

Iosco County 4-H Family Handbook



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Welcome to 4-H in Iosco County!

On behalf of the Michigan State University Extension and the Iosco County 4-H Leaders' Council, we are so glad you are part of our 4-H program! In this booklet you will find the answers to some of the most commonly asked questions about 4-H.

This is meant to be a valuable tool for 4-H families. The purpose of this book is to make sure that families know all about the 4-H happenings! We would like members to be more involved in other 4-H activities besides their own club.

Important Information

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Table of Contents

Introduction to 4-H

What is 4-H?	1
What is the history of 4-H?	1
What is the 4-H Motto?	1
What is the Michigan 4-H Mission Statement?.....	1
What are the 4-H Guiding Principles?	1
What is the 4-H Clover and the Pledge?.....	1
What does 4-H cost?	2
What is the enrollment process?	2
Can I sign-up at any time during the year?	2
What is the role of the parent(s)?	2
I've got a great idea, how do I make it happen?.....	2

4-H Age Guidelines

What is "4-H" age?	3
What is the Cloverbud (5-8 Year Old) Program?	3
What happens when my 4-H'er turns 9?	3

The 4-H Club Structure

What is a 4-H Club?	4
What types of clubs are there?	4
What size should a 4-H Club be?.....	4
Can the size of a club be limited?	4
Who runs the 4-H Club?.....	4
Should a club have officers and use parliamentary procedure?.....	4
What are club fundraisers?	5
Should my club's money be in the bank?.....	5
What are some of the projects youth can do in a 4-H club?.....	5
Should clubs do community service projects?	5

Role of a 4-H Leader

How do I become a 4-H Leader?	6
What are the different positions for 4-H Leaders?.....	6
What is an Administrative Leader's Responsibility?	6
What is a Project Leader's Responsibility?	6
What is a Resource Leader?.....	6
What is a Teen Leader?.....	7
What is a member's responsibility?.....	7
What is a parent's responsibility?.....	7
What trainings are available to 4-H Leaders?	7
Should Leaders pay for projects?	7

Resources in 4-H

What are 4-H project sheets?	8
What are 4-H resources?	8
What is the National 4-H Supply	8
What is the 4-H Friday Fourcast?	8
Where can I get information from online?	8
What is the Kettunen Center?	9

Staff Assistance in 4-H

What is Michigan State University Extension?	10
What is the chain of command within 4-H?	10
What can the 4-H Program Coordinator do for me?	10
How can I get in touch with the 4-H Staff?	10
When should a 4-H staff member be contacted?	10

Iosco County 4-H Leaders' Council

What is the Iosco County 4-H Leaders' Council?	11
How do I join the 4-H Leaders' Council?	11
When are the 4-H Leaders' Council meetings held?	11
What committees are a part of the Leaders' Council?	11
What are county-wide fundraisers?	12
What is the Silent Auction?	12
Can we apply for scholarships?	12
What is Snack Shack fundraising?	12
What about liability insurance?	13
What is special event insurance?	13

County and State Awards and Recognition

Should members keep a record of their 4-H involvement?	14
How do I get a completion pin/certificate for 4-H involvement?	14
What are Blue Ribbon Awards?	14
What are County Medal Awards?	14
What other awards can 4-H member receive?	14
How do I become "4-Her of the Year"?	15
What is the Michigan Awards Program?	15
What is the 4-H Mark of Excellence Award?	15

4-H County Events and Programs

What are some events held every year?	16
What is Achievement Day?	16
How can I show at the Iosco County Fair?	16
How do I attend 4-H Cloverbud Day Camp?	16
What is 4-H Summer Camp?	17
Where can I find information on other county and regional events	17

4-H State and National Level Programs

What is 4-H Capitol Experience?	18
What is Exploration Days?	18
How do I participate in National 4-H week?	18
What is Citizenship Washington Focus?.....	18
What is the Great Lakes Natural Resources Camp?	19
Does 4-H have any International Programs?.....	19
What are some other events that I can attend?	19
What is the State Shooting Sports Tournament?.....	19
What is the Michigan 4-H China Art Exchange?	19
What is the 4-H State Horse Show?	20
What is the Michigan 4-H State Volunteer Forum?.....	20

Introduction to 4-H

What is 4-H?

