



NOVEMBER 2025

4-H Family News

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY



HARVEST SEASON

Hello 4-H Friends!

There is something about harvest season and Thanksgiving that really takes us to our roots, the land, family and our community. The colors outside are somehow warmer even though the air is cooler. I find myself wanting to be in good company, listening to stories and making new memories with the ones I love.

I hope you are feeling connected with your community and looking back fondly on the people and experiences that have shaped you into the person you are today. Our community is a big part of who we are. Being part of 4-H in Grand Traverse County is a privilege and we are all richer for it.

Please take time this season to share gratitude with those who have helped shape your 4-H experience. I want to thank the Teen Reps who helped me at the fair and the little girl with her goat who told me my dreams could come true. Thank you to all the youth who ran their goats and sheep and the leaders who showed up to say, "GO!" I appreciate all who stepped up into positions of leadership on the Livestock Council and Leaders Association as well as every club leader, educator, and parent out there. It takes a lot of hands and hearts to be a thriving 4-H community, and that we are.

I am grateful,

Sarah Bye

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EVENTS

**BEEF TAGGING & WEIGH IN AT THE FAIRGROUNDS: 8:00AM – 2:00PM
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH AND 12:00PM – 6:00PM SUNDAY, NOVEMBER
9TH**

**LEADERS ASSOCIATION MEETING: NOVEMBER 19TH AT 6:30 – ALL ARE
WELCOME**

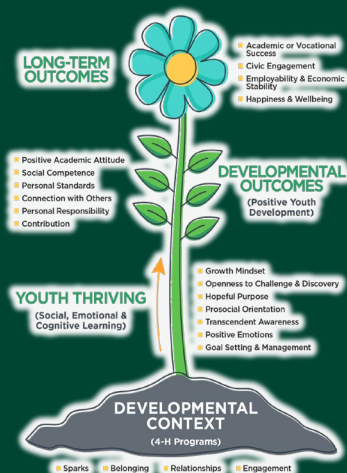
TRACTOR SUPPLY CLOVER CAMPAIGN: NOVEMBER 28 – DECEMBER 14TH

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STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Thriving Model of Positive Youth Development



The 4-H Thriving Model and 4-H Beyond Ready work hand-in-hand to prepare youth for success. The Thriving Model focuses on how quality 4-H experiences help young people grow by building sparks, relationships, and a sense of belonging that leads to thriving. Beyond Ready builds on this foundation by helping youth take what they've learned and apply it school, careers and real life.

Together, they ensure that 4-H youth don't just gain skills, but also the confidence, adaptability, and resilience to use those skills in the future. Through this connection, young people are not only supported in their personal growth today but are equipped to be "beyond ready" for whatever comes next.

Contact your local 4-H staff for more information.

November 10 – December 15: Online Parent Talk System Webinar Series

Online

This parenting workshop is designed to improve communication and provide strategies for raising confident, caring, responsible children. Caregivers of toddlers to teens will explore eliminating unwanted behavior, setting limits, teaching about consequences, giving effective feedback, promoting independence and developing character. Participants will meet for six week on Mondays.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/the-parent-talk-system-series-november-december-2025

November 11: Wild Spartans – Wildfire & Warriors: Science Where You Least Expect It

Online

Meet Michele Richards, natural resources and wildland fire program manager with the Michigan Army National Guard. Learn about her work and the education and career path she followed to get there. This free virtual series is open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 12-19 years.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-monthly-wildlife-fisheries-webinar-series-2025-2026

November 12: 4-H Chef Turkey Cheese Ball

Lenawee County MSU Extension Office, Adrian

Youth ages 5-11 will create a cheese ball that is perfect as a Thanksgiving appetizer.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-chef-turkey-cheese-ball

November 13: Adulthood 101 – Conflict Resolution and Civil Discourse

Online

Participants will learn how to manage disagreements with respect and open-mindedness, paving the way for stronger, healthier relationships. Leave with strategies to approach conflict confidently, express oneself respectfully, and find common ground with others.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/adulthood-101-toughtalks

November 15: 4-H Holidays Around the World Workshop – Diwali

Flat Rock Public Library, Flat Rock

Open to youth in grades 3–8, this hands-on workshop invites participants to learn about the traditions and cultural significance of Diwali, one of India's most celebrated holidays.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-holidays-workshop-diwali

November 18: Mich. 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series: So You Want to Be a Club Leader?

Online

Thinking about leading a club or want to refresh your leadership skills? Join to learn what it takes to be an effective and inspired club leader—from logistics and communication to culture and connection.

