

Berrien County 4-H Spotlight

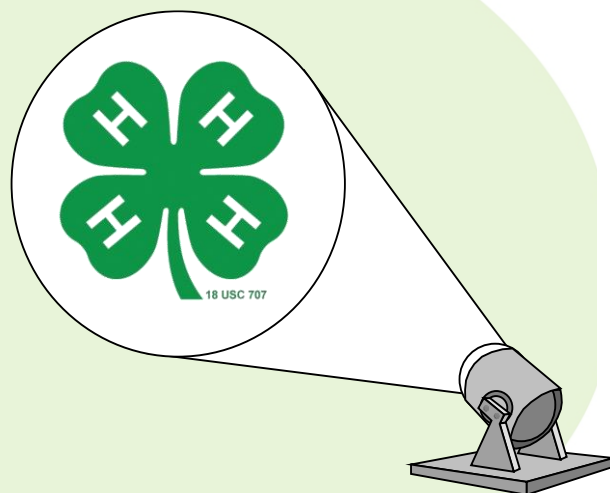
Upcoming MSU Extension Office Closures

The Berrien County MSU Extension Office will be closed on the following days. Please arrange for any pickup or drop offs prior to these dates.

March 29, 2024

May 27, 2024

July 4, 2024



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March – April 2024

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CONTACT US

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Extension Office**
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Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
8:30 a.m. – Noon
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Phone:
269-927-5674

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269-944-4128

Email:
msue.berrien@county.msu.edu

Website:
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/berrien/berrien_county_4_h

COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS



Berrien County 4-H Leaders Association Annual Meeting



Save the date for the 58th Annual Berrien County 4-H Leaders Association meeting! Each club is required to send at least one (1) representative.

Date: May 20, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM EST.

Location: Berrien County Youth Fair – Berrien Springs, MI

Who: Berrien County 4-H Teen Leaders (Youth 13 years and up) and Leaders/Volunteers

Pre-register online through 4-H Online in the Events section at: v2.4honline.com or by contacting the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269-927-5674.

4-H Fall Leader Update



The Berrien County 4-H Annual Leader Update Training dates have been set. Don't waste time and mark those calendars now. Club Coordinators, project, and resource leaders are strongly encouraged to attend. It is important that each 4-H club/group is represented. Volunteers that are working on becoming new club leaders are also welcome. This is a valuable opportunity. Leaders only need to attend one time. Dates are as follows:

- September 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. EST—Buchanan Westerners
- September 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. EST—Berrien County MSU Extension

RSVPs are to be done through 4-H Online at:

<https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in> or by contacting the Berrien County MSU Extension Office.

Enrollment Deadline Approaching



4-H Online is now open for 4-H new year enrollments! Login today to submit your annual enrollment.

2023 – 2024 deadlines are as follows:

- January 1 – Returning Member Re-enrollment deadline
- June 1 – New Member deadline

Paper accommodations available upon request to the Berrien County MSU Extension Office at 269-927-5674 or can be found online at:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/berrien/berrien_county_4_h/enrollment

Enrollment forms must be on file by the deadline dates listed above to be eligible for project complete, awards, scholarships, etc.



COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS



Month of the Military Child Virtual Challenge

April is the “Month of the Military Child” – a time to celebrate military-connected children for their selflessness and sacrifice as they serve our country as part of a military family (Military Child Education Coalition, 2024).

Michigan 4-H Military Family Program is celebrating the Month of the Military Child on April 7-20, 2024, with a virtual challenge youth across Michigan can participate in. In its fourth year, the Month of the Military Child Virtual Challenge will have new missions to complete to score points and earn prizes. “We are grateful to our military partners across the state for collaborating with us and are excited to connect military and civilian youth in a fun way where they can learn from each other,” said Kate King, 4-H Program Coordinator in Wexford County and Michigan 4-H Military Liaison.

Simply download the GooseChase app for free. Compete with others for points and prizes by posting text, photos, and videos to answer questions and complete challenges. See where you fall in the rankings daily by checking out the leaderboard and activity feed. Prizes are awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams. Plus, the first fifty registrations will receive a FREE 4-H Build-a-Boat Activity Kit to use in the challenge.

