



# 4-H Family News

Oct 2024

Kalamazoo County



## Welcome to the 2024-2025 4-H programming year!

Starting September 15th, 2024, 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, 2025 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](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, 2025
- Re-enrollment is due no later than November 30, 2024.

## CONTACT US

**Veronica Bolhuis**  
4-H Program Coordinator  
(269) 383-8867  
[bolhuisv@msu.edu](mailto:bolhuisv@msu.edu)

201 W. Kalamazoo Ave.  
Suite 306  
Kalamazoo, MI. 49007

## County Office Phone & Email-

269-383-8830  
[msue.kalamazoo@campusad.msu.edu](mailto:msue.kalamazoo@campusad.msu.edu)

## WEBSITE-

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

### Facebook Page

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

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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:

- Nov 13 - 6:30 PM
- 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](mailto: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://yqcaprogram.org/local/resources_for_youth_parents.php)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZHW2qtMIOc>



## Poultry Project News

The last poultry project meeting for 2024 is scheduled for **Thursday, Nov. 21st at 7pm in the Expo Center room B.**



The topic for the meeting hasn't been set in stone yet but it might involve a craft lesson as the holiday season is approaching and handmade gifts are HOT!

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 starting at the beginning of 2025.



Also -  
The Ohio National, the country's biggest and best poultry show is

**November 8-10 in Columbus Ohio**

that starts with check-in and sales on Friday Nov 8, judging on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> and Champions judging on Sunday morning Nov 10th!

An event well worth the trip.

Check it out! <http://www.ohionational.org/>

Hope to see you there!





**Registration is now open** for the first fun day just for our youngest 4-H members, our Cloverbuds. The Fun Day is **on November 16th from 10am -3pm**. More date are to be announced.

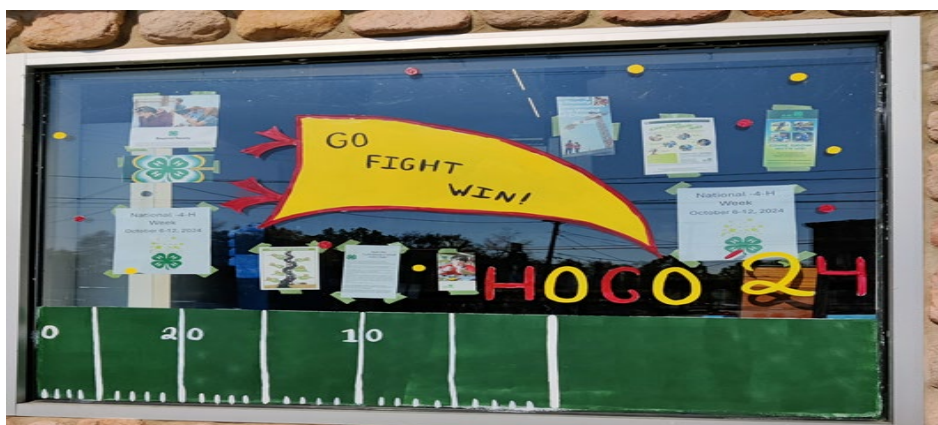
We are currently looking for gold level and/or teens to help with activities throughout the day. If you are available all or part of the day, please reach out to Veronica at [bolhuisv@msu.edu](mailto:bolhuisv@msu.edu). Veronica will be at the Fun Day all day and will need a minimum of 2 *gold level* volunteers throughout the day to help.

Register your Cloverbuds HERE> <https://forms.gle/fLRUjovYiQbQUdLq7>





Special thanks to Galesburg Hardware and Wrifton Graham for allowing Galesburg United 4-H club to help decorate their businesses' windows!



It was also homecoming week for Galesburg-Augusta Community schools, so we shared a window at the Hardware store!



## Mini Horse Project

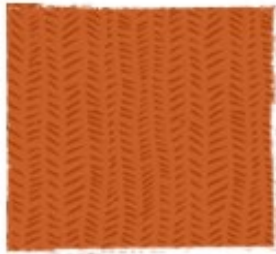


The Kalamazoo County Miniature Horse Project was a resounding success for its first year. Congratulations to all that participated. We look forward to adding in even more minis this coming year and have added in gymkhana in hand classes for the 2025 fair year! We are thankful to all of our volunteers that made this possible and to the great audience that we had.