4-H is an educational program that offers “hands-on” experiences for youth ages 5 through 19. 4-H programs combine fun with the learning of practical skills. Through 4-H experiences, participants acquire knowledge, confidence and leadership skills. Adult and teen volunteers are teachers and role models for youth. The 4-H program strives to help youth prepare for a positive future as productive citizens, family members and workers. The 4-H program is part of the Cooperative Extension system. 4-H falls under one umbrella of Michigan State University Extension, the Child and Youth Development Institute. There are 4 institutes with MSU Extension, Child and Youth, Health and Nutrition, Greening Michigan and Agriculture and Agribusiness.



What is the history of 4-H?

Michigan 4-H can be traced back to a South Haven man, Liberty Hyde Bailey (1858-1954) who studied Botany and Horticulture at what is now Michigan State University. Bailey was an advocate of teaching youth practical skills by “hands-on” experiences. Thus comes the 4-H philosophy of “Learn by Doing.” For example, during his college career he taught young farmers how to graft branches on to fruit trees. Bailey was on a national committee which helped bring about the establishment of the Cooperative Extension Service by way of passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914.

4-H Clubs began forming in Michigan in 1908, with boys and girls agricultural clubs. Through these clubs, youth farmers learned practical skills which they used throughout their lives. Now 4-H clubs and the 4-H concept not only exist in our nation’s rural areas, but also in urban areas. Michigan boasts of 267,432 youth members, 30,036 volunteer leaders, and over 120 projects in which they may participate. In addition, youth can participate in 4-H special projects, camps and school programs.

What is the 4-H motto?

“To Make the Best Better”

What is the Michigan 4-H Mission Statement?

Michigan 4-H Youth Programs are youth development programs that involve volunteers in providing positive, experiential and educational opportunities for and with youth. Our mission is to create environments, through collaborations, that build strong, healthy youth who are proactive in a complex and changing world.

What are the 4-H Guiding Principles of Positive Youth Development?

1. Youth develop positive relationships with adults and peers.
2. Youth are physically and emotionally safe.
3. Youth are actively engaged in their own development.
4. Youth are considered participants rather than recipients in the learning process.
5. Youth develop skills that help them succeed.
6. Youth recognize, understand and appreciate multiculturalism.
7. Youth grow and contribute as active citizens through service and leadership.

What is the 4-H Clover and the Pledge?

The 4-H clover is the registered trademark of 4-H and is protected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The green four leaf clover with four white “H’s” stands for Head, Heart, Hands and Health as stated in the 4-H pledge:

I pledge my **Head** to clearer thinking,
My **Heart** to greater loyalty,
My **Hands** to larger service, and
My **Health** to better living,
for my club, my community,
my country and my world.



What does 4-H cost?

There is a \$20.00 yearly participation fee to join 4-H with a maximum of \$60.00 per family. There may be club or project dues determined by what the club leader and the members decide. 4-H members are responsible for costs pertaining to their club.

What is the enrollment process?

All 4-H members and leaders in Iosco County need to be properly registered at the MSU Extension office. To register go to:

<https://mi.4honline.com>

You will create a family profile, then add your child/children as 4-H members, and yourself if you are a 4-H volunteer. After you have finished completing the online forms, you click submit. Your enrollment status will show as pending. MSU Extension staff will approve the enrollment upon receipt of the \$20 4-H participation fee.

All clubs need to re-enroll their members and leaders every year. Every effort is made to keep the process as simple as possible. To sign up, new leaders need to refer to the section "How do I become a 4-H volunteer?"

Can I sign up at any time during the year?

Yes, 4-H members and leaders can join 4-H at any time of the year. Some 4-H clubs may have local regulations that require a member or leader to sign up during a given "open enrollment period." Example: January is the only time to register for the 4-H Junior Market Livestock Club. Also, while 4-H members may sign up to participate in 4-H at any time, they must be registered a reasonable amount of time (usually two months) prior to the Iosco County Fair to exhibit in their project areas.