This event is supported in part by a grant from the Michigan 4-H Foundation and through partnerships with Michigan Army National Programs and Detroit Arsenal Child and Youth Services.

This program is open to any youth ages 5-19. Youth under 13 or youth without a phone or tablet can partner with an older sibling or parent/guardian to play as a team. Participants do not need to be in 4-H or have any previous military knowledge or connection to play! Register online at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-month-of-the-military-child-virtual-challenge-2024>



Support 4-H with the TSC Paper Clover Campaign



From April 24 – May 5, Tractor Supply Company (TSC) customers across the nation will have the opportunity to support 4-H youth by purchasing a \$1 paper clover at checkout, both online and in stores.

Funds raised will support county, state and national 4-H programming. To learn more regarding the campaign, visit www.canr.msu.edu/events/spring-tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign.

Great Lakes and Natural Resource Camp

Young teens have fun and amazing outdoor hands-on learning experiences as they go charter fishing, snorkeling, sailing, hike through forests, wade through wetlands, explore dunes and more! This fun MSU pre-college program could be the highlight of your summer - it could even change your life!

The camp is for teens aged 13 to 15 or going into 8th-10th grades in the fall. You do not need to be a member of 4-H to attend the event, but all participants will be asked to enroll in 4-H Online upon completing their event registration.

The camp is held at Camp Chickagami in Presque Isle, near the shores of Lake Huron between Alpena and Rogers City. The state-licensed camp has dormitory-style cabins, a dining hall and toilet and shower facilities. Meals are all prepared by a qualified cook and served right in the dining hall.

The 2024 camper fee is \$500.00. The fee includes 6 nights in a cabin setting, all meals and snacks and a full day of experiential learning with Michigan State University Extension staff. Water activities, camp crafts, night hikes and charter fishing are included, plus a t-shirt!. Registration can be done online at: https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_great_lakes_natural_resources_camp/cost_and_how_to_apply



COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS



Upcoming Countywide Project Workshops & Kit to Go!

Registration is now open for countywide projects and project exploration kits. Pre-registration is required, and workshops are limited on a first come, first serve basis until full regardless of participation via self paced or in-person. All supplies are included unless noted during the registration process. Club Leaders may request Kit to Go's for their membership by directly contacting the Berrien County MSU Extension office at 269-927-5674.

4-H Countywide – Pottery Gnome

Description

- **Date:** March 9, 2024 at 2:00 PM, March 15, 2024 at 6:00 PM, March 23, 2024 at 2:00 PM, & March 30, 2024 at 2:00 PM
- **Who:** Open to youth ages 5 – 19 years as of January 1, 2024
- **Location:** Berrien County MSU Extension Office
- Register online at: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/Berrien4HPotteryGnome/>

Workshop is limited to 10 youth per a session on a first come, first serve basis until full.

4-H Countywide – Mother's Day Garden Planter Workshop

Join us in making a Mother's Day Garden Planter while learning the ins and outs of annual plants with a Master Gardener. Youth will learn scientific plant names, planting zones, necessity of fertilizing plants, and care of plants all while planting their own beautiful planter. All supplies are provided, and the youth will go home with their planter to keep or gift for Mother's Day.

- **Who:** Open to youth ages 5 - 19 years as of January 1, 2024.
 - **Date:** May 5, 2024
 - **Time:** 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
 - **Location:** Berrien County MSU Extension Office
- Register online at: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/Berrien4HMothersDayWorkshop/>

Workshop is limited to 50 youth on a first come, first serve basis until full.

4-H Kit to Go! – Outdoor Wilderness

In this kit participants will learn about animal's tracks, discover, animal habitats, and more!

- **Date:** April 2024
- **Who:** Open to youth ages 5 – 19 years as of January 1, 2024, Clubs & 4-H Leaders
- Register through 4-H Online at: <https://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>

Registration set to open in March 2024

4-H Kit to Go! – Sold! Making the Most out at the Fair Auction

This kit is designed to assist you with preparing for your fair/exhibition auction. Grow the potential profit of your 4-H projects through a variety of marketing and communication strategies that will give you a leg up on your competition.

