



4-H Family News

Oakland County



Oakland County Fair



Stop by the Oakland County 4-H booth in the **Daily Events Pavilion** during the Oakland County Fair, **July 10-19, 2026!**

Visit with Oakland County 4-H staff, learn more about local 4-H opportunities, and enjoy a variety of hands-on activities for youth and families throughout the fair.

For decades, families have gathered at the Oakland County Fair to celebrate agriculture, community, friendly competition, and summer fun. As we continue celebrating America's 250th anniversary, we're reminded that fairs have long been places where communities come together to learn, connect, and create lasting memories.

For a full list of daily activities and events, visit the Oakland County Fair schedule at <https://www.oakfair.org/>.

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Equine Evening

Calling all horse lovers! Join us for a **FREE community event** made possible by the Oakland County Farm Bureau. This family-friendly evening is perfect for all ages to learn about horses, meet our equine friends, and enjoy hands-on activities.

Event Details:

Hess-Hathaway Park (Pavilion 1)

July 17 | 5:00–7:00 p.m.

Closed-toed shoes required

Come spend a fun evening outdoors with horses and community learning.

OAKLAND COUNTY FARM BUREAU

EQUINE EVENING

At Hess-Hathaway Park
825 S Williams Lake Rd.

**FRIDAY
JULY
17
2026
5PM-7PM**

JOIN US FOR A FREE FAMILY-FRIENDLY NIGHT AT THE FARM FEATURING FREE PONY RIDES, HAYRIDES, CRAFTS, GAMES, EDUCATIONAL TALKS, AND HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES WITH OUR HORSES.

**FREE! NO PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED!
WEATHER PERMITTING.**

Waterford Parks & Recreation
LITTLE COUNTRY CLUB
4-H GROWS HERE

Field Trip for Whitman Elementary!

Students from Whitman Elementary School in Pontiac spent the day at Independence Oaks County Park to learn about nature, local wildlife, and experience the great outdoors away from the city.

Their adventure started in the nature center with an educational wildlife program provided by Oakland County staff. They learned about and had the opportunity to touch an owl feather, fox fur, and a live snake! Afterwards, they went for a hike to the lake, while learning about the local plants and spotting wildlife in the park.

They even found a salamander under a log! Students were thrilled with the learning experience and expressed their surprise that learning and being outside can be fun and exciting! Thank you to **Oakland County Parks** for providing bus transportation and an amazing educational experience for all!

Favorite Quote: "I'm a nature kid now!" "We've gotta come back here and go camping!"



4-H Trail Riding Recognition Program

NEW STATEWIDE 4-H TRAIL RIDING RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Michigan 4-H is launching a new Statewide 4-H Trail Riding Recognition Program to celebrate youth who participate in trail riding as part of their 4-H horse project.

Trail riding helps youth build:

- Rider Safety
- Horse and Rider Bond
- Rider Confidence

Now those miles earn statewide recognition!

Open to all enrolled Michigan 4-H horse project members

Top 5 Junior & Top 5 Senior riders recognized at the Michigan 4-H State Horse Show

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension

We're excited to launch the **Michigan Statewide 4-H Trail Riding Recognition Program**. If you're enrolled in a Michigan 4-H horse project, you can participate by logging your trail rides completed between August 1 and July 31.

Whether you enjoy quiet wooded paths or group trail adventures, every mile counts. The top five Junior and top five Senior riders will be recognized at the Michigan 4-H State Horse Show.

https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bOyn5zWORDtTsyfY

Questions? Contact Jordan at hewittj8@msu.edu or David at lindsa75@msu.edu.

Attention Oakland County Fair Youth Exhibitors!

The Oakland County Farm Bureau is offering an opportunity to assist with marketing and promoting your fair project in order to broaden the reach of youth buyer letters and raise awareness of the livestock auctions in our community.

Youth exhibitors are invited to share their buyer letters with Oakland County Farm Bureau. As letters are received, they will be added to a common folder that Farm Bureau agents and members can utilize to share with local businesses, community members, and potential supporters throughout Oakland County.

To participate, please submit your buyer letters (in PDF format only) to:
oaklandcounty@ctyfb.com



**** Submit as soon as possible to maximize outreach opportunities prior to the fair!**

Also, check out this link for some helpful info: [4-H Animal Project Marketing Resources](#)
[Information about the auction and to view other youth's buyer letters](#)

Discover 4-H

FREE Family Fun Event!