12-1 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-so-you-want-to-be-a-club-leader-lets-talk-noon

7-8 p.m. session: www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-so-you-want-to-be-a-club-leader-lets-talk-7pm





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



Support 4-H with the TSC Paper Clover Campaign

From Nov. 28 – Dec. 14, Tractor Supply Company (TSC) customers across the nation will have the opportunity to support 4-H youth by purchasing a \$1 clover at checkouts when shopping both in stores or online at www.TractorSupply.com during the campaign dates.

Funds raised will support county, state and national 4-H programming. To learn more, visit www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/cms/4h.

You can also support 4-H by purchasing three special commemorative 4-H holiday ornaments, now in TSC stores! Proceeds from the sale of ornaments support 4-H.

Join the 4-H For Good Challenge!

A simple act of kindness can spark a ripple of good — and you can be the spark! National 4-H Council is teaming up with Universal Pictures leading up to the release of *Wicked: For Good* on November 21 by celebrating the power of young people and communities and creating a wave of kindness.

Just like Elphaba and Glinda in *Wicked: For Good*, your choices can change the world. This challenge is open to everyone — youth, families, schools, workplaces, and community groups — and it's your chance to show how one good deed can inspire another.

Join the #4HForGoodChallenge in four easy steps:

1. **Do something good.** Big or small, every act counts. Help out, give back or simply show someone you care.
2. **Share your heart hands.** Snap a pic of your heart hand and write a short post about your good deed.
3. **Post it online.** Use the hashtag #4HForGood and tag 4-H.
4. **Challenge your crew.** Tag for friends and invite them to keep the good growing!



MSU Extension hosts successful third Michigan 4-H Day at the Capitol



On October 8, MSU Extension hosted the third Michigan 4-H Day at the Capitol to showcase the positive impact of the Michigan 4-H program and bring additional visibility to its effects. The event was held in the atrium of Heritage Hall – the Capitol Visitor's Center.

"We're immensely proud of the Michigan 4-H program, which has been shaping futures and transforming communities for more than 115 years," said Quentin Tyler, MSU Extension director. "We're grateful for the opportunity to showcase this remarkable program to our state leaders for the third consecutive year and to bring additional awareness to the life-changing impact of 4-H."

Michigan 4-H Day at the Capitol was attended by legislators, stakeholders and members of the public. At the event, attendees visited information booths hosted by Michigan 4-H youth and staff. A brief program was held, featuring Tyler, as well as: Representative Jerry Neyer; MSU President Kevin Guskiewicz; Jackie Venton, Michigan Department of State Chief Operating Officer and a Michigan 4-H alumna; Logan Dole, Michigan 4-H youth from Clare County; and Danykah Muck, Michigan 4-H youth from Livingston County.

The program was livestreamed on the Michigan 4-H Facebook and can be viewed at www.facebook.com/Michigan4H.



Child Abuse and Reporting Protocol for 4-H Volunteers

Overview

Michigan State University strives to offer safe and supportive learning and working environments for all individuals. In support of that goal, the university has established reporting protocols for its employees and volunteers to promote the safety and security of children.

As an MSU Extension volunteer, it's important to know and understand MSU's protocol for reporting suspected child abuse and other harm to children. While you may already be familiar with this protocol, MSU's policy extends beyond what is required by state law.

Introduction and Policy

As a volunteer you are required to report any perceived, disclosed, or observed harm to a child, as defined by Michigan law. This reporting is required to determine whether the harm is committed by a parent or teacher, or someone else. This is a requirement, not just for MSU volunteers, but also for MSU faculty, staff, and student employees.

MSU does not require employees or volunteers to complete the formal training that is required for mandated reporters. The term "mandated reporter" refers to a specific list of professionals who are required by law to file reports of suspected child abuse or child neglect directly with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Child Protective Services.

MSU volunteers are considered to be mandatory reporters and are obligated to promptly report perceived, disclosed or observed harm to a child or incidents of sexual harassment, sexual violence, sexual misconduct, stalking and relationship violence that:

- Are observed or learned about in their volunteer role.
- Involve a member of the university community, including MSU Extension participants, volunteers or staff.
- It occurs at a university or MSU Extension sponsored event or on university property.

We do not expect MSU Extension volunteers to investigate behavior that causes them concern—when in doubt, we urge you to make a report and allow the experts to investigate. If employees and volunteers act in good faith in the performance of their work for the University, they are covered under the [university's indemnification policy](#). Please review MSU's website for [Mandatory Reporting](#).

