MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

DATE: **November 18, 2026**

TO: **All Active 4-H Leaders in 2026 & Members who will be 12-19 years old in 2027**

FROM: **Kayla Mitchell, Program Coordinator, 4-H Youth Development**

RE: ***Opportunity to Serve on 2027 4-H Youth Council***

Attention: 4-H Youth Council Self-Nomination Forms are due to the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office by 4:00 p.m. on ***Monday, November 30, 2026.*** Please see the bottom of page 2 for details!

If you would like an opportunity to become involved with the development and guidance of the St. Joseph County 4-H Youth Program at the county level, then you will want to give serious consideration to running for election to the 4-H Youth Council! The election of 4-H leaders and members to fill 4-H Youth Council vacancies will take place in December, with newly elected members beginning their service on the Council at the January 4, 2027, 4-H Youth Council re-organization meeting.

Eligibility: The eligibility requirements for running for election to the 4-H Youth Council are as follows:

- **Adult Representatives** - All 4-H leaders who were active leaders in 2026 and who have completed a minimum of three (3) consecutive years as leaders are eligible to run for election to adult representative positions on the council.

- **Teen Representatives** - All 4-H members who will be 12-19 years old by January 1, 2027, who were active members during 2026, and who have completed a minimum of two (2) years in 4-H as of 2026 are eligible to run for election to 4-H teen representative positions.

The purposes of the Council are as follows:

- Provide a two-way communication link between local 4-H clubs and the 4-H Youth Educator.

- Provide counsel, guidance, and assistance to the 4-H Youth Program Coordinator in developing 4-H programs, events, and activities that meet the needs and interests of St. Joseph County youth and volunteer leaders.

- Provide financial support for the county 4-H Youth Program by way of fundraisers and secured donations.

Council Membership:

- Membership is open to all people 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.

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- The Council membership consists of 12 adult representatives, a maximum of four (4) junior teen representatives ages 12-14, and four (4) to six (6) senior teen representatives ages 15-19.

- Adult representatives must be active 4-H leaders at the time of the election and during the time they hold office. Adult representatives serve two-year terms.

- Teen representative terms are only one (1) year in length to provide as many 4-H members as possible with the opportunity to develop leadership skills through service on the council.

- The following "seats" will be open in the 2027 4-H Youth Council election:
  - ❖ Six (6) adult representative seats
  - ❖ Four (4) junior teen representative seats
  - ❖ Six (6) senior teen representative seats

Council Meetings:

- Regular Council meetings are held on the first Monday night (subject to change) of every month (starting in January) in the St. Joseph County MSU Extension Spartan room, 612 E. Main St., Centreville, Michigan. Meeting time is 6:30 p.m. Special meetings may be called whenever deemed necessary by the 4-H Program Coordinator and/or Council President. Council meetings are 1 ½ to 2 hours in length on average, but occasionally run longer depending on the number and/or scope of agenda items that need to be addressed.

- Please be aware that meeting attendance is ***VERY IMPORTANT!*** The 4-H Youth Council Constitution requires that the Council president meet with any Council representative who misses three meetings in a given project year to ask the representative to re-examine his/her commitment to serving on the council. Therefore, please be sure you are willing to make and keep a commitment to faithfully attend council meetings before you submit a self-nomination form!

Deadline for submitting your completed 4-H Youth Council Self-Nomination Form:

- Please complete and return the 4-H Youth Council ***Adult Representative Self-Nomination Form*** or ***Teen Representative Self-Nomination Form*** to the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office by 4:00 p.m. on ***Monday, November 30, 2026.***

I hope you will give running for election to the 4-H Youth Council serious consideration. Service on the council is an excellent leadership development opportunity for adults and teens alike!

Please do not hesitate to call me at 269-467-5511 if you have questions regarding information contained in this mailing.

Attention Teens…Food for thought… The 4-H Youth Council annually offers several post-high school educational scholarships in the spring. "Giving back" to 4-H through service at the club, county, or state level is one of the key criteria for selection as a scholarship recipient. Therefore, I encourage you to give serious consideration to the idea of running for election to the 4-H Youth Council as a teen representative.

Service on the 4-H Youth Council is **fun and rewarding,** and provides the opportunity to develop a variety of leadership and interpersonal communication skills. Don't wait until your senior year in high school to run for a teen representative seat on the Council. Put your "hat in the ring" early! You'll be glad you did!