Kalamazoo County

4-H YOUTH PROGRAMS
4-H. An Investment in the Future.

Dear 1st year 4-H Member and Family,

I hope that your first year in 4-H is off to a good start and you are making many new friends, learning new things, and having fun. This is the second, in a series of three, information packets designed to give you and your family a road map to the many opportunities available in 4-H.

If you have any questions please feel free to ask leaders, other families, or the 4-H office. If you see something that we need to add to these information packets that would make the 4-H organization easier to understand please give me a call.

It is great to have you as part of the Michigan State University Extension Youth Development Program known as 4-H.

Sincerely,

Veronica Bolhuis
4-H Program Instructor

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4-H MSU EXTENSION OFFICE
Mailing Address: PO Box 42
Nazareth, MI 49074-0042

Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 4-H staff may not always be present so please call ahead.

Phone: (269) 383-8830
Fax: (269) 384-8035

Guidelines, forms and information:
http://www.msue.msu.edu/portal/default.cfm?pageset_id=27606&page_id=611392&msue_portal_id=25643

Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com – look for Kalamazoo County 4-H Youth Development

Kalamazoo County Fair:
http://www.kalamazoo countyfair.com

CONTACT THE 4-H STAFF DIRECT

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4-H MSU EXTENSION OFFICE LOCATION,
DIRECTIONS & MEETING INFORMATION

4-H is a part of Kalamazoo County MSU Extension and is housed at the Nazareth Complex, 3299 Gull Road, 4th Floor, 2nd Wing, Room 410. Directions: the complex is located at the corner of Gull Road and Nazareth Road. Turn into the Nazareth Complex from Gull Road (there is a light) by the large blue sign for Borgess Health & Fitness Center, Kalamazoo County Human Services etc. The building and parking lot will be to your right, enter the building at the main front door and walk down the hall past the 1st Wing to the 2nd Wing (there is also a 3rd Wing). Turn left into the 2nd Wing and continue on to the elevator which you take to the 4th Floor. Office hours for MSU Extension are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 4-H staff may not always be present so please call ahead. For evening meetings the door to enter the building is controlled by a computerized lock. It is “only” unlocked ½ hour before the meeting start time until ½ hour after your meeting start time (1-hour total). The doors are only unlocked for meetings over 25 participants, adult members will be responsible for letting in other participants only.

4-H FAMILY NEWSLETTER

The 4-H Family News is published six times a year. The newsletter will be available on line at http://www.msue.msu.edu/portal/default.cfm?pageset_id=27606. Articles, from 4-H member, superintendants and leaders are due to the 4-H MSU Extension office by noon on the 20th of each month.

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION OFFICE
KALAMAZOO COUNTY

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* indicates multi-county assignment

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Michigan 4-H MISSION STATEMENT

Michigan 4-H Youth Programs is a youth development program that involves volunteers in providing positive, experiential, educational opportunities for and with youth. Our mission is to create environments, through collaboration, that build strong, healthy youth who are proactive in a complex and changing world.

4-H is a program of the Michigan State University Extension Service.

**Wow! What does that really mean?**

**“involves volunteers”**
Michigan 4-H recruits, trains, and assists more than 30,000 adult and teen volunteers who work with young people, ages 5-19, in their communities.

**“experiential educational opportunities”** Michigan 4-H provides learning activities that are active, hands-on and kid-directed. Volunteers help kids understand, reflect on, and communicate their experiences, and apply them to their lives.

**“create environments”** Michigan 4-H encourages keeping the needs of kids and families first and foremost in mind when creating caring, learning opportunities. A wide variety of settings are used including clubs, centers, school enrichment, camps and special activities.

**“through collaboration”**
Creating youth-centered, caring environments for kids requires networking, partnerships and collaboration. Michigan 4-H networks and develops partnerships with youth-serving organizations, educational, cultural and human service agencies, business, industry, government and other community groups.

**“youth who are proactive”** Michigan 4-H helps kids anticipate change, develop coping skills and plan positive futures.

**What makes 4-H unique?** Michigan 4-H is part of the County Extension Service of Michigan State University. Research-based programs are developed with support from several university departments, as well as other land-grant higher education institutions.
THE 4-H COMMUNITY CLUB IN KALAMAZOO COUNTY

All 4-H youth belong to a Community Club.

