



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2024

4-H Family News

St. Joseph County



Happy Fall!

THANK YOU to all the volunteers, parents, donors, buyers, and others who helped make fair week possible and fun for everyone involved!

A major kudos goes out to the youth who helped each other all week long, and a huge **congratulations** to you on a successful fair! It was evident that sportsmanship was countywide, and I couldn't be more proud of the exceptional young people you are.

A special congratulations to Kevin Yeager and Rick Gould! They were chosen by Michigan Farm Bureau for the 4-H Excellence in Agriculture Award, which recognized them for exhibiting excellence in 4-H youth education and leadership in agriculture-related areas. Thank you both, so much, for the many years of dedication you have provided to the 4-H youth of St. Joseph County!

This newsletter has a lot of important information, so be sure to read through it carefully. Enrollments are now open, so don't forget to sign up for 2025!

Sincerely,

Kayla Mitchell, 4-H Program Coordinator

New for 2025!

Welcome to FairEntry! We will be saying goodbye to paper forms for final fair sign-ups and saying hello to an online platform called FairEntry. Original enrollment will still be done through 4-H Online, but fair project sign-ups in July and August will be done completely online this year.

Leader Update Meeting

The 2025 *mandatory* Leader Update Meeting will include training and Q&A on the new FairEntry system that will be utilized for 2025 final fair sign-ups. Dates are to be determined. There will be two options, one in May and one in June, so the information is fresh when it is needed. The meetings will be held at the St. Joseph County Intermediate School District (ISD). All imperative updates following post-fair meetings and any changes will be communicated via email. Keep your eye out for more updates on the 2024-2025 4-H program year!

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS

2024 4-H LEADER/DONOR RECOGNITION BANQUET

The St. Joseph County 4-H Youth Council is pleased to invite you to attend the annual 4-H Leader/ Donor Recognition Banquet scheduled for Thursday, November 7, 2024, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Centreville Elementary School, 190 E. Hogan St. Centreville, Michigan.

A complimentary meal will be provided for each individual at your mailing address who served as a volunteer leader, provided financial/in-kind support and/or purchased 4-H market livestock during 2024. Additional guests are welcome to join you at the banquet at a cost of \$17.00/person.

We must receive your banquet reservation form by the October 24 deadline for meal planning purposes!

2024-2025 4-H ENROLLMENT

Enrollment for the 2023-2024 program year is now open! To re-enroll or enroll a new member, go to <https://v2.4honline.com/>. All returning members must be re-enrolled by December 1, 2024. New members have until May 1, 2025, to enroll. However, if a project they are interested in has already started, they will have to wait until the next program year to participate in that particular project.

If you or someone you know would like to become a 4-H volunteer, please visit https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/volunteer_home to create a profile and submit an application.

4-H MEMORIAL PARK BRICKS

Have you ever been to the 4-H office at the fairgrounds? If so, you most likely went through the 4-H Memorial Park to get there. Engraved bricks that have been purchased to recognized someone, thing, or event have been installed at the main walkway to the office. You can donate a brick as well by completing the included form or by going to the following website [https://www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/uploads/files/Donate-A-BrickDonationForm\(fillable\).pdf](https://www.canr.msu.edu/st_joseph/uploads/files/Donate-A-BrickDonationForm(fillable).pdf) and returning it with the donation amount to the MSU Extension office.

TROPHY, AWARD & PROJECT PICKUP



There are several exhibitors who have items left to pick up at the MSU Extension office (612 E. Main St., Centreville). Please do so as soon as possible.

If you received a banner, trophy, or cup as an award at the fair, you must write a thank-you to receive it. If you are unsure whether or not a thank-you is necessary or who to write it to, please call us at 269-467-5511.

Note: Any exhibits not picked up will either be disposed of or given to a charitable organization as deemed appropriate.

Awards/Trophies to pick up:

Isaiah Byler	Reece Miller
Branson Hernandez	Nickalas Overweg
Evelyn Higgsbotham	Lila Schinker
Aaron Hinds	Grady Smith
Raelynn Jennett	Cami Wenzel
Addison Mercer	

Projects and/or ribbons to pick up:

Abigail Barela
 Emmett Carpenter
 Jacob Gardiner
 Ashton Gettys
 Emma Keith
 Hope Lafontaine
 Lucy Zonyk
 An unidentified silver lab poster



Donation Form

Brick No(s) _____



4-H Donate-A-Brick Program

(brick(s) will be placed in 4-H Memorial Park in time for the upcoming Fair if received by May 31)

Mail or deliver completed donation form and a check made payable to St. Joseph County 4-H Youth Council to the MSU Extension office by May 31 in order for bricks to be in place by the upcoming Fair. The MSU Extension Office mailing address is as follows: 4-H Donate-A-Brick Program, c/o MSU Extension, 612 E. Main St., Centreville, MI 49032 (Form may be reproduced for additional donation/brick orders.)

Donor Name _____ Donor name as you would like it to appear for publicity purposes.

Contact Person/Title _____ Please complete if business/organization.

