



4-H Family News

MARCH 2025

Grand Traverse County



FEELS LIKE SPRING

There are signs of spring in the air even if it is not quite the end of winter. As 4-H'ers we are starting to look forward to Exploration Days registration, signing up to fundraise with the Tractor Supply Company Paper Clover Campaign, and investing in livestock with hopes to win at the fair. I'd like to give thanks to all the youth and adults who played a role at the very effective Education Expo hosted by our Northwest Michigan 4-H Livestock Council last weekend. It was incredible to see so many 4-H youth present to learn and to connect with one another in anticipation of a fun time at the fair.

Each day I am amazed by our volunteers. Events like the Education Expo are proof of the commitment our community has to 4-H, to each other and to the future of our youth. The mentorship and care parents and volunteers provide is beyond impressive, it is inspirational!

In March Grand Traverse County 4-H will be hosting a number of events to bring us together. Let's continue to support each other, learn from one another and show Grand Traverse County that we are united around one cause, positive youth development. As America's largest youth development organization, nearly 6 million strong, our 4-H'ers have the skills to be **"Beyond Ready."**

Thank you,

Sarah Bye
Grand Traverse County
4-H Program Coordinator



IMPORTANT DATES

NORTHWEST MICHIGAN LIVESTOCK COUNCIL MEETING | 3/3 | 6:30PM |
REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

POULTRY, DAIRY FEEDER, LAMB, GOAT AND JUNIOR BEEF REGISTRATION
DEADLINE | 3/3

COLLEGE CASH CRAZE | 3/14 | 6:30 | KINGSLEY UMC

EXPLORATION DAYS REGISTRATION | 3/20 | 7:00PM

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STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-H Youth in Action Program applications open



Apply now for the 2026 4-H Youth in Action Awards! Each year, the 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 March 31. Learn more and apply at <https://4-h.org/programs/4-h-youth-in-action-program/application/>.

March 3: Adulting 101 – Get It Together: Tim and Organization Tips to Thrive

Online
Learn practical tips to tackle schedules, beat procrastination and organize spaces to help you be successful now and in the future.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/get-it-together

March 11: 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

March 11: Wild Spartans

Online
Join 4-H staff for the "Wild Spartans" series for a look into life working with fisheries and wildlife! This month's session will explore conservation efforts in zoos with Seth Magle, director of the Urban Wildlife Institute at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-monthly-wildlife-fisheries-webinar-series-march-2024-2025

March 15: Michigan 4-H Hippology Contest

East Lansing
Youth aged 5-19 are eligible to demonstrate their comprehensive equine knowledge and skills in an engaging setting.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/2025-michigan-4-h-state-hippology-contest

March 18: Mich. 4-H Volunteer Webinar - Cultivating Developmental Relationships with Youth

Online
Explore how to build impactful connections with youth through developmental relationships. This series will provide volunteers with a variety of learning opportunities to help them grow as a volunteer and support Michigan 4-H'ers. This session will be offered twice:

- **12 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-the-heart-of-4-h-cultivating-developmental-relationships-with-youth-noon
- **7 p.m. session:** www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-the-heart-of-4-h-cultivating-developmental-relationships-with-youth-7pm

April 1: 2025 Michigan 4-H State Awards application deadline

Online
This program provides 4-H members a learning experience where they can develop career skills by using their 4-H experiences to compile a portfolio similar to a professional application while receiving recognition for their 4-H involvement.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/2025-michigan-4-h-state-awards-application-deadline





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

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

Michigan 4-H will have 10 Japanese youth and one chaperone arriving in 2025; we are looking for families interested in opening their homes and hearts by hosting these individuals. Consider sharing the clover this summer and giving a lucky Japanese youth and your family the experience of a lifetime by hosting!

The Japanese delegation is scheduled to arrive in Grand Rapids in mid-July and depart in mid-August, meeting host families for a 3.5-week stay. 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 at brinn@msu.edu.



MSU Extension launches 2025 Global Voices Essay Contest with MSU Global Youth Advancement Network

The Global Voices Essay Contest offers a platform for young people around the world to advocate for their communities and share their opinions and stories about local and national challenges. Michigan students in grades 9-12, and young adults ages 18-24, are invited to share their own stories, reflections and visions by writing and submitting a 600-900-word essay focused on community (defined as the rich tapestry of cultures, experiences and ideas that shape our state). Sub-themes for the essay contest include shared natural resources, heritage and home, bridges of unity, innovation for the future and other.