The following is a list of guidelines for 4-H Clubs in Kalamazoo County. Here is a list of responsibilities each Community Club has in Kalamazoo County and the benefits it will receive if it follows the guidelines.

- Membership of at least five youth from two or more different families.
- Required attendance at Leader’s Council (50% of meetings held on the 4th Monday of each month by an adult leader of the club).
- Offer at least three to five projects to members.
- Completion of at least one Community Service project during the year.
- Annual audit done by a committee of the Leader’s Council Finance Committee.
- Participate in County Fundraisers: Harvest Festival, & Auction and Fair Food Booth.
- Kalamazoo County Fair monitoring, setting up, cleaning up and exhibiting projects.
- Meet deadlines set by the 4-H program/office.

BENEFITS RECEIVED IN RETURN:

- Assistance and support from Community Project Superintendents.
- Clubs have access to 4-H bus and van (first 50 miles free).
- Awards for members and leaders (Chicago Trip and Grand Rapids Trip).
- Scholarship to Capital Experience and Exploration Days member/leader.
- College scholarships for graduating seniors.
- MSU Leader training reimbursements at Kettunen Center and Kellogg Biological Station.
- Monthly, County 4-H newsletter.
- Member and Leader yearly pins and certificates.
- Free bulletins for project leader use.

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4-H Club Structure

How should a 4-H club be formed? Since 4-H is a “learn-by-doing” program and there are many ways that people learn, there are many ways a 4-H club can be formed.

No two 4-H clubs in the county are alike. They vary in several ways: how often the groups meet, the project areas offered, how the club is organized, the age of the members, etc. Such flexibility is one of the keys of the 4-H Youth Program, so leaders are encouraged to organize a club to best fit their needs and the needs of the members.
CONSIDER BECOMING A PROJECT LEADER

Sharing your talents
You have a lot to give. After all, you have years of life experiences. Now’s your chance to share your knowledge and talents with young people, our future leaders.

"What makes my heart feel good is seeing kids achieve things they wouldn't unless you were there to help them through it... 4-H helps us grow our kids--to make them community minded and know how to handle life."

4-H Volunteer

Flexibility to fit your interests
Do you like birdwatching, cooking, gardening, or working with animals? There are many interesting projects and fun things to do as part of 4-H. It’s not just a program for farm kids. You can have fun with kids, and learn right along with them.

"I’ve liked the opportunity to meet new people and teach young people the skills I’ve gained through years of experience. Also I’ve liked being able to spend quality time with my own children."

4-H Volunteer

Pride in Learning
Imagine a young person's satisfaction at learning a new skill, at doing a job well. Imagine your own satisfaction at watching a young person blossom. You can help our young people as they gain self-esteem -- an essential ingredient for happy, productive citizens.

Bringing Knowledge to Life

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What is the difference between a 4-H Project and a Community Club?

All youth in Kalamazoo County 4-H must belong to one of our 19 Community Clubs. In general, community clubs meet monthly and come together for business, education, community service and fun. Youth participate in many different project areas and interests.

A project is focused on one topic, for example an animal specie or one craft area like ceramics. Project leaders many times work with youth from several different community clubs. Projects are taught by volunteers and can be on just about any hobby or interest that an adult would like to teach youth. If you are 21 years or older and would like to become a leader contact your community club leader or the 4-H office.

Projects can set size limitations, where they meet, how often they meet, and can set age, educational, and participation requirements. Project guidelines can be found at the MSU-Extension Office or on line at: [www.kalcounty.com/4h](http://www.kalcounty.com/4h). The 4-H office has educational resources and fun activities in a variety of project areas.

Youth are not allowed to belong to a project area without belonging to a community club. Both community club and project area requirements must be met before the 4-H member can enter a project into the fair.

Countywide Projects

Many animal projects have mandatory countywide meetings. Check the 4-H newsletter for project meeting dates.
Awards for Participating in 4-H

4-H Member Awards Record Book

Kalamazoo County 4-H members are encouraged to keep a portfolio of their goals and accomplishments. We call this the 4-H Member Awards Record Book.

Why do you need to keep records?
1) To see how much you have grown personally and in your project area.
2) To develop the life skill of goal setting and evaluation.
3) To develop the life skill of record keeping.
4) To verify present and past experiences when the time comes for 4-H awards and to realize the benefits of the 4-H Awards Program, such as trip awards, scholarships, county and state project awards and much more.