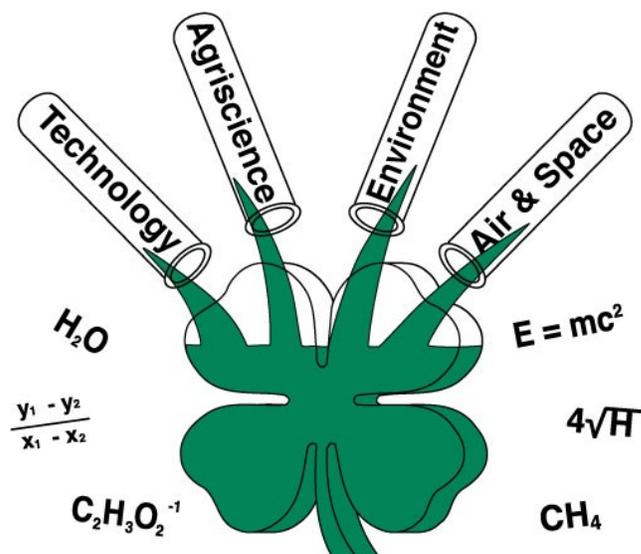
What is the role of the parent(s)?

The parents have one of the most important roles to ensure that their 4-H member(s) have a positive experience in 4-H. When people join 4-H, they really sign up as a family since 4-H is a family program. Parents need to look at 4-H as the opportunity to learn with their children, and not just a place to drop them off to run errands. When members sign up for project areas it is important that parents understand that their son/daughter made a commitment to meet with that project leader at least six times during the year.

I've got a great idea, how do I make it happen?

Anyone who has a great idea that would help 4-H in general, or make our program even more appealing should contact Kelli Rau, Iosco 4-H Program Coordinator.

Kelli will help leaders, members and parents put new ideas into action or help them become a reality. If an idea warrants further discussion, the concept can be brought before the 4-H Leaders' Council. At that point a small group could be formed to make it all come together. An enthusiastic leader, member or parent can make a difference in our 4-H program.



Cl^overology:
A Scientific Solution

4-H Age Guidelines

What is 4-H “Age”?

4-H age is simply the age a member is on January 1 of the program year. This goes for all events (state and local) unless stated differently. Youth between the ages of 5 and 19 as of January 1st of the program year are eligible to be involved in the 4-H program.



What is the Cloverbuds (5-8 year old) program?

4-H Cloverbuds are 4-H members between the ages of 5 and 8 as of January 1st of the 4-H program year. Our youngest 4-H'ers aren't quite ready to participate in many of the project areas and/or activities that their older brothers and sisters can, but there's still plenty for them to do in 4-H, starting with fun!

The emphasis is on participation, learning and teamwork, not competition. They might learn about nutrition while helping to prepare simple snacks, plant seeds and learn what to do to help them grow, or help with animal grooming and feeding (with supervision).

Cloverbuds also provide opportunities for older youth to mentor and help a younger 4-H'er be successful, and start laying the groundwork for their future “career” as a 4-H member.

With Cloverbuds, safety comes first, and all of the activities are developmentally appropriate for this age group.

For complete information on the 4-H Cloverbud Policy please visit:
msue.anr.msu.edu/uploads/234/40260/4-HCloverbudPolicy.pdf

What happens when my “4-Her” turns 9?

When members turn 9, they enter a more competitive level of 4-H. They are now eligible to receive 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards on Achievement Day project and are eligible for Blue Ribbon Awards, which are given out at the Fall 4-H Awards and Recognition Program.



The 4-H Club Structure

What is a 4-H club?

A 4-H Club is a group of five members or more with like interests from two or more families and one or more caring adult volunteer leader.

What type of clubs are there?

There are two different types of clubs in Iosco County. A Project Club consists of a group of members that get together with a common interest and work on a project area. The project clubs available currently in Iosco County are in animal sciences, arts and crafts, bowling, babysitting and shooting sports. The second type of club is known as a SPIN Club, or Special Interest Club. These clubs are short, six week programs and vary on topic areas. 4-H Volunteers come in to instruct on a topic area of their expertise for SPIN clubs.

What size should a club be?

There is not perfect size for a 4-H Club. There are both advantages and disadvantages for a large club and a small club. Large clubs have usually 10-20 members. This size club can offer opportunities for the members to gain leadership experience as a club officer. This keeps project leaders from becoming overwhelmed and overworked.

Smaller clubs with 5-10 members allow members to work as a team on projects, and members can develop closer friendships. Leaders determine the number of youth they are comfortable working with.

Can the size of a 4-H club be limited?

The size of a 4-H club may be limited. This decision should be made by the leader, if possible. In some circumstances, where volunteer recruitment is a challenge, the size may be limited to ensure that the volunteer doesn't have too many club members.

Clubs may also have an enrollment period that is established by the club. In that case, a waiting list needs to be maintained to avoid any type of discrimination.

Who runs the 4-H club?

