celebrate, 4-H youth, volunteers, staff and their families will enjoy a discounted ticket to the game, as well as:

- Access to a pre-game, on-field opportunity. Michigan 4-H youth are invited to take a lap around the warning track of Comerica Park before the game.
- A portion of each ticket sold donated to Michigan 4-H.

There are several ticketing options available this year, in three main locations, ranging in price from \$33-54. In addition, each ticket purchased through the Michigan 4-H link will have the opportunity to purchase an exclusive co-branded Michigan 4-H and Detroit

Tigers bucket hat (while supplies last). Hats can only be purchased by purchasing a ticket through the Michigan 4-H link; however, there is an option to buy tickets without the purchase of a hat.

Learn more at [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).

## 4-H Youth in Action Program applications open

Apply now for the 2027 4-H Youth in Action Awards! This program recognizes four confident young leaders with diverse backgrounds and unique perspectives who are making a difference in their communities. 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 14-19. The deadline to apply is April 13. Learn more and apply at <https://4-h.org/programs/4-h-youth-in-action-program/>.