A panel of MSU, MSU Extension, and Michigan 4-H judges will review and select the winning essays, which will be published on the MSU Global Youth Advancement Network website and receive cash prizes!

The deadline for youth to submit their essay online is May 2. For more info please visit: <https://globalyouth.isp.msu.edu/programs-projects/global-voices/essay-contest/call-submissions-2/>

Michigan 4-H needs your input!

Michigan 4-H is conducting a survey to better understand the topics and educational approaches that best meet community needs. Your feedback will help us improve and enhance how Michigan 4-H serves families across the state.

Visit https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bqmeT5Dxtthvja or scan the QR code to share your input and help shape the future of the Michigan 4-H program. If you have questions regarding this survey, please reach out to Kathy Fischer at fisch226@msu.edu.





COUNTY 4-H NEWS

EXPLORATION DAYS

What's It All About?

About 1,000 youth (ages 12-19) and chaperones from across Michigan attend annually.

This fun MSU pre-college program could be the highlight of your summer - it could even change your life!

4-H Exploration Days registration goes from mid-March through April with session assignments made on a first-come, first-served basis. As you select your session choices, be sure to watch for age restrictions! **Age requirements for sessions are based on your age as of January 1.**

When registering youth will need to pay \$50. If requesting a scholarship, please wait to pay the remainder until scholarships discounts are applied to your balance. Session Listings for this year are online and registration will open **March 20, 2025.**

https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/uploads/files/2025-4HEXD-Sessions_2025-02-20-AA.pdf



EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS THROUGH 4-H
MICHIGAN 4-H EXPLORATION DAYS

TANNER BUILDING EXHIBITS

All 4-H Clubs from Grand Traverse, Leelanau and Benzie County are welcome to create and exhibit a club booth display. Club booth displays should present the theme **“There’s No Place like 4-H to Build Success...in boots.”** Create an educational display, tell a story about your 4-H club members, show community service and project areas your club has participated in, etc. It is okay to use pictures and content from previous years! Booths will be awarded certificates such as most creative, best organized, and the top three winners will win VISA gift cards (1st=\$100; 2nd=\$75; 3rd=\$50), large ribbons, and a certificate.

Forms will be available via our website **March 3** to reserve a club booth space. Be prepared to set up your booth Thursday or Friday, July 31 and August 1, anytime from 12:00pm-9:00pm, or Saturday, August 2 from 9:00am-1:00pm in the Tanner Building. All independent projects and club booth displays must be complete by 1:00pm on **August 3.**

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are available on the MSU Extension website. Please visit

https://www.canr.msu.edu/grand_traverse/grand_traverse_county_4_h/4-h-events-and-scholarships for more information.

FUNDRAISER

Ready Aim Shoot, 4-H Leaders Association and the Teen Leaders are collaborating to help raise funds for our local shooting sports 4-H Club. The Ammo Sorting Event will be posted on 4HOnline and will be held from 5-8 on **March 18th.** To participate, youth must register in the Ready Aim Shoot club in 4HOnline to be at the Sportsman’s Club. A delicious meal of hot dogs, drinks and ice cream will be provided to everyone who registers and participates in this fun event. Watch for more information soon.



MORE COUNTY 4-H NEWS

PAPER CLOVER FUNDRAISER

Tractor Supply proudly began our partnership with 4-H in 2010 and we have since helped raise over \$20 million through our Paper Clover fundraisers. The success of these campaigns has impacted over 80,000 students by providing them with hands-on learning experiences through projects in STEM, agriculture, healthy living, and civic engagement.

100% of funds raised through our two Paper Clover fundraisers directly benefit 4-H and the kids and teens they work with - 90% of donations directly support 4-H youth in the state it was raised, and the remaining 10% supports national 4-H programming.

The Paper Clover Fundraiser with our local Tractor Supply Company will begin on **April 21st, 2025**. For more information, click here:

<https://www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/cms/4h?ddkey=https%3Atsc%2Fsearch%2F4-H>



COLLEGE CASH CRAZE

The Leaders Association and the Teen Leaders are hosting a Scholarship Event called College Cash Craze at the Kingsley UMC on **Friday, March 14th**. This will be an opportunity for youth to learn what scholarships are available in our area, how to successfully apply for them as well as other tips such as how to fill out a job application or create a resume. This event is for juniors and seniors and will be a lot of fun with pizza, games and friends.