The membership should run the club. The members conduct their own meetings with the guidance of adults. Decisions should be made by members, with guidance and support of leaders. It is important to have parent and leader support before proceeding with anything planned by the club. It is a good idea for members to discuss topics ahead of time so that adult discussion during the meeting is kept to a minimum.

The MSU Extension office has some great resource materials on making meetings successful. The environment of a 4-H club provides an opportunity for members to share ideas and reach decisions based on those ideas. The whole purpose is to provide learning by doing opportunities.

Should your club have officers and use parliamentary procedure?

It really depends on the size of the club. Medium and large clubs are encouraged to elect officers and use parliamentary procedure. However, for small clubs it may not be feasible. Parliamentary procedure is a skill that 4-H members can learn now for use as adults in the future.



What are club fundraisers?

Each 4-H club may hold fundraising events if they are approved by the MSU Extension office prior to the event. Clubs should never raise money just to have money in their treasury. Money should be raised for educational purposes, supplies, and club activities. Request for funding may be to local businesses and individuals. Organizational funding request, i.e. Fraternal Order of Eagles, Lions, Kiwanis, etc., are not allowed by individual clubs. A fund raising request form must be completed for each fundraising event three weeks before the event. This form can be requested from the Iosco County MSU Extension office.

Should your club's money be in the bank?

Not all clubs need or have money. If the club does have money, then the "shoe box" financial system is an outdated method of keeping club funds. All clubs should have their own checking account through a local bank of their choice. Some banks waive the service fee for non-profit groups. All clubs must use the MSU Extension office as their mailing address for the bank account and statements.

Leaders handling money must notify 4-H staff. We can help you fill out the needed paperwork. An IRS "SS-4" form must be filled out to receive the EIN number needed to fill out the W-9 form to take to the bank to open a bank account.



What are some projects that youth can do in a 4-H club?

There are over 100 different project areas that 4-H members can learn about. Some local projects include: bowling, babysitting, Cloverbuds, veterinary science, beef, sheep, swine, rabbits, horse, crafts, and shooting sports. A complete project list is available from the 4-H staff. We are looking to start new projects everyday. If you have an idea or interest please let the office know.



Should clubs do community service projects?

"My Hands to Larger Service" is a part of the 4-H pledge. Each club is encouraged to participate in at least one community service project each year. This teaches our young members the value of community involvement. You may wish to gather some ideas during a club meeting. (If you need a list of possible ideas you may contact the office.)



Role of the 4-H Leader

How do I become a 4-H Leader?

To become a 4-H leader, contact the MSU Extension office and request a 4-H Leader Application Packet. After filling out the application materials the prospective 4-H leader will proceed through a series of steps:

- Three References Checked
- Background Check conducted by Staff
- Volunteer completes an online training segment
- Personal Interview with 4-H Staff
- Acceptance or Rejection of Volunteer
- Signed Code of Conduct by Volunteer

This process is known as the “Volunteer Selection Process.” This process is in place to protect all of the children in our 4-H program. All volunteers who have unsupervised access to children need to go through this process.

What are the different positions for 4-H Leaders?

There are four club volunteer jobs:

Administrative Leader: The key person(s) in the club responsible for the overall management of the club.

Project Leader: Works with small groups of youth in a specific project area.

Resource Leader: A project leader who decides to share his/her services with more than one club.

Teen Leader: Teens who are interested in a project area and assist an adult in the given project area or take major leadership if no adult volunteer is available.

Life Leader: A person leading a 4-H club for 10 years or more will be designated as a Life Leader and will receive an invitation to the Annual Awards & Recognition Program, even if they are no longer leading a club.

What is an Administrative Leader’s responsibility?

Administrative Leaders are the key to the success of the 4-H club. Some of the responsibilities of the Administrative Leader are (1) Secure a club meeting site, (2) Enroll 4-H members, (3) Inform 4-H members of upcoming events, and (4) Recruit adult helpers, project leaders or teen leaders. A successful Administrative Leader should have Project Leader responsibilities for usually no more than one project area.

What is a Project Leader’s responsibility?

A Project Leader is caring, honest adult that is knowledgeable in a given project area. By working in a group, these adults become a significant mentor and play a major role in the lives of young people. Project Leaders are responsible for helping 4-H members complete their selected project(s).