- **Date:** Registration is open, but limited to 100 kits on a first come, first serve basis until gone.
- **Who:** Open to youth ages 5 – 19 years as of January 1, 2024, as well as Clubs, Groups, & 4-H Leaders
- Register online at: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/Berrien4HSOLD/>

Limited to 100 kits on a first come, first serve basis until full.

4-H Countywide Project Birdhouse Build

Join us in learning about the woodworking project. Participants will be able to build and decorate a birdhouse to take home.

- **Date:** April/May 2024
- **Who:** Open to youth ages 5 – 19 years as of January 1, 2024.
- **Location:** Berrien County MSU Extension Office
- Register online at: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/Berrien4HBirdsEyeView/>
- Limited to 20 youth on a first come, first serve basis until full.



COUNTY NEWS AND EVENTS



Berrien County 4-H Foundation

A message from The Berrien County 4-H Foundation to our 4-H Friends and Families

Do you know that 4-H is the largest youth development organization in Michigan? Thousands of young people explore new interests and discover their passion through 4-H hands-on, experiential learning opportunities in science, healthy living and civic engagement. Perhaps you were one?

In the past year, one out of every 12 youth in Berrien County has participated in a 4-H program. These programs are backed by a community of 4-H volunteers and professionals. The Berrien County 4-H Foundation raises funds for our county 4-H.

This "Giving Tuesday," (or any time really) please help to reach even more youth. Your contribution, no matter what \$ amount, supports the growth of current and future leaders, youth who are confident and strong, curious enough to question and capable enough to find the answers, youth who stick to a job until the job gets done.

It's easy to donate via The Berrien County 4-H Foundation Facebook home page, or if you prefer, by mail to The Berrien County 4-H Foundation, 1737 Hillandale Road, Benton Harbor, MI 49022.

MI 4-H Animal and Veterinary Science Camp July 8-9 and 10-11, 2024

Michigan 4-H Animal and Veterinary Science Camp is for youth who are interested in exploring animal and veterinary science related projects and activities. Participants must be ages 13 to 17 as of January 1 of the current programming year.

The Michigan 4-H Animal and Veterinary Science Camp is a pre-college program held at Michigan State University (MSU) in partnership with MI 4-H Youth Development, MSU Department of Animal Science and MSU College of Veterinary Medicine. Youth explore fields and careers relating to animal science and veterinary medicine, visit MSU farms and facilities, and participate in numerous hands-on learning activities.

New for 2024:

- To better meet demands and engage more youth in this experience, this camp has been shortened and will be offered twice as a two-day day camp. Lodging will be the responsibility of the participant's family. Youth can attend either July 8-9 or July 10-11.
- We will not be collecting applications this year. Registration will open to all youth on April 1.
- Out-of-state youth can join the waitlist and will be welcome to register if Michigan youth do not fill all the spots by the deadline.

How do I register?

Registration will open on April 1 at noon at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-animal-and-veterinary-science-camp-2024>

Additional Details

Full details can be found here: 2024 Camp Information Packet (<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-animal-and-veterinary-science-camp-2024>). Please read the information packet carefully prior to registration.

2024 Berrien County 4-H Leaders Council Officers

President

Katrina Schneider
Galien Chanters 4-H Club

Vice President

Schlyer Pellett
Baroda Bunnies 4-H Club

Treasurer

Shelley Zeiger
River Valley Wranglers
4-H Club

Secretary

Heather Boyle
Baroda Bunnies 4-H Club

Foundation Representative

Melissa Richards
Four Flags 4-H Club

Other Board Members

Bobbi Lawson
Karey Sebasty
Roxy Cochran
Lauren Lovell (Teen)
Kayleigh Lawrick (Teen)
Jennifer Pellett (Teen)

Officers and newly elected board members were seated at the January 2024 meeting.