Please follow the link below to join our Facebook page Kalamazoo County 4H Miniature Horses for updates and news found in the project guidelines.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo/uploads/2024%20Mini%20Horse%20Project%20-%20final.pdf>





SATURDAY,  
NOV. 23rd,  
2024  
2pm - 4pm



## 4-H Holiday Ornament Party

Join the Kalamazoo ARTisans  
in our studio at the Park Trades Center  
to paint a personal handmade holiday ornament OR two  
Make a great "thank you" gift, gift tag or holiday memory  
\$5 each ornament-all materials and instruction included  
Make it a party with your 4-H friends, club or family  
after the holiday parade  
email [stasevichjackie@gmail.com](mailto:stasevichjackie@gmail.com) to register



## Richland Club

The Richland club is sewing!

We will be making these cute pin cushions at the Richland Presbyterian Church on **November 10th at 3:00**.

The activity will last approximately one and a half hours.

The cost is \$7 for the needed supplies. If you would like to join us for this and other sewing projects, send an email to :

[myrichland4h@gmail.com](mailto:myrichland4h@gmail.com)







# 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](mailto: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 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 29<sup>th</sup> – December 15<sup>th</sup>

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 29<sup>th</sup> to December 15<sup>th</sup>, 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.





## Michigan Fair and Exhibition Industry Offers Scholarships Due Nov 2



Community volunteers and youth have always been the backbone of Michigan fairs and festivals. In addition to youth involved with fairs, there are a number of partners such as carnivals, concessionaires and entertainers that support the Michigan fair industry. Beyond the annual fair event, there are insurance providers, equipment providers and a multitude of companies that provide support to fairs, festivals and exhibitions throughout the state. The Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions (MAFE) is a member organization of these fairs, festivals and industry partners founded in 1885.

MAFE is excited to announce that **scholarships for youth involved with a MAFE member fair, festival or associate will be offered this year and presented at the annual convention banquet on Saturday, January 11, 2025, at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids.**

Up to six \$1000 scholarships will be awarded based on an **application due November 2.** The MAFE scholarships are a coveted award with over 100 applicants annually. Applications are available on the MAFE website. <https://form.jotform.com/240988554571065>. The applications are reviewed by a committee of industry volunteers with winners notified in December.

“Supporting the next generation of fair leaders through scholarships and post-secondary education is vital to our industry’s sustainability,” shared John Schut, MAFE Executive Director. “In addition to leadership and growth opportunities at the annual convention, Michigan youth are also able to network with leaders in the fair and exhibition industry.” MAFE was established in 1885 and is a voice for the Michigan fair and festival industry. MAFE member fairs and festivals serve all 83 Michigan counties.

Michigan agricultural fairs are an economic and social asset to their communities and the state. They are the ultimate showcases of Michigan agriculture. With a normal attendance of nearly 4.5 million attendees, which is roughly half the population of the state, people of all ages come to enjoy the fun, food, and entertainment they provide of the state, people of all ages come to enjoy the fun, food, and entertainment they provide.

**For more information please contact the Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions office at 517-317-4544 or [mifairs@gmail.com](mailto:mifairs@gmail.com).**



## 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

## Support 4-H with the TSC Paper Clover Campaign



To embrace the holiday spirit, the Tractor Supply Company (TSC) Paper Clover campaign has moved from its traditional October dates to November and December this year! Now from Nov. 29 – Dec. 15, 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](http://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](http://www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/cms/4h).

New for 2024, 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.



### November 6: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series - Ways Volunteers Can Spark Big Dreams and Future Careers

*Online*

November is National Career Development Month! Learn easy activities to help youth explore career pathways and develop skills to be ready for the workforce. Explore tools and resources that allow youth to reflect and prepare for the next steps in their career journey. This session will be offered twice for the convenience of volunteers.