4-H ONLINE

Paper forms are available for anyone unable to register for 4HOnline electronically and are required for youth with disabilities ages 19-26. Your local 4-H Program Coordinator, Sarah Bye must add older youth with disabilities, because 4HOnline is set up to not allow youth enrollment after age 19.

https://www.canr.msu.edu/od/planning_evaluation_and_reporting/4-H-Online-Uploads/New%20Michigan%204-H%20Youth%20Enrollment%20and%20Authorization%20form%20Updated%207-23-23.docx

CLUB BEST PRACTICES

Each of our amazing Grand Traverse 4-H Clubs is led by volunteers who give incredible amounts of care, time, passion and skills to their leadership roles. Although some 4-H'ers wish their leaders will care for them through their entire 4-H experience, sometimes leaders need to transition into other life roles. Thank you all for your time, energy and talent. 4-H is for the youth, but it is impossible without YOU!

In the event the volunteer serving as primary administrative 4-H club leader needs to step down, the included form and checklist should be completed.

New since 2024, MSU has provided clear steps for leaders including ensuring the club has 2 Gold level volunteers ready to receive leadership responsibilities. When applicable, copies of Financial Manuals must be shared with the new leadership team and the new leadership profile must be added in 4HOnline. This tool will help to keep every Grand Traverse County 4-H Club strong and active. Please reach out to your 4-H Program Coordinator, Sarah Bye, with any questions you may have and if you are choosing to change the administrative leadership within your club. If you are planning to change club leaders, please fill out the attached Club Leadership Transition Checklist (See below).



Michigan 4-H Club Leadership Transition Checklist

In the event that the volunteer who serves as the primary administrative leader for a 4-H club needs to step down from that role and a different volunteer will assume that role, this form and checklist should be completed by the leaders involved and the local 4-H Program Coordinator.

As a reminder, every chartered 4-H entity must have at least 2 active gold level volunteers connected to it to remain active. If the club possesses a bank account, there must be 2 unrelated adult signatories on the account.

County: _____ Club Name: _____

Current Administrative Leader: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

I agree that I am stepping down from my role as the club administrator and the person named below will be taking responsibility for the club.

- I will remain an active volunteer, but not in the administrative leader role
- I am planning to resign from my role as an MSU Extension volunteer

Signature: _____

Proposed Administrative Leader: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

I agree that I am assuming responsibility for the role as the club administrative leader.

Signature: _____

Effective Date: _____

Confirm who the 2nd gold level volunteer for the club will be: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

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

This section to be completed by 4-H Program Coordinator

- Confirm proposed volunteers are screened active gold volunteers in Volunteer Central
- Staff person provides expectations to new administrative leader(s) for communication and reporting between club and 4-H office (i.e. annual financial, monthly bank statements, reenrollment processes, county awards, civil rights compliance, risk management, etc.)
- Provide copies/electronic file/link of 4-H Financial Manuals (volunteer and treasurer) to new administrative volunteers. Document in Volunteer Central that these copies were provided.
- Collect and review AFSR (September 1-current date) from outgoing administrative leader. Both volunteers and 4-H staff person review and confirm accurate balance at time of transition.
- Club inventory transferred to new administrative leader (ex. flags, equipment, resources, decorations, charter documents/EIN letter, etc.)
- Confirm the bank signatories changed to add new administrative leader. Resigned leader removed if resigning as a volunteer. At least 2 active gold volunteers are on the account as signatories. Bank may require club minutes documenting who has been approved to be added to the account. Bank may also require a copy of MSU determination letter.
- Update County Financial Spreadsheet with new "Care of" point of contact for club (only 1 name accepted). If transition between September-October, update on County Financial Spreadsheet. If outside this time (November-August), email 4-H Financial inbox with updated information.
- 4-H Online
 - New administrative leader profile add/change volunteer role; enroll and approve
 - Club Profile—new administrative leader added, provide permissions to pull club roster reports. Be sure to provide guide:
https://www.canr.msu.edu/od/planning_evaluation_and_reporting/4-h-online-support
- County 4-H Club directory updated with new administrative volunteer contact information
- Update county email distribution lists
- Club member families notified of leadership change, contact information for new leader provided.
- Thank outgoing volunteer for service—include in club transition email and a thank you note to leader.
- Share 4-H Club Development website with lot of resources for leaders.
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/4hclub/index>
- Upload this document in 4-H Online under charter documents in "Program Plan"

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