4-H Mark of Excellence

Michigan 4-H State Awards Program

Grab your pen! Spark your imagination! Dive into the world of 4-H! Twist and turn your way through your 4-H memories, as you capture your adventure and discoveries on how

“Because of  I can.”

Eligibility:

- Be a current 4-H member between the ages of 11 and 12 as of January 1, 2024. Enrollment in previous years not required.
- Individuals may only be selected for this award once.
- Each county can select up to two (2) winners to receive the Mark of Excellence Award each year.

Submission Details:

- Contestants are asked to create either a video or a journal reflection focusing around the theme of **“Because of 4-H I can...”**
- Entries should be legible, readable or easily viewable.
- Video submissions must be no more than 2 minutes in length. Videos should be in mp4 format or provide a YouTube Channel link.
- Journal reflections must be 500 words or less and can be hand-written or typed.
- Submission can be either video OR a journal reflection.
- Must include first name and county.

Award:

- Selected winners will receive a certificate and medal.

Learn more at:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4-h-awards-and-recognition-program/youth-recognition

Submissions may be posted on the Michigan 4-H section of the MSU Extension website and promoted digitally in newsletters and social media.

Deadlines:

- Submit to your local 4-H Office by April 1, 2024 for judging.
- Selected winners will be notified by April 14, 2024 of their achievement from their local 4-H Office.

Questions:

- Contact your local County 4-H Office

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4-H Mark of Excellence

Michigan 4-H State Awards Program

Tips and Tricks

Tricks

Take time to think about “Because of 4-H I Can!” Use the below questions to help you brainstorm ideas as you get started!

- What has 4-H taught you through your project, club and/or community?
- Where is your 4-H adventure taking you? Future careers?
- What new interests and skills have you learned?
- Have you learned any life skills? If so what life skills and give examples of how you use these skills.

Tips for Video Submissions:

- Videos should be no more than two (2) minutes in length and feature the young person on screen.
- Videos can be recorded with simple recording device/smart phone and no special equipment or editing is expected.
- Videos are recommended to be shot horizontally.
- Once your video is finalized, upload to YouTube and make viewable to anyone with the link. Submit the link along with your name, club and county to your local 4-H Office by the deadline.
- Videos that are small in size can be submitted in mp4 format via email to your local 4-H staff.
- Video are encouraged to have closed captioning, which can be easily added on YouTube, however this is not required.
- For more tips on producing video from your mobile device go to:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/anrcom/videoproduction/best-practices-for-recording-video>

Tips for Youth Creating Videos:

- **Limit identifiable details:** Consider how much and what types of personal information are being shared. Don't share your last name, hometown, school, or parent's name. It's best practice to share only your first name, county and 4-H club.
- **Online photos and videos create a legacy:** Remember that photos and videos shared online always have the potential for becoming a permanent part of history. Consider distractions such as articles of clothing, backgrounds items the viewer can see, and noises that occur in videos that can detract from the project. Consider who else might see this information at later point in time, such as potential employers, college admission officers, scholarship selection committees, etc.





4-H EXPLORATION DAYS

Join 1,000 youth from across Michigan on MSU's campus to explore YOUR future! Live like a college student and learn about future careers at 4-H Exploration Days. This three-day pre-college program is designed to help you explore careers, build skills and envision your future. Choose from more than 100 fun learning sessions on a variety of topics that are led by MSU faculty, 4-H staff and volunteers, and other experts! You'll stay in and eat at MSU residence halls, attend sessions in buildings throughout campus, and of course have fun at free-time activities across the university!



June 19 – 21, 2024
Michigan State University

A county delegation orientation is schedule for:

When: May 21, 2024
6:30 pm—7:30 pm
Where: Virtual via Zoom

Zoom details will be sent once registered for the event. Orientation will cover what to pack, emergency procedures, expectations, free time activities, and more!

What does 4-H Exploration Days cost?

The cost for the 2024 event is \$220, which includes two nights' lodging in a residence hall, meals, learning sessions, an event T-shirt and free-time activities. Berrien County 4-H Members are eligible for scholarships to go towards the event costs in the amount of \$170.00 equaling a camp fee of \$50.00 due at time of registration.

