MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

4-H Family News

MACOMB COUNTY

November 2026
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Macomb Co. 4-H welcomes Cydnei Walker



Cydnei brings a wealth of experience working with youth and communities across metro Detroit. Her background includes serving as a TOC with Wayne County 4-H and Detroit Partnership for Food, Learning, and Innovation (DPFLI), working as a paraeducator in a Detroit elementary school, and serving as a nutrition educator with FoodCorps. She also shares her passion for learning as an online writing tutor. During her time with DPFLI, Cydnei promoted and represented 4-H at community wellness events and farmers markets throughout metro Detroit and helped create memorable experiences for youth through summer camp programming.

In addition to her passions for urban agriculture and accessible food systems, Cydnei is an avid reader and writer. She is a published playwright with hopes of publishing in the children's literature space as well. She loves her cats, Bean and Munch, and is already counting the days until she can tend to her garden again next spring."

Cydnei has a Bachelor Arts degree in English from Thomas Edison State University and is currently working on her master's degree in Sustainable Food Systems from Arizona State University, where she is part of the USDA Next Gen Scholarship program.

Wreaths for Veterans

Please join the Macomb County 4-H Youth Council in serving our community and honoring Veterans by helping decorate wreaths for Christmas. This service event will be hosted on **Sunday, December 6, 2026, from Noon-2:30pm** inside the Armada Fair Office. All 4-H youth are encouraged to help decorate wreaths that will be placed on Veteran's graves for the Christmas season.

The Youth Council is purchasing (50) mini wreaths, approximately 12-14 inches, and supplies for decorating. Families may choose to sponsor up to (2) of the wreaths for the cost of $5 each and are welcome to place them for a specific Veteran. Payment will be collected at the service event. To volunteer and/or sponsor a wreath please sign-up for time slot.

The Youth Council also invites 4-H members to consider helping lead this event. If you interested in being part of the committee, please send an email to 4HMCYC@gmail.com

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COUNTY 4-H NEWS & EVENTS

Paws-itively Outstanding! Macomb County 4-H'ers Shine at State Dog Show

Five Macomb County 4-H members showcased their hard work, dedication, and teamwork with their canine partners at the Michigan 4-H State Dog Show, held September 19, 2026, at the Shiawassee County Fairgrounds in Corunna. Competing against top youth-dog teams from across the state, Macomb County participants earned numerous placings in showmanship, rally, and obedience events.

Representing K-9 & Kompany 4-H Club, **Catie G.** and Quinn earned 3rd place in Senior B Showmanship (ages 17-19), 5th place in Novice Rally B (ages 16-19), and an impressive 2nd place in Obedience Novice A.



Mya L. and Ivy also represented K-9 & Kompany, earning 4th place in Intermediate B Showmanship (ages 14-15), 3rd place in Advanced Rally B, and 1st place in Obedience Pre-Novice B (ages 14-15).

Competing with two dogs, Brinkley and Coral, **Madyson S.** of K-9 & Kompany had an outstanding day in the ring. Madyson earned 2nd place with Brinkley in Intermediate Platinum Showmanship (ages 12-15), 1st place with Coral in Novice Rally B (ages 14-15), 1st place with Brinkley in Intermediate Rally B (ages 15-19), 5th place with Coral in Obedience Pre-Novice B (ages 14-15), and 4th place with Brinkley in Obedience Novice B (all ages).





Macomb County was also represented by **Riley H.** and Flirt, and **Conor P.** and Mack, both from Ray Community 4-H Club. Riley and Conor participated in the Cloverbud Obedience and Cloverbud Showmanship classes, gaining valuable experience and showcasing the skills they have been developing with their dogs.



Participation in the Michigan 4-H State Dog Show helps youth build responsibility, communication, sportsmanship, and animal handling skills while strengthening the bond with their canine companions. Congratulations to all of Macomb County's exhibitors for their hard work and accomplishments!

Complete results are available on the Michigan 4-H Dog Program's Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/michigan4hdogs

Sources: 4-H Volunteer Kara Plotzke, 4-H Program Coordinator Kat VanDouser and https://www.facebook.com/michigan4hdogs.

Photos submitted by Kara Plotzke, 4-H Volunteer

COUNTY 4-H NEWS & EVENTS

Macomb County 4-H Horse Program Banquet

Submitted by Michelle Short, 4-H Volunteer

The Macomb County 4-H Horse Banquet was held on Sunday, October 25 at Zuccaro's in Chesterfield Township. We celebrated an outstanding season of exhibiting our miniature and light horses.

This year, we moved the Macomb County 4-H Horse Shows to the Armada Fairgrounds where we held shows over three weekends in May-June. During our awards banquet, all exhibitors receive recognition and prizes for their work!

