MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Wexford County

4-H Family News

November-December 2020

Happy Holidays from 4-H

All of MSU Extension has been encouraged to take a quiet December. 2020 has been a stressful year, and like you, we have faced many challenges including moving our programming to a virtual format.

While December will be quiet for us, we plan to announce some exciting new programs and opportunities for hands-on learning in early 2021. We are currently exploring different formats and topics to hopefully find something that works for everyone. Our goal is to engage both existing and new 4-H members in a variety of projects ranging from traditional animal projects in preparation of summer fairs and showcases to learning history by recreating the architectural styles of ancient civilizations.

For now, take some time with your family to celebrate the holidays, and hopefully we can all be back together soon in 2021!

Brandie Sigler & Karie Saxton
Missaukee County 4-H Program Coordinators

4-H Cloverbud Social/ Emotional Wellness Kits

While adults deal with emotions and respond to situations in different ways, youth sometimes struggle to even identify their emotions and often need help expressing those emotions.

The 4-H Cloverbud Social/Emotional Wellness Kit is full of activities for you and your 5-8 year old youth to do together to explore emotions and find appropriate ways for your youth to express emotions. For additional information on the kit and how to get yours, visit
https://events.anr.msu.edu/MissaukeeCloverbudWellness/

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STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Connect with youth from across the globe!

Sign up for the States' 4-H Winter Pen Pal program for your chance to make international friends! Learn about culture and daily life in another country while sharing your own experiences with a peer across the globe.

The pen pal program will run from mid-January through mid -April. After being matched with a similarly-aged young person from another country, youth will write to each other twice a month. Topical prompts will be provided to jump start conversations but the possibilities are endless!

To get matched in the program, visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/7N8RBHY.

4-H Events and Workshops

December 1: 4-H Giving Tuesday
Everywhere
Help grow a county 4-H endowment in your area and join the #GivingTuesday movement. Consider making a donation to grow funds that support 4-H youth today and in the future.
https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-giving-tuesday

December 2: Success and Safety in Virtual Volunteer-led Programs
Zoom
MSU Extension volunteers will learn best practices and strategies for virtual safety for youth and adults in programs and meetings.
https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/success-and-safety-on-volunteer-led-programs-december-2nd

December 7: Flour Tortilla Making 101
Zoom
Join in making tortillas — a staple in Mexican cooking. In this class, tortillas will be used as an appetizer, entrée , dessert or stand alone ingredient.
https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/flour-tortilla-making-101-dec-7

December 8: Wild Spartans Series
Zoom
Join 4-H staff as we meet scientists from across MSU Extension, the MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. December's event will explore invasive species with MSU researcher Taylor Haas.
https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-series-december

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December 19: 4-H in the Kitchen Live! Holiday Scones
Zoom
Join 4-H in the Kitchen Live for a special holiday episode! Learn how to make a batch of eggnog scones—perfect for any holiday feast — with special guest Ruth Myers.
https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-in-the-kitchen-live-eggnog-scones

Save the Date!

February 19-21, 2021: Michigan 4-H Creative Arts Celebration
Online
The Michigan 4-H Creative Arts Celebration will be going virtual this year! Adult and teen 4-H leaders are encouraged to join this exciting online event to learn new ideas for working virtually with youth in the areas of visual and performing arts, crafts, sewing, clothing and textile projects. Stay tuned for registration information!

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

Virtual showcase and auction success

When the COVID-19 pandemic led to the cancellation of many Michigan fairs, MSU Extension and Michigan 4-H were proud to team up with local community partners to provide an online platform that supported the 4-H experience and continued longtime traditions. Though not the same as a county fair, 4-H virtual learning showcases and auctions provided a space for youth to demonstrate their mastery of skills developed in 4-H, receive feedback on their efforts and market and sell their 4-H projects. Though there were many learning curves and bumps in the road, the 2020 4-H virtual showcase and auction season led to many successes and for that, we say THANK YOU.

Here's a look back at the 2020 4-H virtual showcase and auction season:

- 58 counties offered a 4-H virtual showcase and/or auction for youth
- 17 virtual auctions were held
- 7,294 entries were submitted
- 2,699 youth participated
- 3,764 buyers/donors registered for virtual auctions
- $1.4 million was spent by donors and buyers at 4-H virtual auctions

"We are grateful to partners who have collaborated with us to host these virtual events for 4-H'ers, as well as all the buyers who supported them," said Jake DeDecker, MSU Extension's state 4-H leader for Michigan 4-H. "We're also grateful to each of the youth who took part in this new experience and made the best of a tough situation."

Participating youth also had positive feedback:

- "The week at the county fair is always a huge event for my family that we look forward to year round. This year sure was different, but we are so blessed to have the virtual option and thankful for all of the hardworking volunteers that put these events on!"
- "Thanks so much for all of your support this year, we can't thank you enough! What a challenging year for sure. Thank you for making a virtual fair happen when everyone could have simply just cancelled everything. You made it possible and we can't thank you enough."

Support Michigan 4-H with holiday shopping!

Get ready for the holidays AND support 4-H with purchases on AmazonSmile, SHOP 4-H Online and at JOANN's Fabric.

AmazonSmile will give 0.5% of eligible purchases to the Michigan 4-H Foundation when you shop at http://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-1539997.

Buy your favorite Michigan 4-H'ers 4-H apparel and essentials at the SHOP 4-H Online Store (https://shop4-h.org/?rfsn=871792.16dd0) and 5% of the purchase will go back to Michigan 4-H!

JOANN's Fabrics shoppers who use their free 4-H loyalty card (http://www.joann.com/4-h/) will save 15% while also giving 2.5% back to the National 4-H Council.