



4-H Family News

November
2025

Kalamazoo County



**Beyond
Ready**

Welcome to the 2025-2026 4-H programming year!

Families and volunteers will need to log into the 4-H online database at-

<http://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in> to re-enroll for the new programming year.

Some reminders-

- Any youth 5-19 years old as of January 1, 2026 will be able to enroll in the 4-H program
- There is no fee to enroll in 4-H.
- Adults who would like to be a volunteer will need to go through the MSU Extension Volunteer Selection Process (VSP) prior to working with youth, unless it has been completed previously.
- VSP completion is required for both virtual and face to face programs. For information on this process please visit-
http://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/msu_extension_volunteer_selection_process
- New members may join anytime during the year, but will not be able to meet fair participation requirements if enrolled after April 1, 2026
- Re-enrollment is due no later than November 15, 2025.



CONTACT US

Veronica Bolhuis
4-H Program Coordinator
(269) 383-8867
bolhuisv@msu.edu

Will Barnwell
4-H Program Instructor
(269) 383-8878
barnwe18@msu.edu

MSU Extension Office Phone & Email-

201 W. Kalamazoo Ave.
Suite 306
Kalamazoo, MI. 49007
269-383-8830
msue.kalamazoo@campusad.msu.edu

WEBSITE-

<http://canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo4H>
Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057507535294#>
Program-122047197873078

MSU is committed to achieving excellence through a diverse workforce and inclusive culture that encourages all people to reach their full potential. Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Quentin Tyler, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned.



This month's **4-H Wild Spartans Series** will explore the unexpected world of working with wildlife in the armed forces.

Join us on Tuesday, November 11th, 2025 at 6:30pm EST for

“Wildfire, Wildlife, and Warriors: Science Where You Least Expect It”

You will meet Michele Richards, Natural Resources and Wildland Fire Program Manager with the MI Army National Guard.

You'll learn about her work, and the education and career path she followed to get there. You will be encouraged to ask questions to learn more through a live Q&A.

Pre-registration is required:

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/WildSpartansSeriesFall2025Spring2026/>



Join Us Online

WILD SPARTANS

SCIENCE * RESEARCH * CAREERS * CONSERVATION

**WILDFIRE, WILDLIFE, AND WARRIORS: SCIENCE WHERE YOU
LEAST EXPECT IT**

WITH MICHELE RICHARDS, NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLAND FIRE
PROGRAM MANAGER WITH THE MI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

November 11 | 6:30 PM EST

Registration required:

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/WildSpartansSeriesFall2025Spring2026/>





Help Us Tell the 4-H Story

Are you a current or former 4-H member? We want to hear from YOU! 4-H youth and alumni — help us share the amazing impact of 4-H by telling your story:

- **Who are you?**
- **What kinds of projects** have you done or are you working on now?
- **Where** has the 4-H program taken you — or where is it leading you?
- **Why** was 4-H important in shaping your goals, your life, or who you are today?
- **When** were you (or are you) part of the program?

We're still collecting and sharing the incredible stories of Kalamazoo County 4-H youth and alumni! Your story helps show how 4-H builds skills, confidence, and leadership — helping you be **Beyond Ready** for anything.



Share your 4-H story here:



https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6DsEDclMZ3PZ3IY

Poultry Project News

There is a poultry project meeting scheduled before the holidays hit - Join us on Thursday, Nov. 20th in Room B of the Expo Center at 7pm. Catch up on all of the issues - winterizing your flock, treating parasites and planning your market projects. We will be making feather pins(good gifts!) so start collecting feathers - choose small feathers with matching colors, shapes and patterns - wash and dry them to be ready to use! All the other supply needs will be provided.





FEEDER CALF/BEEF :

Combined meeting on Tuesday, November 25 at City Gate Church @ 6:30p. Please bring past educational exhibits. Members: join the Kalamazoo County 4-H Feeder Calf Club & Kalamazoo County 4-H Beef Club pages on Facebook.



DAIRY CLUB :

Meeting at Vlietstra Farm -Monday November 17 6:30 dress for the weather. Join the Kalamazoo county 4-H Dairy Club on Facebook

Don't you just love a Parade?

Mark your calendar for November 22, 2025, for the annual Kalamazoo Holiday Parade!

Kalamazoo County 4-H Leaders Council is once again sponsoring our entry in the parade

Candy and a 4-H information sheet will be available to hand out along the route

We will have a new parade banner this year, so we are excited about being able to display a new banner!

Meet by 10:30 near Portage and Lovell-
The Parade starts at 11- look for the 4-H bus!

Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/9PfWKq6pEUon33C77>





Mini Horses

We had a very successful fair year and are looking forward to adding more minis to our classes! Please reach out to people you know and invite them to join our page and to reach out with questions! jsheppard@shps.org or send a message 269-569-1705. We will start county meetings after Holiday breaks. Volunteers to host meetings are welcome!

Mini Facts

Miniature horses might be small, but they're pretty tough! They need pasture time to run and play and get their energy out.

Because of their smaller size, miniature horses have much different daily nutrition requirements compared to their full-sized horse counterparts—so don't just feed him the same amount as you do your other horses! Remember that their smaller size means a smaller digestive system.

