



# 4-H Family News

Oct 2026

Kalamazoo County



**Beyond  
Ready**

## Welcome to the 2026-2027 4-H Programming year!

You may not know this but,  
**4- H Enrollment does not “roll over” year to year.**

*Enrollment for the 2026-2027 program year started September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Families and volunteers wanting to continue in 4-H will need to renew their membership by logging into their account at 4-H online database at - <http://v2.4honline.com/#/user/sign-in>*

- Any youth 5-19 years old as of January 1, 2027 can enroll in the 4-H program.
- There is no fee to enroll in 4-H.
- New members may join anytime during the year, but must be enrolled before April 1, 2027, to meet fair participation requirements.
- Re-enrollment is due no later than November 1, 2026.

Adults who would like to be a volunteer will need to be approved through the MSU Extension Volunteer Selection Process (VSP) prior to working with youth. VSP completion is required for both virtual and face to face program volunteers.

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)

## CONTACT US

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Suite 306  
Kalamazoo, MI. 49007  
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/profile.php?id=100057507535294#>  
Program-122047197873078

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## Its National 4-H week!

October 4 – October 10, 2026.

"Beyond Ready," focusing on equipping young people with skills for life and career changes.

Featured Days:

**Sunday, October 4 (Sharing Sunday)** –share about your 4-H club or Project with someone who is not a current member/volunteer

**Monday, October 5 (Go GREEN day)** - wear green, decorate your car, office, locker, etc.

**Tuesday, October 6 (Tell your story)**, share your 4-H story with others. Send it along with a picture of your then and now and 4-H staff will use it to create a fun social media graphic to be shared.

Consider a message like:

How it started: Nerves kicking in but months of preparation give me the confidence to shine.

How it's going: A passion ignited in 4-H leads to a career in animal health.

**Wednesday, October 7 Wheels Up Wednesday** A fun way to recognize Michigan 4-H license plate owners and encourage others to show their support by grabbing one for themselves!

**Thursday, October 8 (Thankful Day)**-Thank a mentor, volunteer, others who make a difference

**Friday, October 9 (Fun Friday)** – Share a fun memory you've had in 4-H on your social media page

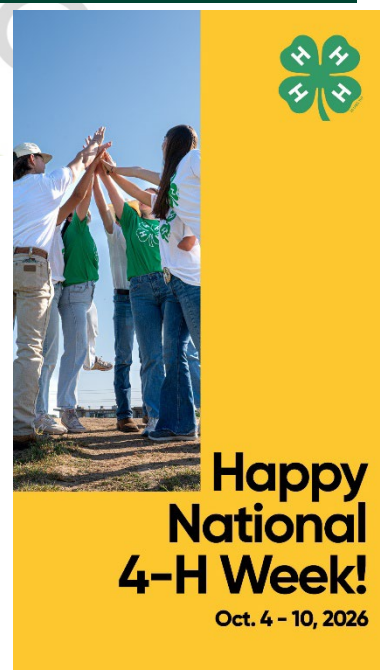
**Saturday, October 10 (Service Saturday)** – put your hands to work and do some community service

\*\*\*\*Each 4-H club has the chance to win some fun prizes from the 4-H office this week. Decorate a store window, bulletin board in a store, your yard, wherever your creativity takes you (and you have permission) by Sunday, October 3. Let 4-H staff know where you have decorated and we'll pick a favorite. Make sure you take a picture and share on social media!

Make sure to use the following hashtags:

#KalamazooCounty4H #4HBeyondReady #National4HWeek

**Bridge selfies:** We are excited to have the Blue Bridge & Gallery Parking Ramp in Grand Rapids joining us again this year for National 4-H Week as it "goes green" during National 4-H Week. If you are in the Grand Rapids area or traveling through there during National 4-H Week, swing by to grab a photo with the green bridge in the background! Share your photo online using #4HBeyondReady #National4HWeek and tag Michigan 4-H!