Leaders guide the work of club members and involve members in planning and decisions. Leaders are encouraged to be creative and make learning fun. Each Project Leader is required to create an educational plan for the club to follow each year. Creative approaches are a key to success. Leader training is available by calling the MSU Extension office.

What is a Resource Leader?

A Resource Leader is really a Project Leader who agrees to help another leader with a specific project. They need not be a leader of a current club. They open up their services/skills/knowledge to other clubs.



What is a Teen Leader?

A Teen Leader is a teen with significant interest in a project area. Teens usually work with an adult to provide leadership to a project for younger members. Teens may decide to take major leadership in a project, with assistance and guidance from an adult. Teen Leaders are trained so that they have the knowledge and leadership skills to ensure a successful experience. Being a Teen Leader can be a valuable asset when putting a resume together to apply for jobs or on college applications.

What is a member's responsibility?

1. To attend 4-H meetings or call the leader when you are going to be absent.
2. To inform parents of 4-H Club Activities
3. To learn the 4-H Pledge and Motto
4. To select and complete projects with the help of 4-H Leaders and parents.

Members are encouraged to take part in local, county, state, national or international activities and events.

Keeping a Personal Record Book of 4-H clubs, projects and activities can be beneficial for the future. This information is helpful when applying for 4-H scholarships and 4-H State Awards.



What is a parent's responsibility?

It is a parent's responsibility to provide transportation to 4-H meetings and events. Parents may be asked to support financial cost as agreed by the club. Showing an interest and encouraging your 4-H member's work and assisting with club activities will strengthen your child's club and experiences.

What trainings are available for 4-H Volunteers?

4-H leaders can participate in a great deal of trainings. In addition to trainings offered locally, 4-H leaders can attend trainings held statewide at one of three locations. Kettunen Center, near Cadillac, is the major training site for 4-H volunteers and teen leaders. Kellogg Biological Station, near Battle Creek and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources buildings on campus are the two other locations where trainings can be held. Regional trainings may also be available. Contact the 4-H Office to determine future training dates and locations. Leaders are eligible for scholarships to cover the cost of trainings. This support is provided by the Iosco County 4-H Leaders' Council.

Should Leaders pay for projects?

In most cases leaders should not have to pay for projects out of their own pockets. The members should reimburse the leaders for materials used or bring their own materials to project meetings. 4-H members will be made aware of any costs that will be incurred prior to signing up for the given project area. 4-H clubs may make arrangements to pay for projects from the club treasury. This should be voted on by the total membership. Fundraisers are another way to generate monies for projects. A fundraising request form needs to be filled out well in advance of the event. All fundraisers must follow the fundraising guidelines.

4-H Resources Available

What are 4-H Project Sheets?

4-H Project Sheets are sheets that give a brief description of what 4-H projects are. They are designed to give leaders and members a starting point for a new project and project ideas. A binder of 4-H Project Sheets is available at the MSU Extension Office for all 4-H families to browse through to gather ideas.

What are 4-H resources?

Many 4-H projects have a Resource folder that is available at the MSU Extension Office. You can also get many resources online. These resources are materials that help 4-H leaders and members get started in a project area. They offer suggestions and ideas on ways to approach a given project. There are many great livestock resources available from Ohio State University Extension and Colorado State University Extension does a wonderful job with Shooting Sports curriculum. The MSU Extension office will be happy to help you locate resources for your project area, just give us a call!

What is the National 4-H Supply?

National 4-H Supply is a service of the National 4-H Council. It is authorized to use the 4-H name and emblem on such things as hats, jewelry, clothing etc. for profit. By purchasing these items, a portion of the profit goes to operate the program of the National 4-H Council. A catalog of available items comes out every year in the fall in time for the holiday shopping season. You can also purchase these items online at any time by visiting www.4-Hmall.org

What is the Friday Fourcast?

The Friday Fourcast is a weekly 4-H Newsletter that contains information about current 4-H activities and happenings in 4-H land here in Iosco. The newsletter will be sent by email each Friday. If you need a printed copy stop by the office.

Where can I get information from online?

There are two ways to access Iosco County 4-H information through the internet. First you can visit the Iosco County MSU Extension website http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county/iosco/iosco_county_4_h.

The best way to stay up to date on all things 4-H is to “Like” us on Facebook.

Our Facebook page, “Iosco County 4-H” is updated weekly and most times daily with the most current happenings and important information. This is the easiest way to get information out to our families.



What is the Kettunen Center?