According to the *Michigan 4-H Miniature Horse Committee*, mini horses should eat about 1% of their body weight in good quality hay or forage each day; which for minis means about 2 to 4 pounds daily. Check body weight daily: you should be able to feel his/her ribs easily without seeing them; and your mini should have a straight back. If he/she is over- or underweight, you may have to adjust your feeding schedule, type, or amount.

What does this mean for winter care? According to FranklinVets:

"Our Minis develop lovely fluffy insulating coats that give them great protection from the cold winter weather. However, this can also hide what is going on underneath. So, we recommend a weekly cuddle to feel your horse's body condition – this may be lighter or heavier than expected."

A Wind break should be provided for them, keep them dry if possible, when slightly above freezing rain occurs. Feed a bit extra forage to help them stay warm with food energy. Make sure they drink plenty of water!

Photos: Part of the mini group having social time



Jack G. Senior-final show with Tuffy.





Ready to Join?

Scan the QR code below to view the 4-H Future Squad Website and Interest Form



For program support, questions, or assistance with registration, please contact Laurie Rivetto at rivettoL@msu.edu

Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or veteran status. Issued in furtherance of MSU Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Quentin Tyler, Director, MSU Extension, East Lansing, MI 48824. This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned.

4-H Future Squad

A Virtual 4-H Club to Grow YOUR Future

Youth aged 12-19 are invited to join 4-H Future Squad, designed for youth to build skills, confidence, and connections for a successful future.

The club will meet virtually October 2025 – May 2026.

Topics for education include financial literacy, college and career readiness, stress management, building healthy relationships, studying abroad, goal setting, nutrition, and much more... based on the topics you share that will help you be beyond ready for your future!

Current meeting dates and times will be communicated via e-mail and on the Upcoming Programs webpage.

Why Join 4-H Future Squad?

- **Adulthood is a big job — we'll help you get ready!**
Learn essential skills alongside new friends and mentors who can guide you toward your goals.
- **Gain access to all 4-H benefits and statewide events**
A variety of events will be shared with the group often, and youth are encouraged to participate!
- **Attend as you can!**
Join 4-H Future Squad as your primary or secondary club – attend as many sessions as you wish.



Beyond Ready





STATES' 4-H INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

2026 OUTBOUND PROGRAMS

COSTA RICA • JAPAN • TAIWAN • SOUTH KOREA • ARGENTINA



OUR MISSION: Enhancing world understanding and global citizenship through high-quality 4-H international cultural immersion and exchange programs for 4-H aged youth.

Program Details:

States' 4-H Summer Outbound programs provide American 4-H youth with the opportunity to travel to foreign countries for a cultural immersion experience. Delegates live with volunteer host families and engage in experiential learning about a new way of life. Delegates experience aspects of daily life that allow them to more deeply understand both their host culture and their own culture. Our network of like-minded international partners recruits host families and plans enrichment activities.

2026 PROGRAM DATES *

Costa Rica: June 26-July 23

Japan 8-Week: June 11-August 6

Japan 4-Week: July 9-August 6

Taiwan: July 9-August 6

South Korea: July 16-August 13

Argentina: July 12-August 2

*All dates are approximate; final dates will be announced when applications open in the fall.

4-H YOUTH ELIGIBILITY

- ➡ 12-18 years old for Japan 4-Week & Taiwan
- ➡ 12-18 years old for South Korea
- ➡ 15-18 years old for Costa Rica, Argentina, and Japan 8-Week

Applicant must not be in college

APPLICATION DEADLINE

- Contact your State Coordinator and/or reach out to States' 4-H to learn more
- Applications open in Fall 2025

www.states4hexchange.com
exchange@states4h.org • (206) 462-2200



We are excited to share that we have a new look for our project guidelines!

Finding the guidelines on a mobile device has some extra steps.

Below are some screenshots and directions:

1 – Search MSU Extension Kalamazoo County

2 – Click on website <https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/index>

3 – Click on Kalamazoo County 4-H

https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/index

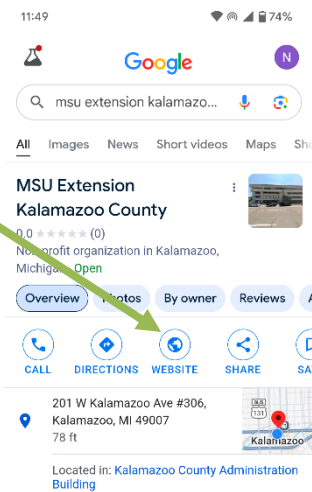
4 – Click on menu at the bottom of your screen which will bring up the next screen

5 – Click on project guidelines

6 – Search for the project that you are looking for. Each set of guidelines is labeled to match the fair book.

For example, the member record book in the fair book is under Department 82. Educational projects.

1 & 2



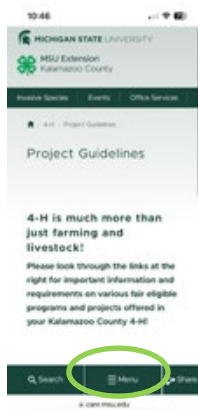
3 & 4



5



6



We are still working on updating some of the guidelines. If they don't have a green border at the top with a list of the project objectives and life skills, they will be updated soon!



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

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.