



4-H Family News

Dec-Jan
2024- 2025

Kalamazoo County



Our Holiday wish list is for
Gold level volunteers to work with the youth in
the following projects:

- Arts & Crafts
- Calligraphy
- Cloverbud (variety of activities to introduce Cloverbuds to projects and pique their interest)
- Communication & Expressive arts
- Creative Writing
- Dungeons & Dragons
- Drawing
- Engines/transportation/tractors/field equipment
- Fishing/Hunting
- Food & Nutrition
 - Cake decorating
 - Candy Making
 - Food Preparation
- Hunting
- Horticulture
 - Flowers/house plants
 - Fruits/vegetables
- Jewelry making
- Knitting/cross-stitch/embroidery
- Music – vocal/instrumental
- Painting
- Performing arts
- Public speaking
- Sewing/Quilting
- Wood Crafts

See more on Page 2.....

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WEBSITE-

<http://canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo4H>

Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/Kalamazoo-County-4-H-Youth-Program-122047197873078>

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YOUR 4-H NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteering can be both beneficial for the volunteer but especially for the youth involved. It creates a safe space for youth to try out new ideas, be creative, build relationships and learn what to do when things don't work out.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a 4-H volunteer to lead one of these projects, please apply online at *Become a 4-H Volunteer*. (https://www.canr.msu.edu/becoming_a_4_h_volunteer/) Your time spent as a volunteer can be as little as a few hours a year to a few hours a week.

Volunteers will need to successfully complete the Gold level MSU Extension Volunteer Selection Process at https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/volunteer_home prior to working with 4-H youth.

We currently have youth enrolled in the following projects, but do not have a gold level volunteer to work with the youth :(

- Arts & Crafts
- Calligraphy
- Cloverbud (variety of activities to introduce Cloverbuds to projects and pique their interest)
- Communication & Expressive Arts
- Creative Writing
- Dungeons & Dragons
- Drawing
- Engines/transportation/tractors/field equipment
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- Public speaking
- Sewing/Quilting
- Wood Crafts

**SPREAD THE
WORD**



'To Make The Best Better'

Are you New to 4-H?

Come out to our New Family Orientation!

Come out to meet the Kalamazoo County 4-H staff, ask questions about the local, state and national 4-H programs. Learn more about your local 4-H clubs and what we do!

**We are meeting:
Thursday, December 5th at 6:30 pm
in Room B at the
Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds
and Expo Center
2900 Lake St, Kalamazoo, MI 49048**



Please RSVP to Veronica at bolhuisv@msu.edu by December 4th.



The Kalamazoo County 4-H Leaders Council

is currently accepting applications for senior and upperclassman scholarships.

These applications are due to the 4-H office no later than **February 1, 2025.**

You can find the applications at

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/uploads/2023%20APPLICATION+FOR+SENIOR+Scholarship%20pdf%20fillable.pdf>



YQCA will be offering scholarships starting in 2025.

YQCA will provide \$30,000 in scholarships in 2025 to selected youth certified in YQCA. This scholarship program will be for youth who are current high school seniors or older, up to age 21, pursuing an agriculture degree or trade. Scholarship applications will open in **January 2025** and close on **February 17th**. Recipients will be announced in **May**.

To stay informed about this scholarship opportunity, make sure you are subscribed to [the YQCA newsletter](#), where we will announce when scholarship applications are open.

You can also visit the [YQCA website](#) in January for more information.

Direct questions to help@yqcaprogram.org.



There will be 4 YQCA (Youth for the Quality Care of Animals) in 2024-2025. This is a requirement for all youth, ages 8-18, who will bring livestock to the Kalamazoo County Youth Fair and Family Festival in 2025. There are two options, one of the 6 face-to-face sessions or an online session. The face-to-face sessions will be a minimum of 1 hour and the cost is \$3.00 per youth. The face-to-face version is meant to include all youth 8 – 18 years old. The online version is \$12.00 but the curriculum is age specific. This certification is good for one year. There need to be 5 youth signed up to hold a face-to-face class.