What to do if a Child Discloses

If a child discloses abuse to you, there are some very helpful things to keep in mind. You should:

- Believe them. Thank them for telling you and trusting that you'll know how to help them.

To contact an expert in your area, visit extension.msu.edu/experts or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464)

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For additional information, visit extension.msu.edu

- Listen and let the child speak on their own terms. Avoid finishing their thoughts or putting words into their mouths.
- Refrain from investigating or interrogating.
- Staying calm. Don't respond with anger, shock, or disgust.
- Do not make a promise to keep their disclosure a secret.
- Reassure the child that they are not in trouble, and they didn't do anything wrong.
- Tell the child that their safety is important to you.

It's vitally important that information is collected by the proper individuals who are trained to investigate child abuse and harm situations.

How to Report

There are a [few actions](#) that an MSU Extension volunteer is expected to take when a child discloses abuse, you suspect abuse to be taking place, or you observe non-accidental harm to a child. If you cannot quickly find this information, an MSU Extension professional can assist you.

If the situation is an emergency or someone is in immediate danger, please complete all four steps listed below. In a non-emergency you only need to complete Steps 2-4:

- **Step 1:** In emergencies call 911 immediately.
- **Step 2:** Call Child Protective Services (CPS) at 855-444-3911 and file DHS-3200 within 72 hours.
- **Step 3:** Complete a [Public Incident Report](#). In this report you will mention that you called CPS.
- **Step 4:** As stated in the Michigan State University Extension [Volunteer Code of Conduct](#), whenever a volunteer has a concern, it is best practice to inform local MSU Extension professionals of the concern. This allows local staff to make adjustments that might need to be made immediately.

What to Expect When Filing a Report

It is normal to feel anxious or uncomfortable about making a report. You might worry that you misunderstood something you heard or saw. Trust in the investigation process—it is better to be safe than sorry.

When making a report with the police or completing a [Public Incident Report](#), you will be asked to:

- Choose a report type. Please choose "Office for Civil Rights Incident (ADP, RVSM, Blend)"
- Give dates of the incident (if known)
- Give the location of the incident (if known). If you are located Off Campus, please select the appropriate location in the building selection or select "None".
- Identify individuals involved
- Recall what occurred

Confidentiality

Remember that confidentiality in these situations is essential. Any reports of abuse or suspected abuse by a faculty, staff, or volunteer are kept confidential. Likewise, any conversations that you have with a local MSU Extension professional are kept confidential, except for reporting to authorities as required by MSU policy. While you are not required to let a local MSU Extension professional know that you have reported child abuse or suspected child abuse, it is considered best practice to make them aware. It can be helpful to talk with them

To contact an expert in your area, visit extension.msu.edu/experts or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464)



For additional information, visit extension.msu.edu

about the procedures for reporting to ensure that all steps have been taken and make them aware so they can take appropriate actions that might need to be taken locally.

Creating Positive Environments

MSU Extension is dedicated to creating programming environments conducive to all participants, volunteers, and staff. It is the responsibility of parents and caregivers, volunteers, and staff to work together to create environments that help to strengthen and promote positive youth development. When youth are supported in this way, they are better prepared with the knowledge, tools and skills to become responsible citizens and agents of community change.

Michigan State University Extension's programs are representative of Michigan State University in communities across the state. As a volunteer, you are responsible for creating and supporting these important programming environments. One way that is done is by reporting any perceived, disclosed, or observed harm to a child.

Resources

MSU and MSU Extension offer volunteers a variety of resources and support materials around the topic of child abuse, youth safety and creating safe environments. Those resources include:

- Guidelines for Mandatory Reporting to the MSU Office of Civil Rights and/or MSU DPPS for MSU Extension Employees & Volunteers:
https://www.canr.msu.edu/od/civil_rights_diversity_multiculturalism/uploads/files/Guidelines%20for%20Mandatory%20Reporting.pdf
- Reporting Protocol: Child Abuse and Other Harm to Children
https://hr.msu.edu/policies-procedures/university-wide/reporting_protocols.html
- University Reporting Protocol: Child Abuse and Other Harm to Children Frequently Asked Questions:
<https://hr.msu.edu/policies-procedures/university-wide/documents/UniversityReportingProtocolFAQ.pdf>
- Public Incident Report Form: <https://msu.guardianconduct.com/incident-reporting/>
- MSU Extension Creating Safe Environments for Youth: Tools and resources for parents, caregivers, volunteers and staff interested in creating safe environments that promote positive youth development.
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/creating-safe-environments/index>

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