Who should attend?

All young people ages 12 to 19 are invited to join the fun! You don't need to be a 4-H member to attend. Adults who would like to serve as event chaperones should contact their county 4-H program coordinator.

How do I register?

The 2024 event registration website (<https://bit.ly/2GRhuwv>) will provide updated information in the spring. You can also contact your county 4-H program coordinator in your local MSU Extension office for details. Registration will open March 25 and close April 21, 2024. You'll want to register early – sessions fill up fast and are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis!

Questions:
Kelly Stelter
4-H Program Coordinator
grandtke@msu.edu, 269-927-5674 ext. 4015

STATE NEWS AND EVENTS



Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series

A webinar series that will provide Michigan 4-H volunteers with a variety of learning opportunities to help them grow as a volunteer and support the Michigan 4-Hers. There will be a variety of topics offered throughout the year, with each topic offered twice as a daytime and evening option. Register to receive a virtual link online at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/volunteering/mi-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series>. Sessions include:

April 22: Working with Cloverbuds

Online

Time: Noon & 7:00 PM EST

4-Hers, 5-7 years bring a level of excitement, curiosity, and intuitiveness. 4-H volunteers can help these youth start to identify their spark and build their connection to the program. Come attend this session to learn and share techniques for working with cloverbuds and project ideas that work well with this age group.

May 13: Preparing 4-Hers for Fairs and Showcases

Online

Time: Noon & 7:00 PM EST

As summer approaches, there are many opportunities for youth to showcase their skills and knowledge. 4-H volunteers have an important role in helping youth develop their interview skills, public speaking, presentation, and leadership skills as they participate in a variety of events and activities. Come attend this session to hear about some opportunities as well as techniques to prepare 4-Hers for fairs and showcase events.

May 22: Managing Risks For Volunteers

Online

Time: Noon & 7:00 PM EST

This session is Managing Risk For Volunteers: Our guiding principles state that youth are physically and emotionally safe; one step in this process is reviewing the media and medical authorization forms for the members engaged in your club. Join us to learn how to access, review, and keep this information safe while serving as a 4-H Volunteer.

Michigan 4-H State Awards

The Michigan 4-H State Awards are the highest honor bestowed on Michigan 4-H youth. This hands-on learning experience not only allows members to be recognized for their accomplishments, but also helps 4-H members to develop and practice "adulting" skills such as resume writing, filling out an application, and interviewing.

Learn more and start your 2024 #MI4H State Awards application at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/.../4-h.../youth-recognition/>.

4-H and FFA State Horse Judging Contest 2024



April 13, 2024
MSU Pavilion
East Lansing, MI

In the state horse judging contest, participants can demonstrate their equine evaluation and selection skills, as well as improve their communication and decision-making skills. This contest will include both individual and team competition for 4-H and FFA members.

There are opportunities for the top three senior horse judging teams to go on to compete at the National 4-H level.

Check-in will take place from 8-8:30 a.m. and the contest will begin promptly at 9 a.m.

COST: \$20 per participant

This fee covers entry into both the 4-H and FFA divisions if the individual is competing in both. Payment is due at the time of registration.

Registration deadline is April 1. No late registrations will be accepted.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-and-ffa-state-horse-judging-contest>



STATE NEWS AND EVENTS



Sign up for the Michigan 4-H Alumni and Supporters Walking Challenge!

Starting May 5, MSU Extension will host a 4-H Alumni & Supporters Walking Challenge, where participants will track their miles walked and compete for a top spot in the contest! Each week, top contestants will win a 4-H swag prize and the county who logs the most miles throughout the whole challenge will earn a \$100 cash prize for their county 4-H program. Random weekly winners will also be chosen amongst registered participants who have actively engaged in the contest during the previous week.

Miles walked/ran will be collected weekly through a Google form; this form will be sent upon completion of the registration. Each week, the top contestants will be based on the number of miles logged from Sunday to Saturday. Individuals will report their miles by Sunday at 11:59 p.m. ET. Submissions received later than Sunday by 11:59 p.m. ET will not be eligible for weekly prizes.