**12 – 1 p.m. session:** [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-ways-volunteers-can-spark-big-dreams-and-future-careers](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-ways-volunteers-can-spark-big-dreams-and-future-careers)

**7 – 8 p.m. session:** [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-ways-volunteers-can-spark-big-dreams-and-future-careers7pm](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-ways-volunteers-can-spark-big-dreams-and-future-careers7pm)

### November 12: Wild Spartan Series – Behind the Scenes in the Life of a Park Ranger

*Online*

This month's 4-H Wild Spartans will fly into the refuges that many migrating birds depend on for migration. Join us at 6:30 p.m. to meet Andrea Martinson, park ranger for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge. Learn about her work, and the education and career path she followed to get there. Youth will be encouraged to ask questions to learn more through a live Q&A. This free virtual series is open to 4-H and non-4-H youth ages 12-19 years.

[events.anr.msu.edu/wildspartans2024\\_25/](http://events.anr.msu.edu/wildspartans2024_25/)

### November 19: Adulthood 101 - Cracking the Code to College

*Online*

The Michigan 4-H Adulthood 101 series helps young people prepare for college or life on their own. In this session, explore the admission and application process and get tips on writing your essay.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/college](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/college)

### November 21: Michigan 4-H Volunteer Webinar Series - Positive Youth Development 101; Building Strong Relationships Through Every Stage

*Online*

Understanding the development of youth is crucial for building strong, positive relationships. In this webinar, we will explore the key stages of child and youth development and the common characteristics that young people share as they grow. Learn how to support and engage with youth effectively, recognizing that each young person develops at their own pace. Equip yourself with the knowledge and tools to foster meaningful connections with youth at every stage of their growth.

**12 – 1 p.m. session:** [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-positive-youth-development-101-building-strong-relationships-through-every-stage](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-positive-youth-development-101-building-strong-relationships-through-every-stage)

**7 – 8 p.m. session:** [www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-positive-youth-development-101-building-strong-relationships-through-every-stage7pm](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-series-positive-youth-development-101-building-strong-relationships-through-every-stage7pm)





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## Starting the 4-H season off right: Suggestions for the year's first meeting

Adapted from an article by Michelle Neff at [www.canr.msu.edu/news/starting-the-4-h-season-off-right-suggestions-for-the-years-first-meeting](http://www.canr.msu.edu/news/starting-the-4-h-season-off-right-suggestions-for-the-years-first-meeting).

A new 4-H year has started and that means it is time to start thinking about the goals and plans for educational, inspirational and recreational activities for Michigan 4-H clubs! No matter what project youth are participating in, it is important to start the year off right!



MSU Extension has resources for volunteers to help lead and manage their 4-H club on the 4-H Club Development website, [www.canr.msu.edu/4hclub/index](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4hclub/index). A good start to the 4-H year will allow youth members, club leaders and parents to be clear about expectations and plans for the group and be excited for what will take place. Some tips to get you started include:

- Get to know youth and adults and share about 4-H! Clubs transition from year to year. There may be members new to 4-H, youth trying new project areas, and members who have left or transitioned to different activities. Make sure everyone knows each other with a fun icebreaker activity.
- Prepare a list of activities for the year. The 4-H year goes fast and there is a lot to do in a short period of time. Preparing a list of club activities for meetings is important to ensure youth are learning the life and technical skills of their 4-H project.
- Create a calendar. Once you have your activities picked out, it's time to plan when and where it will all happen!

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

On October 9, MSU Extension hosted the second 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 were so excited to bring this event back in 2024," said Deanna East, MSU Extension associate director who served as the event emcee. "Michigan 4-H is certainly worth celebrating every day of the year and we are grateful for the opportunity to highlight this impactful program to our state's leaders."

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 featured East as well as: legislative host Representative Reggie Miller; MSU President Kevin Guskiewicz; Emma Young, policy analyst for Governor Whitmer and a Michigan 4-H alumna; Everett Howell, Michigan 4-H youth from Leelanau County; and Brianna Sierra, Michigan 4-H youth from Genesee County.



Mich. 4-H youth with Rep. Miller (fourth from left).

"The Michigan 4-H program serves an incredible number of youth each year but we hope to reach even more young people in the years ahead" continued East. "Elevating awareness of the program is one of our primary goals for Michigan 4-H Day at the Capitol and we believe this event will help connect more youth with our program and all that Michigan 4-H has to offer."

The program was livestreamed on the Michigan 4-H Facebook and can be viewed at [www.facebook.com/Michigan4H](http://www.facebook.com/Michigan4H).