

*Kent County*

4-H Family News

January 2020

Ring in the New Year!

We've hit a milestone with this new year... yes a new decade is upon us! This past decade was filled with changes, but one thing that remained was 4-H! We love this program and look forward to spending many more decades with all of you as we grow and adapt to whatever the new decade brings for us.

It's also that time of year where Exploration Days registration is around the corner, project animals are being picked out, events are being finalized, and annual paperwork is officially... DONE! Thank you to all the leaders and volunteers that made the 2019 annual paperwork collection a breeze. We always try to make things simpler and want your feedback so we can make the best decisions on how to make the process run smoother. Please take this [short survey](#) if you turned in annual paperwork this year to help us improve for the future.

As always, thank you for all that everyone does for this program! If you have any questions relating to Kent County 4-H please don't hesitate to contact us at the contact information to the right!

Sincerely,

Alexis Garbo & Nana Temple

Kent County 4-H Program Coordinators

Contact Us

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4-H Program Coordinator

Alexis Garbo
4-H Program Coordinator

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kent/4-h/index](https://www.canr.msu.edu/kent/4-h/index)

Facebook Page
Kent MSU Extension 4-H
Program



[Check out the New "Living" Kent County 4-H Calendar!](#)

A new [Google Calendar](#) has been created that will house all Kent County 4-H events. The goal of this calendar is to create a clear, central location for all dates of events, meetings, and deadlines. Events open to all members will be advertised on the calendar. There will also be a monthly calendar attached to newsletters, but updates will be made on the google calendar. This is not intended to be in place of any of our current communication methods, but something that will continue to provide more information to our members and volunteers.

If your club has events going on throughout the year that you would like added to the calendar please email them to Alexis Garbo (garboale@msu.edu) and they will be added to the calendar. All changes will be made through the County Program Coordinators.

SPIN Club News

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Have an idea or special interest that you would like to turn into a SPIN club? Contact Erin Lilly (lillyeri@msu.edu) for more information on how you can host your own SPIN club!



**4-H SPIN CLUB
Winter Crafts
Call for Volunteers**

WE'RE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP US LEAD KIDS THROUGH FUN CRAFTS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. PERFECT FOR BOTH TEENS AND ADULTS. LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED.

DATES: Saturdays, 02/01 - 03/07
@ 10 am - 11 am

LOCATION: Michigan State University Extension
775 Ball NE Grand Rapids, MI 49503

**TO SIGN UP VISIT:
[HTTP://BIT.LY/WINCRAFTVOL20](http://bit.ly/wincraftvol20)**

Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested two weeks prior to the start of the event. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT MSU EXTENSION
PHONE: 616-632-7888 EMAIL: LILLYERI@MSU.EDU

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

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.

Our winter crafts SPIN Club is still open for your youth to attend. Have hands on fun making crafts for a variety of holidays coming up. These would be great projects to exhibit at fair as well and learn some skills for your other projects as well! To register youth please visit this [link](http://bit.ly/wincraftvol20):

We are also in need of volunteers to assist throughout the SPIN club with various things. To sign up to volunteer please visit this [link](http://bit.ly/wincraftvol20):



**4-H SPIN CLUB
Winter Crafts**

STAY WARM AND GET CRAFTY WITH FUN HANDS-ON PROJECTS PERFECT FOR THE WINTER SEASON INCLUDING ACTIVITIES FOR VALENTINE'S DAY, ST. PATRICK'S DAY AND MORE! LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED.

AGE: 10 and up

DATES: Saturdays, 02/01 - 03/07
@ 10 am - 11 am

LOCATION: Michigan State University Extension
775 Ball NE Grand Rapids, MI 49503

CLUB MAX: 15 Members

COST: \$5 for 4-H Members
\$25 for Non 4-H Members
*Includes 4-H Membership fee

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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

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.

SPIN CLUB:

Also known as a Special Interest club. A short club that normally takes place over the course of 6 weeks meeting for 1 hour each week. This can vary though, but the total number of hours met will be a minimum of 6 hours. Our SPIN Club coordinator is Erin Lilly. Please contact her if you have any questions about SPIN clubs.



We need your help!

Yes we need your help with the planning of our next SPIN club. We are currently in the process of planning a SPIN club specifically designed for our teen members. This club will meet for a short amount of time that is going to be determined by you... YES YOU! We are looking for insights from our teen members on how to best provide them with tools that they need. Please follow this [link](http://bit.ly/wincraftvol20) to a short survey to help us plan this club for you!

Kent County 4-H News

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Help Support your 4-H Council!

The Kent County 4-H Council is gearing up for an exciting 2020 year. They are currently in the process of brainstorming ideas for fundraisers and educational activities that will continue to help support the Kent County 4-H Members. If you have an idea for a fundraiser or an educational activity that you would like to see please contact them at Kentcounty4hcouncil@gmail.com or attend one of their meetings that take place on the third Monday of each month (excluding August and December) beginning at 5:30 at the MSU Extension office.