August 29, 2026, 1 – 4 PM

Normandy Oaks Park – 4234 Delemere Blvd. Royal Oak, MI 48073

Join us for a day of games, hands-on activities, and educational fun for the whole family! Hosted by MSU Extension, 4-H, and local partners, this event is a great way to explore what 4-H has to offer youth and families in your community.

We are looking for vendors and volunteers for this event!
 Please contact Cheyenne if interested, shield69@msu.edu.

DISCOVER 4-H 2026
 Saturday, August 29, 2026
 1 - 4 PM
 Normandy Oaks Park
 4234 Delemere Blvd
 Royal Oak, MI 48073

★ Live animal presentations
 ★ Educational, interactive games, crafts, and activities for the whole family
 ★ Learn about 4-H club opportunities available for youth

All provided by local organizations and 4-H clubs! Concessions will be available for purchase.
 Contact: Cheyenne Shields, shield69@msu.edu

Sponsored by: Oakland County Parks & Royal Oak Parks and Recreation

4-H State Shooting Sports Tournament

Calling all 4-H Shooting Sports youth! Ready to take your skills to the state level? This annual event provides Michigan 4-H shooting sports members with the opportunity to test their skills and earn recognition with other 4-H members from all over the state. Registration closes July 19, 2026.

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_state_shooting_sports.../...](https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_state_shooting_sports.../)

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension Beyond Ready

2026 4-H State Shooting Sports Tournament

Registration is open!

Join youth from across Michigan on August 15 at Centerline of Calhoun—but don't wait, registration closes July 19. Find the registration link (and full details) in the comments below

4-H Pontiac Youth Programs

FREE



Build a Bouquet Workshop

Date: August 24th, 3:30-4:30 pm

Location: The Farm at Trinity Health (Pontiac)

Ages: 8-17 years old



Come walk through the flowers and harvest and build a bouquet with flowers grown by The Farm at Trinity Health! We'll have many different styles of flowers and greenery for you to choose from. Learn how harvest and then turn that handful of flowers into a work of art! Build one for yourself or someone you care about!



Move, Dream, Express! – (Dance Class series)

Dates: 4-day series – July 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 6-7 pm

Location: All Saints Church, Pontiac

Ages: 5-17 years old



Join us for a four-day dance and movement experience inspired by the principles of Identify Your Dream (IDYD). Participants will explore how movement can help us express our thoughts, emotions, and dreams while building confidence, creativity, and self-awareness. Through dance, games, reflection, and teamwork, youth will learn how their bodies communicate, how to express emotions in healthy ways, and how movement supports overall wellness. The program will conclude with a celebratory showcase where participants share what they have learned with family and friends.



Brainstorm & Build: The Ultimate Kids Graphic Novel Workshop

Dates: Thursdays, July 9th, 16th, and 23rd – 6-7 pm

Location: All Saints Church, Pontiac

Ages: 9-12 years old



What happens when you mix a thrilling book club with a DIY comic book studio? You get Brainstorm & Build! Designed specifically for creative tweens, this workshop guides you from fan to published creator. During this workshop, we will dive into The Brainstorm Club and the Mystery of Locker 13, tracking hidden clues and celebrating how different brains work together to solve problems. Then, you will become the creator! We will use our own "fast ideas" and "picture-thinking" to write, map out, and create an original graphic novel. At our final session, you will showcase your finished book to share with friends, family, and fellow authors!

JOIN NOW!

OAKLAND
COUNTY PARKS

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension



Register by selecting, "SPIN Club Pontiac Youth Programs" Club in 4-H Online. Project: Expressive Arts. <https://v2.4honline.com>

Contact: Lisa Mazzola at mazzola@msu.edu



STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Preparing youth to
be Beyond Ready
through the fair
experience*



Beyond Ready

The fair experience is more than a showcase; it's a powerful opportunity to prepare youth to be Beyond Ready for life. Through exhibiting their projects, interacting with judges and engaging with the public, young people practice real-world skills such as communication, responsibility, problem-solving and professionalism.

When volunteers create intentional learning moments, like encouraging youth to reflect on project growth, prepare for interviews or take leadership roles in their clubs, youth deepen their understanding and strengthen skills that extend far beyond the fairgrounds. Every fair interaction becomes a stepping stone toward future readiness.