4-H Member Record Books are designed for 9 to 11 year olds (blue pages) and for 12 to 15 year olds (white pages). Watch your 4-H newsletter for spring workshops to help members fill out their member awards record books. Contact the 4-H office or your Community Club Leader for a copy of the Member Awards Record Book.

4-H Awards

Here are just a few examples of awards that members can apply for using the 4-H Member Awards Record Book.

Trips

Chicago trip- 15 years and older. This trip is for three days and two nights in downtown Chicago. Youth meet prior to the trip to plan where they would like to go. Dinner and Theater are part of the fun.

Grand Rapids trip- 13 & 14 years. This trip is for two days and one night in downtown Grand Rapids. Youth will meet prior to the trip to plan where they would like to go.

Battle Creek Trip- 9 to 11 years. They will go to Full Blast and ride the Amtrak back to Kalamazoo.

Scholarships

These include college scholarships and scholarships to many 4-H related workshops.

County and State project awards

County and State project awards cover many project areas. County awards are presented at Fall Achievement. State Awards are presented at Exploration Days at MSU.
TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

One good reason why so many 4-H leaders volunteer to work with 4-H'ers is that 4-H offers many chances to learn new information and skills. The many training events offer every 4-H leader a chance to make 4-H a satisfying and stimulating personal experience. Look for than participate in the following learning opportunities as you continue to work with 4-H'ers in your community. Workshop registration fees are partially covered by Leaders’ Council.

KETTUNEN CENTER

Kettunen Center, situated on 150 acres of northern woods near Cadillac, Michigan on Center Lake is Michigan’s 4-H Leader Training Center. It is open throughout the year to 4-H leaders and members for training in a number of different project areas. You have time to practice the tasks and skills in a quiet “get away from it all” atmosphere. A statewide 4-H project developmental committee comprised of 4-H leaders, members, educators, and MSU Extension Specialists plans the program for each individual workshop. Copies of detailed programs for each workshop are available at the County Extension Office upon request three weeks before each workshop.

Complete with fireplaces, bedrooms, a modern cafeteria, workshop and conference rooms, the training center can accommodate up to 150 people. The Kalamazoo County 4-H Leaders’ Council. will pay for the cost for your stay at the Center* This includes all lodging and meals. The actual cost is much greater, but the Michigan 4-H Foundation pays the balance of the conference cost. 4-H leaders who attend a workshop are expected to share and use what they learn with others in our county.

COUNTY AND REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

Additional training workshops are available to you on a county and multi-county basis. County workshops usually deal with specific county training needs. Multi-county or regional workshops try to meet some of the needs of all counties in the same geographic area. You will find more specific information on these workshops in your monthly 4-H newsletter.

To enroll in a workshop, contact the Extension office. Quotas sometimes have to be assigned to each county, so make sure you let the office know early enough so that reservations can be made for you. We also ask that you send in your fee for the workshop along with your name, address and phone number.

*You will be reimbursed after you attend by filling out a requisition form at the 4-H office for your gas.
**EXPLORATION DAYS**

Exploration Days is a three-day “learning by doing” program held every summer at Michigan State University. It is open to 4-H leaders, members and parents and all others who are interested in 4-H. Participants enroll in an “action learning option” they choose from over 100 areas. Under the guidance of MSU specialists, faculty members and others, they have fun while learning during two days of morning and afternoon sessions. There is plenty of time for recreation and relaxation between learning sessions.

The purpose of Exploration Days is to strengthen local 4-H clubs. All participants bring back their new skills to their club and try to incorporate new ideas and projects into the clubs. To enroll in Exploration Days, watch for announcement of the special Exploration Days booklet available in late spring. Registration fees are partially covered by 4-H Leaders’ Council.

**ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES**

The chances to improve yourself as a 4-H leader are endless. At the same time you’re learning more about 4-H, you’ll also be having fun.

Contact the MSU Extension office for more information on the Leader Training program, or for information on 4-H national and international training opportunities.

**ACTIVITIES & EVENTS**

**4-H LEADERS’ RECOGNITION BANQUET**

This banquet is held annually in January. All leaders are invited to attend, free of charge. Leaders are recognized and honored for their dedicated service to 4-H youth. Various businesses and organizations in the Kalamazoo area sponsor this event.