If you have any questions about Kent County 4-H events or opportunities please contact Nana Temple or Alexis Garbo at the MSU Extension Office (616-632-7865)

REMINDER

Please continue to turn in the \$20.00 participation fee to the MSU Extension office. Cash or checks are accepted and checks can be made out to Michigan State University. Clubs, if you are collecting participation fees and turning them into together please continue to turn those into the MSU Extension office. Please also remember to re-enroll in 4-H Online for the upcoming programming year! We want to make sure we are sending communication and necessary information to all current 2019-2020 4-H members! If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to the MSU Extension Office.

April is True Leaders in Service Month and Kent County 4-H is Celebrating

The month of April National 4-H is celebrating being a True Leader in Service around the country. Kent County 4-H will be having multiple opportunities for members and volunteers to give back to their communities during community service projects across the county. Some of these events will include volunteering at a humane society, taking part in a park clean up, and much more to come! If you have any projects or ideas for this month please share them with Alexis Garbo (garboale@msu.edu).



Kent County 4-H Discussion Evenings

We want to hear from you! We will be hosting three evenings in the month of January that are going to be an open discussion format to bring your wishes, concerns, or comments about the Kent County 4-H Program to the forefront. With the program growing and the addition of new staff we want to make sure that we are providing our members and volunteers with what they feel they need from the program. These meetings will be held in three different locations across the county to accommodate geographical locations. The first meeting will be held at the MSU Extension office on January 9 from 6:30-7:30. Another will be held at the Englehardt library in Lowell on January 22 from 6:00pm-7:00pm and a third in the northern part of the county (Dates TBD). These meetings are open to ALL Kent County 4-H Volunteers, families and members to attend.

Have you attended the state wide event Exploration Days hosted at Michigan State University in the past? If you answered yes to that question then you are just the person we are looking for! As the planning begins for the 2020 Exploration Days we are in search of help from you. Please complete this short survey to help fill us in on how we can make Exploration days even better this year! You can find the survey link [here](#).

If you have any questions about Kent County 4-H events or opportunities please contact Nana Temple or Alexis Garbo at the MSU Extension Office (616-632-7865)

Exploration Days Scheme Team

The Exploration Days Scheme Team is responsible for planning the 3-day event that takes place at the end of June at the Michigan State University campus each year. This year the team is seeking out youth that would like to be a part of the planning process. To be a Scheme Team member you must have attended 4-H Explorations days at least once, complete the [application](#), and have a recommendation from Alexis or Nana. All application materials must be submitted by January 17. There will be monthly zoom meetings that will require your attendance and you will arrive to MSU Campus Tuesday evening before the event begins on Wednesday for a meet and greet with other members. Some things that you will be a part of is designing the t-shirts given to each youth member attending, be a part of the welcome committee to adults and youth on campus, brainstorm extra activities for when there are not sessions taking place, be on the social media sub-committee, and many other things that may arise leading up to the event. If you have any questions feel free to contact Alexis Garbo at the MSU Extension Office. If you are not familiar with Zoom Alexis will be able to assist you with logging on or be available at the office during the meeting times for you to come into the office for the meeting. This is a great opportunity to be a part of planning a state wide event!



Be a part of the Michigan State Fair Youth Council 4-H Group

The Michigan State Fair Youth Council is inviting youth across the state of Michigan to join their leadership group. The focus of the group is to expand their knowledge of rural and urban agriculture and provide leadership opportunities for youth. To be a part of the council there is a short [application](#) that must be completed. The recommended age range for

youth interested in applying is 12-19. The group meets on the third Sunday of the month at 2:00 via a zoom link. If you do not have access to a computer you can call into the meetings as well or contact Alexis Garbo for other options on how you can be a part of the meetings. Each year members take a field trip to a location that the members have interest in. If you have any more questions about the council please contact the current president Allie Purves (alliepurves200@gmail.com).

MSU Extension to launch new portal for volunteers in 2020

In early 2020, MSU Extension will launch Volunteer Central, a statewide volunteer management database and screening system. Volunteers are the core of many MSU Extension programs and the most essential partners MSU Extension has. As such, the organization has made a major investment into Volunteer Central in an effort to improve processes for both staff and volunteers. In the new system, volunteers will enjoy improved features including easy-to-read dashboards and a one-stop application process, among other advantages.

A unique feature of Volunteer Central is that each volunteer will have their own unique online account and profile. Unlike 4-H Online, family profiles will not be permitted. This is necessary to protect the confidentiality of each volunteer and the integrity of data in the system. In preparation for the launch of Volunteer Central, those who currently share an email address with another 4-H volunteer should make plans to create a separate email address for each shared user. For those who may need help with this task, holiday time with family, friends and neighbors is a great opportunity to ask for assistance in this area.

Once you have created a new email address, please either:

1. Log in to 4-H Online and add the newly created email address to the volunteer with whom it should be associated; or
2. Contact your local 4-H program coordinator and share the newly created email address and the volunteer with whom the account should be associated.