The youth in the horse projects fundraise each season to contribute to judges' fees, ribbons, awards, grounds and equipment maintenance, and the banquet. From Cloverbuds to Aging Out members, we cheered for lessons learned, friendships formed, and memories made.

Special recognitions included:

- Bill Collins Horsemanship Award: Paisley Z., Alarro Boots & Spurs 4-H Club
- 4-H Jane Sylvester Sportsmanship Award: Hannah E., Ray's Riding Rascals 4-H Club
- McCarthy's Carmello Versatility Award: Vaino B., Clinton Valley 4-H Club
- Vincent B. Cesaro Memorial Award: Willow Hollingsworth, Ray's Riding Rascals 4-H Club Volunteer
- Gymkhana (walk-trot-canter) Award: Jules Wells, Alarro Boots & Spurs 4-H Club
- Gymkhana (walk-trot) Award: Lily Zuber, Clovers & Chaos 4-H Club
- Top Fundraiser: Avery Prisby, Ray's Riding Rascals 4-H Club



The Macomb County 4-H Horse Program held its annual banquet on October 25, 2026 at Zuccarro's in Chesterfield Township. Photo by Danielle Sadwoski, Ray's Riding Rascals 4-H Parent.

Join the Macomb County 4-H Horse Judging & Hippology Team!

Interested in horses? Join the Macomb County 4-H Horse Judging & Hippology Team! It's open to 4-H'ers ages 5-19. Horse ownership is not required. Practices start in November and happen bi-weekly with State competitions in April. Please contact Coach Amanda Kutchey at kutcheya@gmail.com if you are interested.

OTHER LOCAL NEWS & EVENTS

Majoring in an agricultural field? Apply for a National Society Decendents of American Farmers scholarship

The deadline for National Society Descendants of American Farmers (NSDOAF) Scholarship applications is November 15, 2026.

- The NSDOAF Scholarship is specific to higher education students majoring in an agricultural field of study
- Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0
- A written essay is required (topic will be given)
- A personal interview may be required
- Students may reapply each year that they are in school

Apply online at https://www.nsdoaf.com/scholarships. All applications must be submitted online by 11:59 p.m. on the deadline date.

Help Warren's Micro Forest Flourish at Fall Clean-Up with the Mayor - Nov. 7

During her time in 4-H, former Macomb County 4-H member Nethanya Forseka spearheaded the installation of a microforest in Warren. A microforest, based on the Miyawaki method, packs a mix of native trees and shrubs closely together so the forest can mature rapidly and become entirely self-sustaining.

The microforest in Warren is currently in its infancy. To help it continue to flourish through the winter and thrive in the spring, it needs some seasonal care. **Volunteers are needed**. Whether you are passionate about climate change and environmental science, or just want to lend a helping hand, you are welcome to join in.

4-H clubs, members, volunteers, and community residents are invited to help with a Fall Clean-Up event hosted by Warren Mayor Lori Stone on Saturday, November 7, 2026 from 10 a.m.-Noon at the Julius Circle/Microforest. It's south of 9 Mile Road, off of Schoenherr Road. Take Schoenherr Road south past 9 Mile Road, then turn right onto Julius Avenue. If traveling north, turn left onto Julius Avenue.

What is a Micro Forest? Based on the famous Miyawaki method, Even a tiny micro forest provides massive environmental benefits.

Event Details
When: Saturday, November 7, 2026
Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM *(Please arrive on time; we will kick off with a short demonstration explaining what needs to be pulled and what should be left in place!)*
Where: Julius Circle / Micro Forest (South of 9 Mile Rd, off of Schoenherr Rd. Take Schoenherr south past 9 Mile, then turn RIGHT onto Julius Ave. If traveling north, turn left onto Julius Ave.)

What to Bring & Expect
Supplies: All tools and clean-up supplies will be provided.
Attire: Come dressed in comfortable clothes and sturdy shoes you don't mind getting a little dirty.
Perks: The Mayor's Office will have a tent set up with light refreshments for all volunteers!

How to Sign Up
Online registration is required. Each participant must sign up individually. If you are coming with a 4-H club, school, or organization, please note the group name in the form; if you are coming solo, simply write "N/A."

We hope to see you there!l

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STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS



Support 4-H with the TSC Paper Clover Campaign

From Nov. 27 – Dec. 13, Tractor Supply Company (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. Funds raised will support county, state and national 4-H programming. To learn more, visit www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/cms/4h.

You can also support 4-H by purchasing three special commemorative 4-H holiday ornaments (a beef cow, lamb and dog), now in TSC stores! Proceeds from the sale of ornaments support 4-H.