Kettunen Center is a full-service 4-H conference center. It is owned by the Michigan 4-H Foundation, a non-profit agency that supports Michigan 4-H youth development. It is located 5 miles east of Tustin and 15 miles south of Cadillac. Situated on a beautiful lake, Kettunen Center includes modern meeting, dining, sleeping and recreation areas.



Workshops are held from September to May for beef, sheep, swine, rabbit, horse, visual arts, foods, clothing and textiles, nutrition and fitness, community service, vet science, shooting sports, environmental stewardships, performing arts, science, entomology, and adventure education project areas. One family weekend is held for families with youth ages 5-8 years old as well.



The Kettunen Center has a rich 50 year heritage. Each year some 12,000 people participate in activities including 4-H

teen and adult volunteer training workshops, college and university events, and other non-profit events.

County teen and adult leaders can attend the workshops at the Kettunen Center and bring back activities and information to their clubs. Fees for attending Kettunen Center workshops vary by each workshop, but 4-H Leaders and 4-H members can request scholarships to cover the costs associated with attending these workshops. Due to dedicated support of the 4-H Leaders' Council many Leaders and Members will be able to attend the workshops and only have to pay a \$10.00 fee.



Staff Assistance in 4-H

What is Michigan State University Extension?

Michigan State University Extension extends the educational resources and research based information of Michigan State University to the local community.

What is the chain of command within 4-H?

Each county with a 4-H program has a 4-H Program Coordinator housed in the county's MSU Extension Office. For Iosco County this person is Kelli Rau. Each 4-H Program Coordinator is then directly supervised by an Extension Educator within the Child and Youth Institute. Dorothy Munn serves as the supervisor for Iosco County. The director for the Child and Youth Institute oversees both 4-H Program Coordinators and 4-H Extension Educators. The director is Dr. Julie Chapin. Dr. Chapin is housed on the campus of Michigan State University.

What can the 4-H Program Coordinator do for me?

There are two main components to the role of a 4-H Program Coordinator. These 2 areas are Education and Coordination. The educational leadership is a high priority. 4-H Program Coordinators lead workshops and programs for club members, youth groups, volunteers and schools. They also meet on a one-on-one basis or in small groups to provide technical training and educational resources from MSU.

The second area is that of coordination. 4-H Program Coordinators



are here to assist the volunteers in getting things started that are identified as necessary to the success of the 4-H program.

In addition to these 2 areas, 4-H Program Coordinators also work to keep the mandatory 4-H program policy and procedures up-to-date with their assigned county or counties

How can I get in touch with 4-H Staff?

The Iosco County MSU Extension Office is located in the Iosco County Annex Building: 420 West Lake Street, PO Box 599, Tawas City, Michigan 48764. The MSU Extension Office phone number is (989) 362-3449.

If you need to reach any other MSU Extension employee, you can find their contact information on their county's MSU Extension website.



When should a 4-H Staff member be contacted?

All Iosco County 4-H families are welcome to call or email Kelli at any time. The 4-H Program Coordinator is available to provide assistance when it is needed. If you have concerns about the 4-H program please start with the Iosco County MSU Extension Office before contact campus. Most issues that will arise can be settled within the county if it is explained to the 4-H Program Coordinator first.

Iosco County 4-H Leaders' Council

What is the Iosco County 4-H Leaders' Council?

The Iosco County 4-H Leaders' Council is a group that works closely with the 4-H Program Coordinator to help with the promotion of 4-H planning, goal setting and execution of the 4-H Youth programs and events in Iosco County. They help raise the funds to pay for scholarships, awards, and Adult and Teen Leader training. The Leaders' Council, as well as all the 4-H groups, are recognized



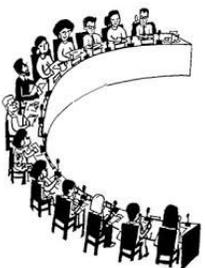
as non-profit tax exempt 501(c) 3 organizations and are authorized to use the 4-H name and clover symbol by MSU Extension. The Executive Council consists of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, two Teen Representatives and the 4-H Program Coordinator.

A copy of the Iosco County 4-H Leaders' Council by-laws may be obtained at the Iosco County MSU Extension office at any time.

How do I join the 4-H Leaders' Council?

It is easy to join, just attend. Any person interested in promoting the welfare of the 4-H youth programs in Iosco County may attend

the 4-H Leaders' Council, but only persons who are 4-H volunteers may hold elected offices and vote. At least one person from every 4-H Club is



encouraged to become a part of the Leaders' Council.