The face-to-face sessions will be held on the following dates and times:

- Jan 18– 10 am
- Feb 6 -- 6:30 PM
- March 12 and 27 - 6:30 PM
- May 29 - 6:30 PM

All certificates are due to the 4-H office no later than noon on July 1, 2025

Youth who would like to take the face-to-face session will need to do the following:

- Parents will need to create a **family** profile on <https://yqcaprogram.org/>
- Parents will need to assure each child showing at fair is added and chose the face-to-face training option.
- Pay the \$3.00 registration fee.
- Youth will need to complete the pre-test.
- Once the youth has taken the face-to-face session, staff will mark your session as complete.
- **Youth will need to log back in and take the post test** (found under the child's name and a drop down that says Enrolled ILT trainings).
- Once the post test is complete the youth's certificate will be sent.

Youth who would like to take the online session will need to do the following:

- Parents will need to create a **family** profile on <https://yqcaprogram.org/>
- Parents will need to assure each child showing in the fair is added and chose the online training session.
- Pay the \$12.00 registration fee.
- Youth will then need to complete the course.

Once the youth have completed either the online session or the face-to-face session and have received their certificate, the certificate will need to be emailed to msue.kalamazoo@msu.edu by July 1, 2025.

You can find helpful registration videos and documents here:
https://yqcaprogram.org/local/resources_for_youth_parents.php
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZHW2qtMIOc>



Swine Project updates

Livestock All Species Meeting –

Wednesday, January 22 - 6:30 pm

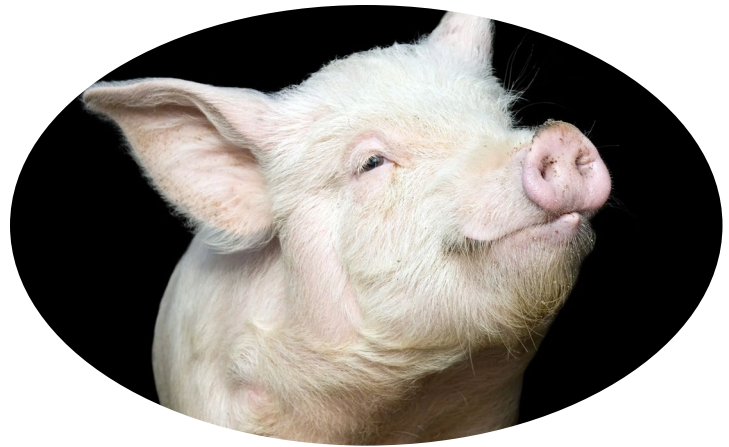
At the Expo Center – South.

Mark your calendars –

Our first swine meeting is coming up

Thursday, February 20 at 6:30 pm

at the Expo Center.



More info coming soon.





Poultry Project News

A reminder that it is time to start thinking about what you might want to do for the market portion of the project as chick/poult ordering will be due by Feb 15, 2025.

2025 Kalamazoo County 4-H Poultry Market Project

ALL BIRD ORDERS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO CHERIE BY SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2025

Bird Type	Current cost per bird*	Pick-up Date	Project Length	Number of birds*
Turkey	\$8.92 white \$9.50 bronze	March 25	19 weeks	_____ Bronze _____ White
Heavy Duck	\$7.00 - \$7.77 per bird	May 13	12 weeks	_____
Roaster Chicken	\$3.62 - \$4.60 per bird	May 28	10 weeks	_____ Male _____ Female
Market Duck (Pekin)	\$7.00 per bird	June 10	8 weeks	_____
Broiler Chicken	\$3.62 - \$4.60 per bird	June 17	7 weeks	_____ Male _____ Female
Cornish Chicken	\$3.62 - \$4.60 per bird	June 24	6 weeks	_____ Male _____ Female

A few scenes from the 2024 Ohio National Poultry Show.





Great Job Alamo Club on your Food Drive!



**A BIG
THANK YOU
to**

Dan Sherman and SBF Enterprises for donating the printing of the 2024 Fair Auction Sale Bills!



Dan Sherman

Client Advisor
Product Development





Thank You to Everyone who participated in the Holiday Parade!



Thank you to Jackie Stasevich for opening her art studio at the Park Trade center following the Kalamazoo holiday parade. Youth were able to create their own holiday ornament to share with their families.