You're Kind of a Big Dill!

Gather the whole family and join us for a fun-filled pickling adventure! Learn how to pickle more than just cucumbers as we explore a variety of delicious fruits, vegetables, and creative flavor combinations.

Whether you're a seasoned canner or just curious about preserving food, this hands-on class is packed with learning, laughter, and tasty samples.

Because your family is a BIG DILL, we'd love to see you there!

Come make memories, discover new skills, and take home some pickling inspiration.

Sign up here by October 12, 2026-

<https://forms.gle/G6EE1gRWDuUfkAnM9>

## Dill With it! A 4-H Pickled Vegetable Workshop



Whether you're a pickle enthusiast or just curious about preserving food, this hands-on class is sure to be a dill-lightful experience!

Who: youth 5-19 and adults

(youth 5-10 must have an adult with them)

When: October 15, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Where: New Hope Covenant Church

9300 E. D Ave., Richland, MI 49083

Cost: Free

Registration Required by October 12 @ - <https://forms.gle/G6EE1gRWDuUfkAnM9>

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.





**Due By October 30<sup>th</sup>!**



KALAMAZOO COUNTY

# 4-H Awards

RECORD YOUR LEARNING. EARN RECOGNITION. GROW YOUR FUTURE.



## COUNTY MEDALS

Awarded via the submission and judging of a Member Record Book  
(AGES 8–19)



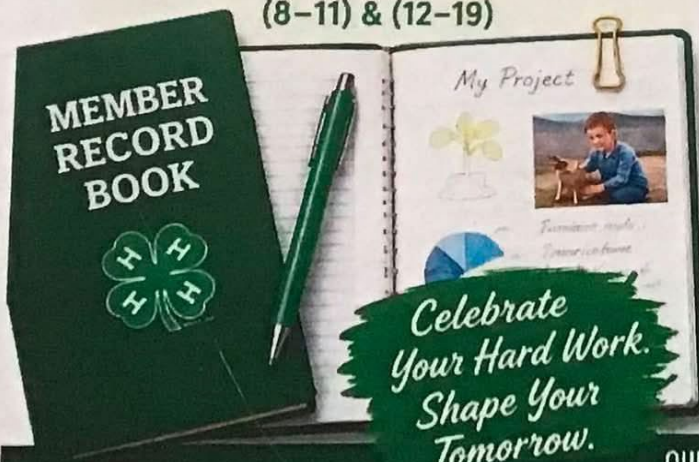
Recipients will receive a medal for the project area they win and cash prize to complement further growth in their project area.



Awarding 1 member each year/ category. An individual member can win up to 2 categories/year.



There are 2 age groups for judging:  
(8–11) & (12–19)



## HOW IT WORKS



Record books must be submitted at fair for judging, and then the member must complete the award application (1 page) and have approval from their leader to apply for a county medal prize.



Completed record books and award applications are due **the last Friday in October each year.**



Books will be judged and winners chosen by the Awards committee.



Winners will receive their cash prize from Leader's Council via their leader.



Winners will also be recognized and receive their medal at fair the following summer.



KALAMAZOO COUNTY 4-H

*To Make the Best Better!*

QUESTIONS? CONTACT YOUR 4-H LEADER  
OR THE KALAMAZOO COUNTY MSU EXTENSION OFFICE

269-383-8867 | [canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo\\_county\\_4\\_h\\_1/](http://canr.msu.edu/kalamazoo_county_4_h_1/)  
4-h-member-resources-forms

# Calling All Kalamazoo County 4-H Youth!

Show off your creativity and help represent  
our county's biggest event!

Create an original design for the 2027  
Kalamazoo County Fair Book Cover and you  
could have your artwork featured on the  
official 4-H fair book.