The email addresses in 4-H Online and shared with 4-H program coordinators will be used to create access accounts for current volunteers in Volunteer Central. In the coming weeks, look for additional information about Volunteer Central and when current volunteers will have access to the system. In the meantime, please contact your local 4-H program coordinator with any questions or concerns.

2020 Michigan 4-H State Award Changes



Are you making plans to apply for a 2020 Michigan 4-H State Award? Take note of the exciting changes to this year's program!

- The awards program will be held on Wednesday evening of 4-H Exploration Days.
- Senior interviews will be held via Zoom during the week of June 9.
- This will open up the opportunity for all State Award delegates to attend both first and second half sessions at 4-H Exploration Days.
- Applications will be submitted with the MSU Extension events management system.

Learn more and apply at: extension.msu.edu/4HStateAwards.

2019 Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsmanship winner

Michigan 4-H congratulates Caleb Hall, of Shiawassee County, on being named the 2019 Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year!

Hall received nine nominations, and that in itself is an incredible accomplishment. Their nomination letters were accompanied by an enthusiastic letter of support from Nikki Hersch, Shiawassee County 4-H program coordinator.

The nominators shared stories of leadership, mentorship to other 4-H youth, determination and passion for his animal projects, and his bright personality. Additionally, Hall was awarded Shiawassee County's John & Joan Spindler Sportsmanship Award in 2019. Congratulations Caleb!



State 4-H CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 6: Resumes and Cover Letters Made Easy

Online webinar

Youth will learn to build a resume, even if they have limited work experience! Attendees will also receive a step-by-step guide for creating attention grabbing cover letters. Register now at:

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

January 7: 4-H State Award Program Overview Teen/Parent Training

Online webinar

This training will provide 4-H members/teens with an overview of the 4-H State Awards Program, as well as review the application and deadlines.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-state-award-program-overview-teen-parent-training-january>

January 8: Resumes and Cover Letters Made Easy

Online webinar

Youth will learn to build a resume, even if they have limited work experience! Attendees will also receive a step-by-step guide for creating attention grabbing cover letters. Register now at:

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

January 15: Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)

St. Joseph County Intermediate School District, Centreville

YQCA is an annual education and certification program focused on food safety, animal well-being and character awareness for youth ages 8 to 18.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/youth-for-the-quality-care-of-animals-yqca-st-joseph-county-01-15-20>

January 31: 4-H Horse Judging Workshop

MSU Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education, Lansing

Join this Friday evening judging workshop followed by a practice contest on Saturday morning! The workshop will feature three classes and an opportunity to give oral reasons. This is an approved Michigan 4-H Horse Judges Seminar.

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-horse-judging-workshop>

February 1: 4-H Benefit Clinic

MSU Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education, Lansing

Join us for an annual clinic, with a day full of clinics in the classroom and arena. Topics will include showmanship, trail, and barrel racing.

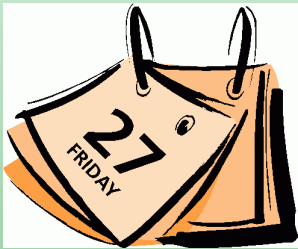
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-benefit-clinic-1>

View more 4-H events at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4h/events>.

Kent County 4-H CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Check out our LIVE calendar to see all these dates and more events going on throughout the Kent County 4-H program! The calendar can be found here at [this link](#).



January 2: Horse Leaders Meeting

Kent MSU Extension Office; 6:15pm, 7:30pm-8:30pm

Executive Board meeting begins at 6:15 and general leaders meeting begins at 7:30. Open to all Kent County 4-H Horse Leaders. Get updates on events and planning of 2020 year.

Every Wednesday: Hippology Team Practice

Kent MSU Extension Office; 5:30pm—7:00pm

The hippology team will be meeting every Wednesday from 5:30pm to 7:00pm until their state competition in March.

Every Wednesday: Horse Judging Team Practice

Kent MSU Extension Office; 6:30pm-8:00pm

Horse Judging team is meeting every Wednesday 6:30pm to 8:00 pm until their state competition in March.

January 9: Kent County 4-H Overview Discussion

Kent MSU Extension Office; 6:30pm-7:30pm

Come discuss your thoughts about the Kent County 4-H Program with fellow volunteers and members. This meeting is open to all members and volunteers. Please bring your thoughts and suggestions for the 2020 program year!

January 20: Kent County 4-H Council Meeting

Kent MSU Extension Office; 5:30pm-7:00pm

Join the Kent County 4-H Council in discussions about planning events and opportunities for youth members. This meeting is open to all Kent County 4-H Youth and Volunteers. During this meeting we will be discussing fundraisers for the 2020 year to help support programs throughout the year, so bring your ideas!

January 22: Kent County 4-H Overview Discussion

Englehardt Library (Lowell); 6:00pm-7:00pm

This meeting will have the same focus as the January 9 meeting, but at a more central location for our east Kent County members.

January 25: State 4-H Rabbit Show

MSU Pavilion; All Day

Represent Kent County 4-H at the State 4-H Rabbit show! For more information visit this link: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/2020-state-4-h-rabbit-and-cavy-show>