Michigan 4-H Foundation launches Beyond Ready Campaign to prepare youth for the future



At the Michigan 4-H Legacy Awards Celebration on Saturday, October 3, the Michigan 4-H Foundation announced the public launch of the Michigan 4-H Beyond Ready Campaign, a bold fundraising initiative with a goal of raising $12 million by 2032 to help prepare Michigan youth for the future.

"Today's youth face a rapidly changing world that requires resilience, adaptability and confidence," said Mary Draves, co-chair of the Michigan 4-H Foundation's Beyond Ready Campaign Committee. "Michigan 4-H is uniquely equipped to support youth in developing these critical skills and more. The Beyond Ready Campaign will provide long-term, stable funding that allows Michigan 4-H to continue offering opportunities and experiences that prepare young people to face challenges and thrive, no matter what the future may bring."

Research consistently demonstrates the positive impact of 4-H participation. Young people involved in 4-H are more likely to develop leadership skills, contribute to their communities and gain confidence in their ability to succeed. The Michigan 4-H Beyond Ready campaign will help ensure future generations of Michigan youth can experience these same benefits by investing in the programs, people and possibilities that bring 4-H to life.

The campaign focuses on five priority areas: **4-H educational opportunities and skills development**; **Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens**; **health, well-being and belonging; emerging needs**; and **endowment investments**, including **county endowments** for localized impact. The campaign also includes a **planned giving goal of securing 40 planned gifts by 2032**, helping to create a lasting legacy of support for Michigan 4-H.

"Today's young people will soon lead our communities, workforce and future," said Joe Hune, Michigan 4-H Foundation trustee and co-chair of the Beyond Ready Campaign Committee. "This campaign will ensure Michigan 4-H can continue to provide life-changing experiences, deliver innovative programs, support diverse learning needs, and help youth from all communities across Michigan become Beyond Ready for future success through 4-H."

The Oct. 3 public launch builds on strong momentum from the campaign's leadership phase. Already $7.3 million, nearly 62% of the $12 million goal, has been raised through more than 5,200 gifts from nearly 2,200 donors. Michigan 4-H alumni, volunteers, families, partners and friends are invited to join the effort to help build a generation that is Beyond Ready through Michigan 4-H.

Every gift to the Beyond Ready Campaign is an investment in Michigan youth and their future. There are many ways to participate, including one-time gifts, multi-year commitments, IRA gifts and qualified charitable distributions (QCDs), gifts of stock, planned/estate gifts, or donations of property, grain or other assets. Together, these investments will help expand opportunities, build confidence, spark curiosity and prepare more Michigan youth to be beyond ready for life, leadership and success. To learn more about the campaign or make a gift to invest in the future of Michigan 4-H, visit www.mi4hfdtn.org/beyondready.

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STATEWIDE 4-H NEWS

Spectacular Youth Leadership Institute Registration is OPEN!

Calling all current and aspiring teen leaders! Registration is now open for the Michigan 4-H Spectacular Youth Leadership Institute (SYLI), taking place November 20-22, 2026, at the Ralph A. MacMullan Center in Roscommon, Michigan. This exciting weekend leadership experience is designed for youth ages 13 and older (by January 1, 2027) who want to build leadership skills, connect with peers from across Michigan, and make a positive impact in their clubs, schools, and communities.

Participants will engage in interactive workshops, leadership development sessions, team activities, and community-focused learning while exploring topics such as leadership, citizenship, and service. The weekend also includes networking opportunities, fun group activities, and time to meet other youth leaders from around the state.

The registration fee is $150, which includes program materials, meals, snacks, transportation during the event, and overnight accommodations for November 20 and 21. Youth will be supervised by trained MSU Extension staff and approved volunteers throughout the event.

Register for SYLI by **November 9th**: events.anr.msu.edu/LCCE. Youth must also complete their 4-H Online enrollment at https://v2.4honline.com by **November 6th** to participate.

Adulting 101: Paws, Claws & Commitment

Thinking about getting a pet someday? Pets are adorable, but they're also a big responsibility. Before you bring home a furry, feathered, or scaly friend, learn what it really takes to be a responsible pet owner.

Join MSU Extension for *Adulting 101: Paws, Claws, and Commitment* online on Thursday, November 12th at 7 p.m. ET to discover:

- The true cost of pet ownership
- Vet care, training, and daily responsibilities
- How to choose a pet that fits your lifestyle and schedule
- Ways to make compassionate, informed decisions for your future pet

Whether you're dreaming of your first dog, cat, bird, or another companion animal, this session will help you decide if you're truly ready for the commitment.