Open to all Kalamazoo County 4-H Youth



**Include:**

- Kalamazoo County Fair
- 4-H events - July 31 - August 7
- FairEntry opens April 14 & closes June 15
- 4-H Clover
- Beyond Ready Logo



**Original artwork only**



**Artwork should celebrate the spirit of  
4-H, learning, leadership, agriculture,  
creativity, and community.**

**Deadline submission: November 15, 2026**



# *The Great Holiday Decorate Off*

JOIN US AS WE LEARN TO DECORATE  
FANCY HOLIDAY COOKIES AND ENJOY A  
HOT CHOCOLATE STATION



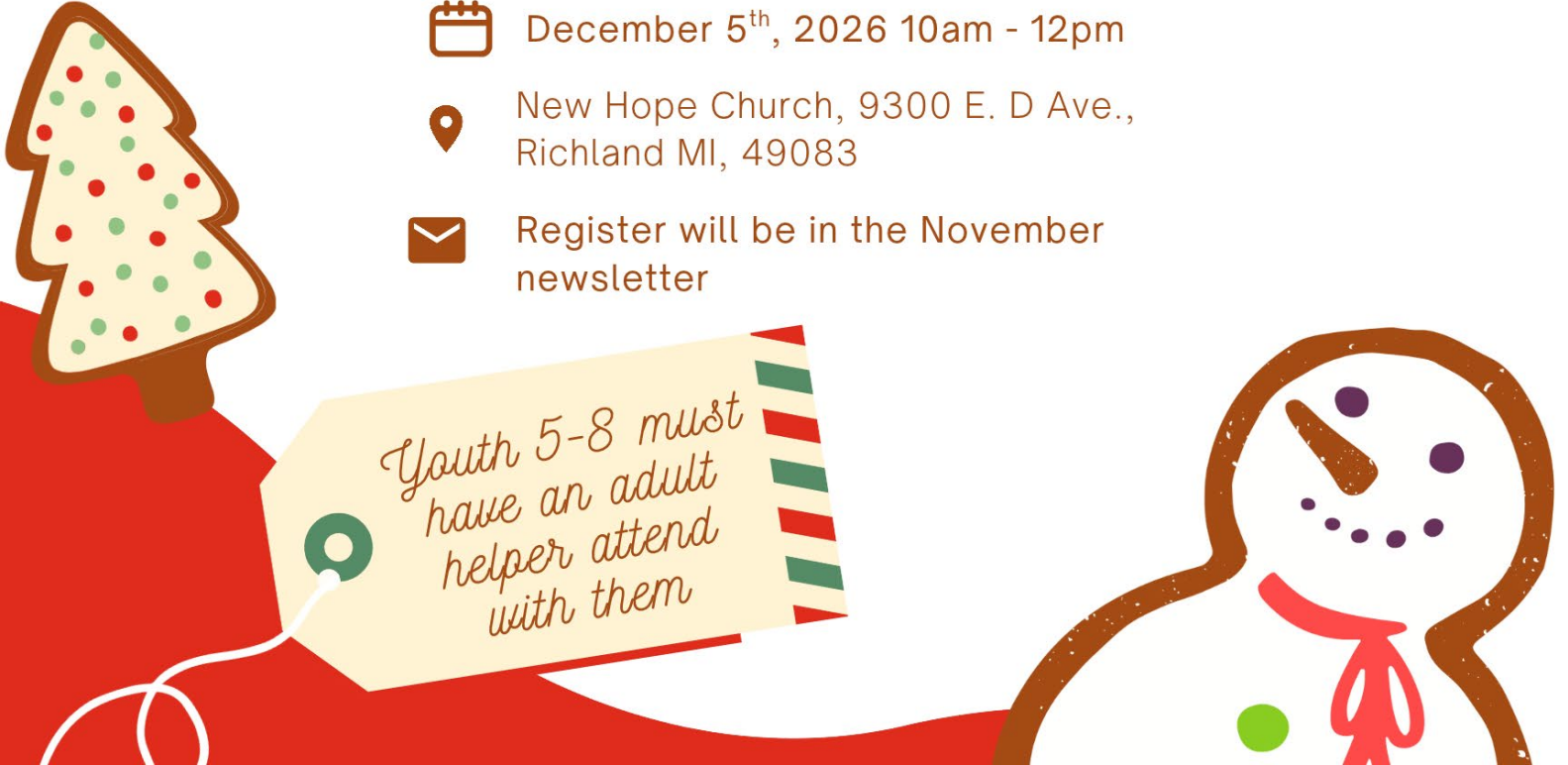
December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026 10am - 12pm