CLOVERBUDS

On November 16th a group of 9 Kalamazoo County 4-H Cloverbuds (youth 5-7 years old) were able to enjoy a day planned just for them. With the help of staff, teen and adult volunteers they were able to enjoy a day of crafts, snacks and holiday fun. Currently there are 2 additional fun days just for them planned on February 27th from 6-8pm and April 26th from 9:30AM – 1:00PM. All events will be held at the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds.

Activities included: Reindeer paper bags, terra cotta and tea light snowman decorations, glitter glue snowflakes, holiday themed pancakes for lunch, cookies and hot chocolate in a jar to give as gifts, candy cane chenille stems, candy cane reindeer, pinecone bird feeders and making arm pit fudge.





Your Kalamazoo 4-H Leaders Council is having our Second Annual county wide event !

2nd annual Kalamazoo County 4H Bowl-a-Rama

Sunday, January 26, 2025

2:30-4pm

Location:

Revel & Roll West

4500 Stadium Dr, Kalamazoo

269-488-3800



Kalamazoo County Leaders Council will cover lane fees and shoe rental for all Kalamazoo County 4H youth.

If additional family or friends would like to join, the cost is \$10 per person.

Please sign up by Wednesday January 15, 2025 at the link below

<https://forms.gle/D9zgexjqo9udWvUU9>

Even if you don't bowl you can join in the fun.

We will have tables available for those that might like to create Valentine's Day cards for local nursing homes.

This will be a county wide community service project.

Can't make it to the bowling event but still want to participate?

Feel free to give your Community Club Leader completed **Valentine's Day cards** so they may bring them to our **Monday January 27, 2025** Leaders Council Meeting OR drop off completed cards to the MSU 4-H office by **Tuesday February 11, 2025.**

Leaders Council is looking forward to a fun event!



Holiday gift for your favorite 4-Her!

Attached is an order form for Green Kalamazoo County 4-H Shirts. When printing the form make sure your print settings are on portrait and shrink to fit the page.

- The crew sweatshirt does not come in youth sizes, so the option is not on the order form.
 - This is not a fundraiser for Leaders Council (compare to prices on www.shop-4H.org)
 - The shirts will have the legal 4-H clover emblem designation (18 USC 707)
- The order form & payment are due by **Friday December 13, 2024 @3pm****

Shirts should be available by Friday December 20, 2024 in time for Holiday gifts. We hope to have shirts prior to 12/20 but wanted to allow for any shipping issues with the holidays

ORDERS DUE 3PM TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19TH

Kalamazoo County 4-H		4-H Leader Council									
YOUTH	S	M	L	XL	TOTALS						
ADULT	S	M	L	XL	TOTALS						
				XXL	TOTALS						
SHORT SLEEVE T-SHIRT											
				3XL	4XL	5XL	TOTALS				
YOUTH	S	M	L	XL	TOTALS						
ADULT	S	M	L	XL	TOTALS						
				XXL	TOTALS						
LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT											
				3XL	4XL	5XL	TOTALS				
ADULT	S	M	L	XL	TOTALS						
				XXL	TOTALS						
CREW SWEATSHIRT											
				3XL	4XL	5XL	TOTALS				
YOUTH	S	M	L	XL	TOTALS						
ADULT	S	M	L	XL	TOTALS						
				XXL	TOTALS						
HOODED SWEATSHIRT											
				3XL	4XL	5XL	TOTALS				
Checks made payable to Kalamazoo County 4-H Leaders Council.											CHECK <input type="checkbox"/> CASH <input type="checkbox"/>
NAME _____											TOTAL ORDER
4H CLUB _____											
CELL PHONE _____											

Please drop off the order form either to Andrea McCubbin's house or the MSU Extension Office by **Friday December 13, 2024 @ 3pm**

- My address: 285 W Battle Creek St Galesburg. I have a black mailbox by my garage for which you can put order forms & payment; text my cell please 269-598-5231 if you do this.
- MSU Ext office: 201 W. Kalamazoo, Suite 306 Kalamazoo. Please give form & Payment to Nancy Hostetler / Veronica Bolhuis

If you want more information about the shirts you may go to the following links:

T-shirts:

<https://cadwellco.imprintableapparel.com/catalog/s/GD210/>

Long sleeve t-shirts:

<https://cadwellco.imprintableapparel.com/catalog/s/GD180/>

Crew sweatshirt:

<https://cadwellco.imprintableapparel.com/catalog/s/GD360/>

Hooded sweatshirt:

<https://cadwellco.imprintableapparel.com/catalog/s/GD342/>



4-H Future Squad- Virtual 4-H Club



What is 4-H Future Squad?