Learn more and register at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-alumni-and-supporters-walking-challenge>.

Michigan 4-H presents Show Your Money Smarts Contest



Join Michigan 4-H for a fun contest leading up to National Financial Literacy Month in April. Expand your knowledge and compete with other youth across Michigan to earn prizes in money management challenges.

Show Your Money Smarts Contest (13-19 years old)

Learn how to keep your money safe in this year's sixth annual online contest. Compete with other youth across the state of Michigan in this 30-question online challenge during the month of April and win prizes. High scoring youth will be entered into a prize drawing to win a \$50 gift card. Start developing good financial habits at a young age and learn how to choose a financial institution that works for you! Learn more at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-money-smarts/show-your-money-smarts-contest>.

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 Kansas City Royals on Sunday, April 28. 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. A portion of every ticket sold on this link will be donated back to Michigan 4-H. Make sure to wear your favorite 4-H gear and support 4-H while enjoying a fun day with the 4-H community.

New this year, Michigan 4-H guests will receive:

- A dual-branded Michigan 4-H and Detroit Tigers hat. Hats are redeemable on gameday in section 332.
- An exclusive pregame on-field opportunity. Timing and logistics of this opportunity will be released within a month of the game date.



Only tickets purchased through the Michigan 4-H link are eligible for these exclusive opportunities. This year, tickets will be available in a variety of locations throughout the stadium, with prices ranging from \$27 - \$59. Learn more at www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers.



STATE NEWS AND EVENTS



Reserve 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 Kansas City Royals! 4-H youth, volunteers, staff and their families will enjoy discounted tickets. In addition, Michigan 4-H guests will receive:

- A dual-branded Michigan 4-H and Detroit Tigers item (details to be released shortly).
- An exclusive pregame on-field opportunity.
- A portion of each ticket sold donated to Michigan 4-H.

Tickets are available in a variety of locations throughout the stadium, with prices ranging from \$27 - \$59. To order your tickets, visit:

www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-day-with-the-detroit-tigers

March 3-May 4: JOANN 4-H Campaign

Stores across Michigan

While visiting your local JOANN store, you can support 4-H by adding a donation or rounding up at checkout.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/joann-s-clover-for-kids-campaign

April 3: Keeping Your Money Safe

Online

Wondering how to safeguard your hard-earned cash? Whether you're saving for college, planning your next adventure, or simply building a nest egg, it's essential to make informed choices about where you store your money.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/keeping-your-money-safe-4-3>

April 10: Adulting 101 Series - Cover Letter and Resume Writing

Online

By attending this workshop, you can start or improve a resume or cover letter. Gain tips and tricks and be ready to apply for that opportunity!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/resumewriting

April 22: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar - Working with Cloverbuds

Online

Come attend this session to learn and share techniques for working with Cloverbuds (ages 5-7) and project ideas that work well with this age group. This session will be offered twice, once as a daytime option and once as an evening option.

- **12 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-working-with-cloverbuds
- **7 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-working-with-cloverbuds7pm

April 27-28: 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Workshop

Charlevoix Rod and Gun Club, Charlevoix

Learn about Mich. 4-H Shooting Sports mission, policy, risk management and safety, discipline-specific equipment use and care, how to teach shooting fundamentals to youth, range set-up and more. Registration deadline: April 4.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/spring-2024-4-h-shooting-sports-instructor-workshop-for-adults-and-teens

May 8: 4-H and FFA State Meats Judging Contest

East Lansing

By participating, contestants show their ability to evaluate carcasses and identify meats. This contest will include individual and team competition.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-and-ffa-state-meats-judging-contest-2024



For more Michigan 4-H and Michigan State University Extension Events go to <https://www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/events>



Berrien County MSU Extension
1737 Hillandale Road
Benton Harbor, MI 49022



4-H Spotlight

Berrien County 4-H Youth Development



Facebook – “Berrien County 4-H Youth Development”

Instagram - @realberriencounty4-H