New Hope Church, 9300 E. D Ave.,  
Richland MI, 49083



Register will be in the November  
newsletter



*Youth 5-8 must  
have an adult  
helper attend  
with them*



# YQCA

(YOUTH FOR THE QUALITY  
CARE OF ANIMALS)



*Save one of the  
following Dates*

**December 9, 2026, 6:30PM**

**January 14, 2027, 6:30PM**

**February 20, 2027, 10:00 AM**

**March 17, 2027, 6:30PM**

**April 28, 2027 (limited to 16 youth), 6:30PM**

**Registration is coming soon**

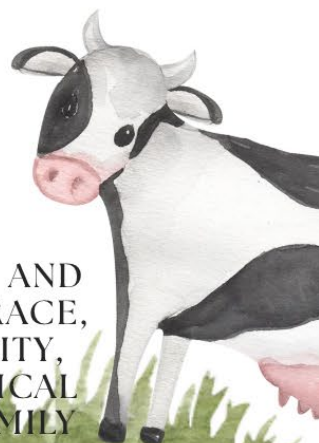
**Required for all youth ages 8-18 bringing  
livestock to the Kalamazoo County Fair,**

**19 years olds must complete the online class**

**Certificates are due to the  
4-H office no later than  
July 1, 2027**



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.





## Ready to level up your future?

**4-H Future Squad** is a virtual 4-H club for youth ages 12-19 focused on life skills, career readiness, financial literacy, Adulting 101 topics, and more. Whether you're new to 4-H or already a member, there's a place for you on the squad! Find out more and fill out the interest form at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-future-squad/>



**GO GLOBAL THIS SUMMER!!** For Summer 2027 Michigan 4-H International Exchange Programs is offering youth ages 12-18 the opportunity of a lifetime spending the summer with a host family.

States' 4-H International Outbound (OB), we will be offering both Japan programs (4 & 8-Week), as well as Taiwan, South Korea, Costa Rica, and Norway. Discover new traditions, experience authentic culture, and make lifelong friends. Applications are now open for summer 2027!

Michigan 4-H Deadline to apply: December 1, 2026

Learn more & apply:

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/international/traveling-outbound/>

States 4-H website: <https://states4h.org/>

Questions? Janis Brinn [brinn@msu.edu](mailto:brinn@msu.edu)





## **Mental health is an important part of thriving on your own.**

Join the FREE Michigan 4-H Adulting 101 webinar,  
Mental Health Toolkit:

Everyday Skills and Resources to Help Care for Your Mental Health,  
on October 7 from 6-7 p.m. ET.

Participants will explore practical strategies to support emotional well-being,  
build healthy habits, and discover resources to help navigate life's challenges.  
Perfect for teens and young adults preparing for college, work, and independent  
living!

For more information and to register today go to: <https://bit.ly/4AvNiOZ>



**Please Remember!**

Children without a signed media release agreement can NOT be  
photographed- even in pictures with their club.



## YOUR Kalamazoo 4-H NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteering can be both beneficial for the volunteer but especially for the youth involved. It creates a safe space for youth to try out new ideas, be creative, build relationships and learn what to do when things don't work out.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a 4-H volunteer to lead one of these projects, please apply online at *Become a 4-H Volunteer*.  
([https://www.canr.msu.edu/becoming\\_a\\_4\\_h\\_volunteer/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/becoming_a_4_h_volunteer/))

Your time spent as a volunteer can be as little as a few hours a year to a few hours a week.