The 4-H Future Squad is a 4-H virtual club created for Michigan 4-H youth, ages 12-19 as of January 1, 2025, to learn new skills for their future. The club will meet October 2024-May 2025. Meetings will involve team-building and will cover areas such as money management, career readiness, stress management, goal setting, time management, communication, politics, food safety, and basic household tasks.

Club meetings will be virtual through Zoom twice monthly along with occasional, fun, optional virtual events.

4-H Future Squad can be a primary or secondary club.

How to Join

4-H membership is free and joining 4-H Future Squad unlocks access to all 4-H benefits and programs!

Are you ready to sign up? Complete the interest form on the 4-H Future Squad website to receive more information on how to enroll in this club.

"I like the community I've met. We share some similar interests, and it's a great place to discuss topics that are important life skills, in a place with other people that care about learning also."

2023-2024 4-H Future Squad member

Contact Information:

Laurie Rivetto at
rivettoL@msu.edu,

734-727-7234

Visit the 4-H Future Squad website at:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-future-squad/>

"My favorite part of 4-H Future Squad was learning new things and meeting wonderful people."

2023-2024 4-H Future Squad member

Photo shows members of 4-H Future Squad members meeting, in person, at the 2023 4-H Exploration Days event.

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Holiday Ornaments

Launching on October 7th, limited-edition collectible 4-H holiday ornaments will be available in Tractor Supply stores nationwide. Featuring three unique designs for 2024, these ornaments are sure to become a cherished family tradition for 4-H'ers for years to come. **100% of the funds raised from ornament sales will benefit 4-H.**

New Paper Clover Dates: November 29th – December 15th

To embrace the holiday spirit, the Paper Clover campaign will move from October to November and December this year, officially launching on Black Friday! Running from November 29th to December 15th, we are thrilled that TSC is hosting this event during the season of giving. We can't wait to see how much we raise for 4-H Camp and Leadership Scholarships!

Please reach out if you have any questions.





Join us for the

State 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Expo and Show!

January 25, 2025

7 -8 am Check-in time

9 am contest begins

MSU Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education
4301 Farm Lane, Lansing, MI



Youth may choose to exhibit their rabbit and/or cavy as well as compete in other contests such as breed identification, photography, educational display, showmanship, and **new** this year skillathon.

Showmanship exhibitors are required to pre-register by January 17, 2025, all registrations are day of show.

Educational sessions scheduled throughout the day with the support of The Rabbit School and Rabbit Tutor. We will have the scheduled publicized once finalized.

New Awards: All best in shows (educational display, photography, breed identification, skillathon, exhibit animals, and animals) will have their name on a Sparty perpetual trophy. You then may take it home between the 2025 and 2026 4-H show.

To register for showmanship and access the show catalog visit: https://events.anr.msu.edu/2025_showmanship_rabbit_and_cavy/

Contact: Glenda at weissgle@msu.edu or (517) 676-7303

2025 State 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Show
and Expo
January 25, 2025
MSU Livestock Pavillion



Traveling trophy sponsored by Rabbit Tutor & The Rabbit Show LLC



Traveling trophies awarded to:
Photography
Educational Display
Showmanship classes
Overall Showman Rabbit
Overall Showman Cavy
Breed Identification
Skillathon
Best in Show Rabbit
Best in Show Cavy
Best Overall Fur





Since its founding in 2019, the National Society Descendants of American Farmers has awarded over 104,000.00 in agricultural farming scholarships to 47 students.