**HORSE NOTEBOOK EVALUATION AND HORSE SHOWS**

The Horse notebook evaluation is held in April. The Horse Show events are held in July of each year. Members compete in a variety of classes. This is an excellent preparation for the fair. Members may show both English and Western.

**FAIR**

Held four weeks before Labor Day, the Kalamazoo County Fair offers you an opportunity to have their projects evaluated and premiums awarded on that evaluation. Non-livestock project exhibitors participate in judging and display their exhibits for the public to see.

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For the 4-H’ers in the various livestock areas, this is the week they can show what they have accomplished with their animals. 4-H members also give demonstrations and sell market livestock to the highest bidder at the Livestock Auction.

4-H BENEFIT AUCTION

The Benefit Auction is the main fund-raising event sponsored by the 4-H Leaders’ Council. The funds raised make possible activities and events that benefit every 4-H member and its club. Every 4-H club is expected to participate.

HARVEST FESTIVAL CARNIVAL

The Harvest Festival Carnival is a yearly event where clubs set up games, activities and food for the youth countywide to participate in.

FALL ACHIEVEMENT

Each November, an awards night is held to honor and recognize the achievement of outstanding 4-H members and leaders.

TEEN EXCHANGE TRIPS

This event takes place every year and is sponsored by the 4-H Teen Club. It includes travel to and the hosting of an out-of-state county’s 4-H’ers with that of our own. The trip has in mind the exchange of ideas, friendship and fun by participating 4-H’ers. In attempting to understand others, the 4-H motto: “To Make the Best Better” applies. This program is partially supported by the Leaders’ Council.

CITIZENSHIP WASHINGTON FOCUS

This is a trip taken every other year involving a week of learning experience and fun in our nation’s capitol for youth of Kalamazoo County. Specifically, the short course is designed to help the participants learn the basic functions of national government. This is partially support by Leaders’ Council.
RECOGNITION & EXHIBITING

Recognition is a tool that you can use to help 4-H’ers have a satisfying experience in 4-H. Recognition takes many forms...pins, certificates, ribbons and trips are only a few of the ways recognition can be given. To be satisfying, recognition should be the result of 4-H’ers achieving their goals. In 4-H we try to use recognition to help 4-H’ers grow and develop educationally. To do this the 4-H awards program tries to:

1. Provide an opportunity for all 4-H’ers to be recognized.
2. Use standards within the reach of all 4-H’ers.
3. Have fair and understanding rules for contests.
4. Have projects judged fairly and impartially.

Some of the types of awards and recognition your 4-H’ers can expect are as follows:

**4-H Pins**

Each fall (usually November) every 4-H club is given a 4-H pin for each 4-H’er. The pins designate each calendar year (October through September) of 4-H membership. Funded by Leaders’ Council.

**4-H Certificates**

Each fall, every 4-H club is also given a 4-H Certificate of Achievement to give to every 4-H member. These can be filled out with the 4-H’ers name, projects completed and signed by the 4-H’ers leader(s)

**Ribbons and the Kalamazoo County Fair**

Blue (A), Red (B), and White (C), ribbons are awarded to 4-H’ers who exhibit their projects at the Kalamazoo County Fair. The grades are assigned on a competitive basis. The Fair Board also pays premiums (cash) to 4-H’ers for exhibiting their projects and therefore making a contribution to the fair program. Before your 4-H’ers prepare 4-H projects for exhibition, you should check the appropriate section of the Fair Premium Book to make sure established guidelines are followed.

**County Award Committee**

This committee is comprised of adults on 4-H Council and the Executive Board of the Leaders’ Council. The committee meets at least twice a year in order to select county winners in the County Awards Program and the Court for Fair (King, Queen, and Court).

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Michigan Award Program

This state awards program recognizes the individual effort and accomplishments of outstanding 4-H youth on the county, district, state and national level, selects delegates to National 4-H Congress in Chicago and nominees for National 4-H scholarships.

Chicago Trip

A bi-annual educational trip in December of even years, sponsored by Leaders’ Council to Chicago, Illinois. Eight 4-H’ers and four leaders spend three days and two nights touring Chicago Board of Trade, Water Tower shopping Plaza, Museum of Science and Industry and much, much more. This trip is funded by Leaders’ Council.

Grand Rapids Trip

A bi-annual educational trip in April of odd years for eight teens and four leaders to Grand Rapids, Michigan. This trip is funded by Leaders’ Council.