Volunteers will need to successfully complete the Gold level MSU Extension Volunteer Selection Process at [https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/volunteer\\_home](https://msu.samaritan.com/custom/502/volunteer_home) prior to working with 4-H youth.

We currently have youth enrolled in several projects, but do not have a gold level volunteer to lead them!



to Our Amazing Volunteers !

|          |            |
|----------|------------|
| Emily L  | Payton D   |
| Brian K  | Greg W     |
| Barb V   | Amy N      |
| Darla H  | Jennifer B |
| Amanda L | Lynne R    |
| Tanner G | Kitty J    |



SAVE THE DATE  
**MICHIGAN**  
**APPLE**   
**CRUNCH**

**October 15, 2026**

**Mark your calendar! The 2026 Michigan Apple Crunch will be celebrated on Thursday, October 15!**

<https://www.facebook.com/miapplecrunch>

Look for the Crunch registration to be released in August along with an \*updated\* Crunch Guide and \*new\* Michigan Apple Crunch resources. Please make sure to follow the Michigan Apple Crunch Facebook page for the latest updates and to post pictures of your Crunch when you celebrate on October 15th.

We're grateful to [Michigan Apples](#) for partnering with [Michigan State University Extension](#) and the [Michigan Farm to Institution Network](#) for support of the Crunch this year!



## Use of the 4-H Emblem – Quick Reference

Complete official Emblem rules available online at

[http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/emblem/4h\\_name.htm](http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/emblem/4h_name.htm).

The 4-H Name & Emblem belong to the 4-H Youth Development Program, under the authority of USDA and anyone wishing to use it must obtain permission prior to use.

### Requirements

- Clover has four leaves and an "H" on each leaf.
- The numeral "4" separated from a capital "H" with a hyphen (not a dash, slash, or space).
- Clover's stem **must** point to the right as you look at the image.
- Emblem should appear in specific colors and in its entirety.
- The statement "18 USC 707" **must** legibly appear either to the right of the base of the stem or below the lower right leaf of the clover.
- The Emblem should be kept upright.
- The "18 USC 707" should be the same color as the leaves.
- Clover may be outlined, green outline for white clover or white outline for green clover.

### Colors of Emblem

- Clover is 100% PMS 347 green, H's reversed out to the color of the paper on which the emblem is printed. *This is the official and preferred color of the Emblem.*
- Clover can be green and H's can be white, metallic gold, or black.
- Clover can be black and H's can be white or black.
- Clover can be white and H's can be white, green, or black.
- Clover can be metallic gold and H's can be white or black.
- **One color printing** – green or black only accepted colors

### Do NOT

- Flip, rotate, or turn image on its side
- Place over or obscure the emblem with a photo, drawing, symbol, word or other figure or object.
- Place text over on top of Emblem
- Superimpose an image over the top of one or more of the leaves
- Use to imply endorsement of any product or material

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/the\\_clover\\_the\\_4\\_h\\_emblem\\_and\\_how\\_to\\_use\\_correctly\\_part\\_1](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/the_clover_the_4_h_emblem_and_how_to_use_correctly_part_1)



Appropriate Use



Appropriate Use



Inappropriate Use



Inappropriate Use

## And Remember-

It is ALWAYS

4 - dash - capital H

Never 4H or 4h

**Always 4-H**



# STATEWIDE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Preparing youth to be Beyond Ready: Building leadership skills through 4-H**



## Beyond Ready

4-H provides youth with opportunities to develop leadership skills in meaningful and age-appropriate ways. Whether leading a club activity, serving as an officer, mentoring younger members, or helping plan an event, youth practice communication, teamwork, decision-making and responsibility.