- Scholarship is specific to higher education students majoring in an agricultural field of study
- Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5
- A written essay is required
- A personal interview may be required
- Students may reapply each year that they are in school
 - Deadline to apply is August 1st for fall semester and January 1st for spring semester

If Awarded:

- Funds are paid to the accredited institution and not to the individual
- This scholarship may be accepted in addition to other awards
- Students can be part-time or full-time through each semester/quarter
- For more information, contact Joy Linn at linnranch@hotmail.com

More information and the application can be found at

<https://www.nsdoaf.com/scholarships>

Or on our website under:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/4-h-member-resources-forms



Michigan 4-H Youth Code of Conduct



The opportunity to participate in or attend 4-H activities is a privilege. All 4-H participants – youth, families, volunteers, and Extension staff who participate in or attend any activity or event sponsored by the Michigan State University Extension 4-H Youth Development Program are expected to uphold the values of the Michigan 4-H program.

All 4-H youth participants must conduct themselves according to the following standards that apply to all Michigan 4-H programs, including virtual programs, and interactions such as social media and internet engagement-

1. **Create a Welcoming Environment for All.** Encourage everyone to fully participate in 4-H. Recognize that all people have skills and talents that can help others and improve the community. Though we will not always agree, we must disagree respectfully. When we disagree, try to understand why. Our first priority is to create a safe, inclusive space for learning, sharing and collaboration that is welcoming to people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives. Diversity includes, but is not limited to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status.
2. **Bring Your Best Self.** Conduct yourself in a manner that reflects honesty, integrity, self-control, and self-direction. Accept the results and outcomes of 4-H activities and programs with grace and empathy for other participants. Accept the final opinions of judges and evaluators. Be open to new ideas, suggestions, and opinions of others.
3. **Obey the Law.** Obey the laws of the locality, state and nation and Michigan State University and Extension policies and guidelines. Commit no illegal acts. Do not possess, offer to others, or use alcohol, illegal drugs, marijuana, or tobacco products, which include e-pens, e-pipes, e-hookah, e-cigars, JUULs, vapes, vape pens or other electronic nicotine delivery systems. Do not attend 4-H activities under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances. Do not possess or use weapons or firearms except as expressly permitted as part of supervised 4-H shooting sports programming. This includes dangerous or unauthorized materials such as explosives or similar items.
4. **Honor Diversity – Yours and Others'.** Respect and uphold the rights and dignity of all persons with whom you interact as part of Michigan 4-H.
5. **Create a Safe Environment.** Be kind and compassionate toward others. Be considerate and courteous of all persons and their property. Do not carelessly or intentionally harm or intimidate anyone in any way (verbally, mentally, physically, or emotionally). Do not insult, harass, or bully others or engage in other hostile behaviors, including sexual harassment, sexual assault or sexual abuse. Abstain from sexual behavior and intimate physical/sexual contact in either public or private situations at an MSU Extension youth 4-H activity or event.
6. **Be a Team Player.** Work cooperatively with all individuals involved in 4-H programs and activities. Be responsive to the reasonable requests of the person in charge such as volunteers and staff. Respect the integrity of the group and the group's decisions.
7. **Humane Treatment of Animals.** Treat animals humanely and provide appropriate animal care.
8. **Participate Fully.** Participate in and contribute to planned programs, be on time and follow through on assigned tasks/responsibilities in a manner that fosters the safety, well-being, and quality of the educational experience for self and others.

Have fun!



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Shop the Michigan 4-H store this holiday season



Buy your favorite Michigan 4-H apparel, drinkware, and essentials at the SHOP 4-H Online Store!

Offered in collaboration with National 4-H Council through Shop 4-H, the Michigan 4-H store offers Michigan 4-H branded apparel and other gifts. Visit the store online and find the perfect item for your favorite 4-H'er, volunteer, alumni, professional or fan! The shop is open to the public and a percentage of all proceeds will be donated to Michigan 4-H.

To order Michigan 4-H specific items, visit <https://bit.ly/30pdNJw>. The store will remain open beyond the holiday season to continue offering Michigan 4-H branded gear to the Michigan 4-H community.

November 29 – December 15: Fall TSC Paper Clover Campaign

Local Tractor Supply Co.