Complete Address _____ Street/P.O. Box No. City State Zip Code

Home Phone No. (____)_____ Work Phone No. (____)_____

Instructions: Please check the 4-H Youth Program monetary contribution you would like to make, then complete the brick engraving information needed. (Personalization ideas include "In Memory of", "In Honor of", "Dedicated to", etc.)

_____ \$50 Donation: Donor receives a 4 in. x 8 in. brick engraved with two (2) lines of text (maximum of 13 characters per line including spaces and punctuation).

Grid for engraving text on a \$50 brick (2 lines x 13 columns)

_____ \$100 Donation: Donor receives an 8 in. x 8 in. brick with four (4) lines of text (maximum of 13 characters per line including spaces and punctuation).

Grid for engraving text on a \$100 brick (4 lines x 13 columns)

+ _____ Write in additional cost of \$2.00/brick if 14 or 15 characters are needed for one or more lines of text (versus the standard 13). Record extra characters at end of appropriate line(s).

+ _____ Write in additional cost of \$5.00/brick if an additional line of text is needed for one or more bricks. Record text for additional line below appropriate fill-in grid. Limit of one extra line per brick.

= _____ Write in total amount of contribution, including any extra engraving costs if applicable.

Important Note: Your contribution to the 4-H Donate-A-Brick Program is tax deductible if you itemize your deductions on your federal income tax form. Your cancelled check will serve as documentation of your donation. (Receipts are available upon request.)

Office Use: Receipt No. _____ Date Received ____/____/____ Check No. _____ Amt. \$_____



COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Poultry Post-Fair Meeting.....	10.29.2024
Youth Council Meeting.....	11.04.2024
4-H Leader/Donor Recognition Banquet.....	11.07.2024
Fair Board Meeting.....	11.07.2024
Youth Council Self-Nomination Forms Due.....	11.08.2024
Annual Fair Association Meeting.....	11.11.2024
Veterans Day (Office Closed).....	11.11.2024
Horse Council Meeting.....	11.12.2024
Goat Post-Fair Meeting.....	11.13.2024
Still Project Post-Fair Meeting.....	11.19.2024
Dairy Cattle Post-Fair Meeting.....	11.20.2024
Thanksgiving Break (Office Closed).....	11.28-29.2024
Youth Council Meeting.....	12.02.2024
Annual Fair Board Meeting.....	12.02.2024
Horse Council Meeting.....	12.03.2024
Beef Post-Fair Meeting.....	12.05.2024
Livestock Association Meeting.....	12.10.2024
Youth Council Election Ballots Due.....	12.13.2024
Christmas Break (Office Closed).....	12.23.2024 - 1.2.2025
Youth Council Meeting.....	1.06.2025
Horse Council Meeting.....	1.07.2025
Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Office Closed).....	1.20.2025

TEEN HELPERS NEEDED FOR LEADER/DONOR BANQUET

Date: Thursday, November 7, 2024

Arrival Time: 5:00 PM

Where: Centreville Elementary School Gymnasium - 190 Hogan St., Centreville, MI 49032

Response Deadline: Friday, November 1, 2024

What: Please consider helping with the annual 4-H Recognition Banquet! This special event honors 4-H leaders and donors for their contributions to the 4-H Youth Program during the past year.

We need twelve (12) 4-H teen helpers between the ages of 12-19 to work in teams of two to assist with serving and refilling beverages, serving food, and bussing tables.

This is a great opportunity to show your appreciation to 4-H leaders and donors for their help and support! It's also a super "community service" activity to report in your 2024-2025 4-H Teen Leadership Project Report!





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 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.

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

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

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/

November 19: Adulting 101 - Cracking the Code to College

Online

The Michigan 4-H Adulting 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

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

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





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Wild Spartans series is back!

The ever popular 4-H Wild Spartans series is back for a new season! Join 4-H staff as they meet scientists from across MSU Extension, the MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and more!

Follow along as we climb through bogs, peer into bear dens, mist net songbirds, snorkel for fish, or perhaps even tag deer. Meet researchers, learn about their field work, and the education and career path they've followed to get there. Sessions last approximately 30 minutes and will feature 1-2 guest researchers. Following presentations, youth will be encouraged to ask questions to learn more through a live Q&A with scientists.

Suggested audience age is 12-19 years. Viewers are encouraged to watch together with their families. This free series is open to both 4-H members and non-4-H members. Monthly sessions will be held on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. ET, October through March.



For more information and registration, visit www.canr.msu.edu/environmental_outdoor_education/wild-spartans-series.



Join the 4-H Future Squad!

Figuring all this "adulting" out can be hard! If you are a 12-19 year-old youth in Michigan, join 4-H Future Squad in learning more about important life skills for YOUR future.

4-H Future Squad was inspired by Generation Z youth seeking life skill development for a better future for themselves and their peers. This will be the fourth year of the program, which is designed to help youth feel prepared and ready to take on the future and adulthood.

The club will meet twice a month October 2024 through May 2025, virtually through Zoom. 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 for the 2024-2025 year will take place on a variety of days of the week. Current meeting dates and times will be communicated via e-mail and on the upcoming programs webpage.

"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

This club can be your primary or secondary club. For more information and to get registered, visit: www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-future-squad/.



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.

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. 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.