Battle Creek Trip

Trip to Full Blast water park in Battle Creek, Michigan. This trip is funded by Leaders’ Council.

Project Award

There are over one hundred additional awards available to 4-H’ers.

REMEMBER

Day-by-day recognition of all 4-H members provides a satisfying 4-H experience and helps develop the boy and girl. 4-H’ers should focus their attention on their 4-H projects, helping other 4-H’ers and sharing their experiences...awards should not be the 4-H’ers goal. Their greatest rewards come from service to others and personal achievement, rather than “outdoing” other 4-H’ers.
Preparation for Animal Projects to Exhibit at Fair

Please see individual project guidelines for complete requirements. This page is only a partial description of dates that if missed results in not participating, in a project area, as a 4-H member, at the current years fair.

All 4-H youth must belong to a 4-H Community Club and fulfill the requirements of their Community Club in addition to the requirements of the individual animal projects to show in 4-H classes at the Kalamazoo County Fair.

Fair Entry
Youth must have fair entries signed by their Community Club Leader and turned into the Fair Board Office by July 1st. **No Exceptions to this rule will be allowed.** Members who have participated in a livestock project must be enrolled in project by December 1.

Cats
Vaccinations required. Attend countywide meetings. Educational exhibit required.
Superintendent: Deborah Hedges 624-1184.

Dogs
Youth must train own dog from June 1st. Vaccinations and License required. Attend project meetings. Educational exhibit required.

Small Mammals
Attend County wide meetings. Must have animal by June 1.
Superintendent: Andrea McCubbin 665-9036.

Carcass
Follow specie guidelines regarding ownership dates. Must sign up for carcass classes on fair entry form. Must attend “BOTH” Monday and Wednesday classes that are held 2 weeks prior to fair.
Superintendent: Jill Carlson 343-6604 and Sarah Hoagg 626-0183

Dairy
TB test required, RFID tag. Superintendent: Sara Van Dyk 345-4410

Feeder Calves
Calf must be born between January 1 and February 28. Cloverbuds only calves must be born between January 1 and March 31. Calf must be in member’s possession by April 1 and tagged by April 16. Tagging and taping will be done in April. Educational exhibit and profit/loss sheet required. Attend countywide meetings. Must have a TB tag, be castrated and dehorned.
Superintendents: Greg Baker 506-0465 and Sara Van Dyk 345-4410.

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**Steer**
Animal purchased by December 31st. Tagging will be done in January. Weigh in for rate of gain will be held in December. Educational exhibit required. RFID tag as of March 1.
Beef Steer Superintendent: Mike Moreland 746-4803
Dairy Steer Superintendents: David Juday 746-4020

**Sheep**
Scrapie tags and paperwork required. Animals must be in member's possession by May 15th.

**Swine**
Animals must be in member's possession by May 1st and identification on record by May 15.
Superintendents: Jill Carlson 343-6604, Mike Dyer 345-7666.

**Goat**
Sign up for this project is each fall. Members are required to attend a minimum number of county goat meetings. All members must participate in showmanship. Educational exhibit is required. Scrapie tags or permanent tattoo and copy of registration papers are required as listed by State/Federal regulations. Member must be in possession of goat(s) by June 1.
Superintendents: Chris Kellogg 806-7988 and Pam Beilby- Miller 649-1836.

**Poultry**
All market fowl must be ordered through Superintendents. Other birds must have a certificate of Pullorum testing. Attend countywide meetings.
Superintendents: Jackie Stasevich 629-9664 and Ann Hollister 685-2301.

**Rabbits**
Breed and pet rabbits must be in member’s possession by June 1st. Market rabbits in possession by July 1st. Rabbits must be tattooed in left ear. Attend project meetings.
Superintendent: Dori Smith

**Horse and Pony**
Statement of Understanding to 4-H leader by February 16. Project animal and 2 additional back-up animals identified by June 1st. Non-premium fair class registration due July 1st. Coggins paperwork required. Must attend project meetings. Sponsorships due by May 1st.
Superintendents:

**Mini Horse**
Educational exhibit required. Attend countywide meetings.
Superintendents: Ruth DeBoer 649-4877

**Draft Horse**
Ownership not required. Youth must be working with animal by June 1st. Can not substitute animal after July 1st. Daily care records to Superintendent by August 8th. Education Exhibit required. Attend countywide meetings.
Superintendent: Talija Woolley 671-5198

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