Support 4-H by purchasing a \$1 paper clover at your local Tractor Supply Co. (TSC) store!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign

December 3: Giving Tuesday

Online

Join the #GivingTuesday movement — a global day of giving and a chance to celebrate the opportunities that makes 4-H so extraordinary. 4-H'ers are leading the way in a world full of change and together, we can build a generation ready for anything. We have set a goal to raise \$5,000 to grow 4-H county endowments in a 24-hour period.

<https://mi4hfdtn.org/giving-tuesday/>

December 10: Wild Spartans – Forestry Fire Crew

Online

Join 4-H staff to spark excitement in the world of wildland fire. Meet Jennifer Hansen and Courtney Kubitskey, who are on the forestry fire crew with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Learn about their work, and the education and career path they followed to get there. This free series is open to all youth ages 12-19 years. Pre-registration is required:

www.canr.msu.edu/events/wild-spartans-monthly-wildlife-fisheries-webinar-series-december-2024-25

December 17: Online Extension Extras - Helping Kids Manage Stress

Online

Children and youth experience stress; parents and caregivers have an opportunity to support them. This workshop will cover common causes, signs and symptoms of stress, as well as discuss strategies for supporting children, youth and parents experiencing stress.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/online-parenting-helping-kids-manage-stress-12-17-24

Kettunen Center Inventory Closeout

Kettunen Center was the first 4-H volunteer and youth training center in the nation, owned and operated by the Michigan 4-H Foundation from 1961 to 2021. The center's remaining merchandise and furnishings is now available for sale through the MSU Surplus Store! We know the Kettunen Center meant so much to the 4-H community and this is an opportunity to purchase something by which to remember the center. Purchase yours today!





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Help youth build the Five C's: Competence, confidence, connection, character and compassion

Adapted from an article by Christine Heverly, MSU Extension

Michigan 4-H works to ensure that youth are engaged in a positive youth development program and utilizes the 4-H Thriving Model to help illustrate how it is meeting the needs of youth across Michigan. A key component of the 4-H Thriving Model is that youth form developmental relationships. Young people thrive best when their families, friends, schools, neighbors, businesses and other community members support them in a variety of ways.

Positive relationships with volunteers provide young people with chances to learn life skills such as goal setting, problem-solving and communicating. Volunteers can help young people move through the developmental stages and address difficulties along the way. One important way volunteers can help youth thrive is to help them build their Five C's. According to "Liberty: Thriving and civic engagement among America's youth" by Richard Lerner, the Five C's are competence, confidence, connection, character and compassion.

The Five C's aren't tangible things you can give to young people. They're skills and characteristics young people develop through their experiences and relationships. According to Zarrett and Lerner, young people who are able to display stronger evidence of having the Five C's are considered to be thriving and more likely to be developmentally on target than those who do not. Volunteers have the potential to assist young people in building the Five C's by creating relationships and situations that allow them to thrive.

MSU Extension recommends the following ideas to help Michigan 4-H volunteers working with youth to help build the Five C's.

- Help youth learn new concepts for the projects or activities they are participating in.
- Know youth names and address them by their preferred names and pronouns.
- Have youth find their spark by trying something new.
- Help youth navigate obstacles that they encounter.
- Help youth work through the tough side of giving away a project (i.e., selling an animal, giving away a project they worked hard on).
- Help youth record progress, no matter how small; each completed task is a job well done (i.e., maintain a "Done It List").
- Identify values or ethical standards a youth lives by. Do this with them. Write a non-negotiables list showing beliefs the youth will not alter. This helps alleviate peer pressure break downs.
- Define confidence, competence, connection, character and compassion. Use one of these terms to define during a group meeting and discuss ways we show it. Align with the 4-H pledge and have youth brainstorm ways (or goals) to show these traits in the new 4-H year on paper. They can draw or write those ideas.
- Use simple ice breaker activities in pairs or small groups to help young people talk through or work on a common activity or topic. Have them share out loud to the larger group their shared connection or how they worked together to achieve a common goal (building competence and confidence, building connections).
- Focus on building relationship with the youth involved by really getting to know them (their hobbies, interests, events in school or family) and inquire about them with a genuine interest.
- Recognize specific positive behaviors or accomplishments in competence, confidence or character of youth in the club/group.
- Be compassionate in one's interactions with youth (and others) and serve as a role model in that behavior.