Registration for this FREE online session here: https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/realities-of-animal-care

4-H Volunteer Webinar Series: Growing Money Skills through 4-H

Help youth build lifelong financial skills through fun, hands-on 4-H activities. Join the *Growing Money Skills through 4-H* webinar to discover easy ways to incorporate money management lessons into club meetings and events. Participants will receive ready-to-use resources, and thanks to support from MSUFCU, some attendees will receive a free financial education resource for their club. Learn more and register here.

Registration Closing Soon for the 2026 Michigan 4-H Proud Equestrians Program Annual Update

Registration will be closing soon for the 2026 Michigan 4-H Proud Equestrians Program (PEP) Annual Update. PEP instructors and others interested in equine-assisted services are encouraged to register soon to secure their spot.

This year's update will be offered in two formats:

Saturday, November 7, 2026 (In Person) at CHUM Therapeutic Riding in Dansville, Michigan

Sunday, November 8, 2026 (Virtual)

Participants will have opportunities to strengthen their knowledge, enhance instructional practices, connect with fellow professionals, and explore strategies for supporting individuals of all abilities through equine-assisted services. Attendees can also earn **PATH Intl. continuing education credits**.

The registration fee is **$75**. Register today at https://events.anr.msu.edu/ProudEquestriansProgram/.

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CALENDARS OF EVENTS

Preparing youth to be Beyond Ready: Developing a growth mindset through 4-H

Beyond Ready

Learning often comes through challenges, mistakes and trying something new. 4-H helps youth develop a growth mindset by encouraging them to persevere, reflect and continue improving their skills over time.

Volunteers can reinforce this by celebrating effort, encouraging problem solving, and helping youth view setbacks as opportunities to learn. When young people learn that success comes from persistence and practice, they gain confidence to tackle future challenges. These experiences help youth become more resilient and better prepared for life beyond 4-H.

#BeyondReady

Macomb County 4-H Events

November 3
Election Day
Macomb County offices closed.

November 9
Macomb County 4-H Awards Banquet
6 p.m., Italian American Cultural Society & Banquet Center, Clinton Township
R.S.V.P. required. The link is coming soon!

November 11
Veterans' Day
Macomb County offices closed

November 26-27
Thanksgiving
Macomb County offices closed.

December 6
Macomb Co. 4-H Youth Council's Wreaths for Veterans
Noon-2:30 p.m., Armada Fair Office

Read the current MSU Extension-Macomb Program Guide here. Subscribe to receive it each month.

Other Local Events

November 7
Warren Microforest Community Service
10 a.m.-Noon, Julius Circle/Microforest

November 12
MI Farm Bureau High School Discussion Meet
Milan High School, Milan

Statewide 4-H Events

November 10
Wild Spartans: Migratory Fishes are Amazing!
Online
Splash into the underwater world to follow fish along their journeys with Karen Murchie, director of freshwater research at the Shedd Aquarium. Learn about her work and the education and career path she followed to get there. Ask questions and 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.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/4-h-wild-spartans-november

November 12
Adulting 101 – Paws, Claws & Commitment: The Realities of Animal Care
Online
Explore the true costs, responsibilities and lifestyle considerations of caring for animals—from vet bills and training to choosing the right pet for your space and schedule. Learn how to make informed decisions that honor both you and your future pet.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/realities-of-animal-care

November 17
Online Guiding Principles for Highly Successful Parenting Webinar Series
Online
Discover practical strategies to help children succeed in school and life. Parents of toddlers through teens will learn about family routines, emotional regulation, positive parenting, consistent rules, learning from mistakes, empathy, and gratitude.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/guiding-principles-for-highly-successful-parenting-webinar-series-nov-dec-2026

November 19
4-H Volunteer Webinar Series – Growing Money Skills through 4-H
Online
Financial skills are life skills—and they're skills youth can start growing today. Join this webinar to discover easy, engaging ways to plant financial education into your 4-H club meetings, activities and events. Participants will leave with hands-on activities, discussion starters and ready-to-use resources that help youth build money management skills while having fun. Thanks to the support of MSUFCU, randomly selected attendees will receive a free financial education resource for their clubs.
www.canr.msu.edu/events/michigan-4-h-volunteer-webinar-growing-money-skills-through-4-h

November 27 – December 13
Fall TSC Paper Clover Campaign
Tractor Supply Co. stores statewide
Embrace the holiday spirit and purchase a paper clover at Tractor Supply Co. (TSC)! The Paper Clover campaign will officially launch on Black Friday; support 4-H youth both online or in TSC stores for just $1!
www.canr.msu.edu/events/tractor-supply-co-paper-clover-campaign



Happy Thanksgiving from the Macomb County 4-H Staff!