Volunteers can support leadership development by encouraging youth voice, sharing responsibilities and creating opportunities for members to take ownership of their learning. Every leadership experience helps young people build confidence and prepares them to contribute in school, work and their communities.

How are you helping youth grow as leaders this year?

#BeyondReady

### October 3: MSU Tollgate Pumpkinfest

*Tollgate Farm, Novi*

Pumpkinfest is a family-friendly event at MSU Tollgate Farm. Enjoy a harvest celebration of wagon rides, u-pick pumpkin patch, cider, donuts, food, music and activities on the farm.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/pumpkinfest-2026](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/pumpkinfest-2026)

### October 4-10: National 4-H Week

*Nationwide*

For over 100 years, 4-H has inspired families, shaped careers, and impacted communities. During this week, celebrate the impact of 4-H in various ways including Go Green Monday, Wheels Up Wednesday, Thankful Thursday and Stay Connected Saturday!

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/national-4-h-week)

### October 7: Adulting 101—Mental Health Toolkit: Everyday Skills and Resources to Help Care for Your Mental Health

*Online*

This Adulting 101 session will equip participants with practical tools to support their mental health and emotional wellbeing.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-extension-adulting-101-mental-health-toolkit-everyday-skills-and-resources-to-help-care-for-your-mental-health](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/msu-extension-adulting-101-mental-health-toolkit-everyday-skills-and-resources-to-help-care-for-your-mental-health)

### October 27: 4-H Volunteer Webinar – Infusing Positive Youth Development into Your 4-H club

*Online*

Explore simple strategies that foster belonging, build developmental relationships, encourage youth voice, and create engaging experiences where young people can develop confidence, competence, character and caring.

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-infusing-positive-youth-development-into-your-4-h-club](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-infusing-positive-youth-development-into-your-4-h-club)

### October 31: 4-H Animal Science Fall Fest

*Anthony Hall, East Lansing*

Youth will have the chance to learn about a variety of animal science topics, disciplines and careers from industry experts and Department of Animal Science staff. Open to youth ages 12-19. **Register by October 15!**

[www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-animal-science-fall-fest-2026](http://www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-animal-science-fall-fest-2026)





# STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

## Nominate a deserving 4-H'er for Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year!

Do you know someone who displayed extraordinary sportsmanship at a recent 4-H animal science program? Perhaps at a club meeting, clinic or the county fair? Nominate them for the 2026 Michigan 4-H Animal Science Sportsperson of the Year Award!

This annual award recognizes one youth member and one adult 4-H leader who exemplify the definition of sportsmanship and have gone above and beyond to lend a helping hand to those around them during animal science programs. Nominations are due **October 15**. You can find full details, including the nomination form, at: [www.canr.msu.edu/resources/competitive\\_event\\_resources](http://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/competitive_event_resources).



## Join the 4-H Future Squad!

Ready to level up your future? Youth ages age 12–19 are invited to join the 4-H Future Squad, a virtual 4-H club focused on life skills, career readiness, financial literacy, Adulthood 101 topics and more.

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 sixth 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 2026 through May 2027, 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.

Meeting dates will take place on a variety of days of the week; dates and times will be communicated via email and on the program website. Youth can attend as many of these dates as they wish. 4-H Future Squad can be a primary or secondary club. Learn more and complete the interest form at: [www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-future-squad/](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4-h-future-squad/).

## 4-H scholarships available!

Outstanding Michigan 4-H members who are involved at county, regional, state, national or international levels are eligible to apply for Michigan 4-H scholarships to help fund their college experience.

A number of scholarship opportunities exist, ranging in value from \$500 to \$10,000 (over the course of four years). Each scholarship has specific eligibility, be sure to read the requirements to see if you qualify. All applications are due by November 1.

Learn more and access applications materials at: [www.canr.msu.edu/4\\_h\\_scholarships\\_and\\_recognition\\_program/4\\_h\\_scholarships](http://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_scholarships_and_recognition_program/4_h_scholarships).