Is your club helping youth make those connections and see how fair experiences prepare them for what comes next?

#BeyondReady

July 13-15: Michigan 4-H Dairy Days

Farm Bureau Pavilion, Lansing

Join 4-H members from around Michigan July 13-15 at the Farm Bureau Pavilion for Michigan 4-H Youth Dairy Days! Dairy Days is part of Michigan Dairy Expo, a celebration of dairy farmers and dairy cattle in the Great Lakes State.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-michigan-4-h-youth-dairy-days

July 16: Water Day

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Come cool off from the summer heat and have fun in the garden with water. Play water games, do water art and explore all things fun about water. Come ready to get wet!

www.canr.msu.edu/events/water-day

July 20-21: Saginaw Bay Fish Camp

Haithco Park, Saginaw

This two-day camp will teach youth to fish and protect our Great Lakes. All campers receive a fishing rod with a reel, tackle box, t-shirt and snacks. Learn about knot-tying, tackle crafting, casting, aquatic ecology, angler ethics and more! Open to 4-H members ages 8-13. Registration deadline is July 10.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/2026-saginaw-bay-4-h-fish-camp

July 23: Bug Day at the Children's Gardens

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Join for a tribute to insects in the gardens. Collect, observe and even make bugs! The MSU Bug House will also be on site with their collections of insects from all over the world.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/bug-day

July 27: 4-H Garden Adventures Summer Camp

The Botanic Garden at Historic Barns Park, Traverse City

Youth ages 7-12- are invited to join this camp for fun adventures in nature, nurturing resilience, kindness, community and creativity as they explore sustainability and growth through an engaging, hands-on approach.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-garden-adventures-summer-camp-2026

July 30: Bubble Day at the Children's Gardens

Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens, East Lansing

Come celebrate summer vacation at the garden with bubbles! Youth will paint, eat and even make music with bubbles.

www.canr.msu.edu/events/bubble-day





STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Join the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase!

MSU Extension is thrilled to partner again in 2026 with the [Michigan State Fair](#) on an exciting program for Michigan youth: the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase. This statewide showcase provides a virtual platform for youth across Michigan to exhibit their work in all project areas and apply for up to \$1,000 in scholarships. Any Michigan youth ages 5-19 is encouraged to participate; 4-H membership is not required.

There is no cost to participate and youth may engage in as many classes as they wish by [submitting project photos and videos](#). **Be sure to submit your entries by the registration deadline of August 7 at 5 p.m.** Project evaluation will occur before the start of the Michigan State Fair so that winners can be announced at the event. Learn more, find helpful resources and registration links at www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/.



2026 MSF 4-H & Youth Showcase Business Pitch Contest

Got a business idea? Whether your business is already running, just getting started or still an idea, we want to hear your pitch! Enter the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase and share your entrepreneurial skills in a two-minute video!

Entries will be judged on creativity, communication, understanding of the target audience, and overall presentation skills. Winners in each age division will receive gift card prizes (\$75, \$50, \$25) sponsored by Michigan State University Federal Credit Union and be recognized through Michigan 4-H communications and social media. For more information, visit Department 73 of the fair book at www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/.

2026 MSF 4-H & Youth Showcase Michigan 4-H License Plate Promotion Contest

Michigan youth ages 8–19 are invited to enter the Michigan 4-H License Plate Promotion Contest as part of the Michigan State Fair 4-H & Youth Virtual Showcase! Create a short video and/or design a poster, flyer or graphic that encourages others to purchase the Michigan 4-H license plate and you could win. Prizes will be awarded and winners will be featured on Michigan 4-H social media channels. Put your creativity to work and help spread the word about 4-H across Michigan! For more information, visit Department 73 of the fair book at: www.canr.msu.edu/virtual-showcase/State-Fair-Virtual-Showcase/.

New scholarships for Michigan 4-H'ers!

The Michigan 4-H Foundation is pleased to offer new scholarship opportunities to Michigan 4-H members for fall 2026. Nearly \$30,000 in post-secondary 4-H scholarships are available for the 2026–2027 academic year to high school seniors or incoming college freshmen. Youth must have participated in 4-H for three or more years.

These scholarships are made possible through generous support from 4-H alumni, retirees and friends of 4-H. Apply by September 1 at mi4hfdtn.org/scholarship.