To be eligible for an office, a Leader must have at least one year tenure of service. Officers may not hold the same office for more than two consecutive two year terms. Teen Leaders and Leaders are nominated at the September meeting. The election is held the fourth Tuesday of October to allow new members to take over after the first of the year.

The President, Treasurer and one Teen Representative positions will be elected during the even calendar years, with the Vice-President, Secretary and one Teen Representative position being elected during the odd calendar years.

When are 4-H Leaders' Council meetings held?

The regular meetings of the Council are held the fourth Tuesday of the months of January, March, May, June, September and October. The December meeting is held on the first Tuesday.

What committees are part of the Leaders' Council?

The following committees exist in Iosco County:

- By-Law Committee
- Awards Committee
- Budget Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Horse Developmental Committee
- Iosco County Jr. Market Livestock
- Snack Shack Committee
- Achievement Day Committee
- Recognition Committee



Other committees are formed as needed. 4-H families are encouraged by the Leaders' Council to be on one or more of these committees to make a contribution to the leadership of the Iosco County 4-H Program.

What are county-wide fundraisers?



County-wide fundraisers are fundraisers for the 4-H Leaders' Council. All clubs are encouraged to participate in at least one Leaders'

Council fundraiser each year. This ensures that the 4-H Leaders' Council will be able to continue funding the program and scholarships for all 4-H members in Iosco County.

What is the Silent Auction?

The 4-H Leaders' Council holds a Silent Auction at the Iosco County Fair each year. A Silent Auction Committee solicits merchandise from local businesses. Monies collected from the Silent Auction are deposited into the 4-H Leaders' Council treasury and use scholarships, education, awards and recognition, camp, Exploration Days, State Snow Fees, and club support for 4-H members and volunteers.



Can we apply for scholarships?

Each 4-H Club is considered an independent group. Each club or individual is allowed to submit an application for scholarships.

Scholarships are available for any 4-H event

Financial hardships and other circumstances will be handled on an individual basis. The availability of funds



will determine the number and amount of scholarships awarded each year. Scholarship applicants must complete the Iosco County 4-H Scholarship form and return it to the Iosco County MSU Extension Office. 4-H members 16 years of age and older or those requesting funds for out of state trips must complete the entire form. All 4-H members under the age of 12 are only required to complete the outlined sections. A 4-H member's involvement in club meetings and activities, community service, council activities and other 4-H activities and events will be taken into consideration.

What is Snack Shack Fundraising?

The 4-H Leaders' Council owns a concession stand called the "Snack Shack." During special events and the Iosco County Fair, 4-H clubs can earn money by operating the Snack Shack. Requests to work events can be made to the Snack Shack Committee Chairperson. The Snack Shack Committee

purchases the supplies for the events and a usage fee as well as the cost for supplies is deducted from the club's profits for events. Monies earned, less user fees and supply costs, are divided between clubs which participate.



What about liability insurance?

All 4-H volunteers are covered under the same liability coverage as Michigan State University employees. It has been determined that any adult who has successfully gone through the volunteer selection process is eligible for this coverage. This coverage is in effect whenever a 4-H meeting or event is being conducted. Volunteers are still encouraged to avoid any situation that could be considered negligent.



What is special event insurance?

Any clubs that are having an event(s) may wish to consider accident insurance. The MSU Extension Office can provide volunteers with the information needed to obtain this coverage. Any event coordinated by the Michigan State University Extension Office including 4-H

Camp will have special event insurance purchased through the 4-H Office to cover all staff,



County and State Awards & Recognition

Should members keep a record of their 4-H involvement?

Record keeping is highly recommended in case a 4-H member wishes to apply for 4-H scholarships or awards. Record keeping in itself is important, because it teaches members to document their accomplishments and develop skills in recording and summarizing their work. This can be done in several ways. The "Member Record Book" is available at the Iosco County MSU Extension Office or 4-H members may choose to create their own way to keep a record of all 4-H activities in which they participate.

Information that should be kept include the name of activity, date, who they worked with, etc.. Then, when they want to compile the information for reports, it becomes much easier. All methods of record keeping usually require the support of parents to motivate the accomplishment of this task. For those who

have access to a computer, 4-H records can be kept electronically for ease of future use.



How do I get a completion pin/ certificate for 4-H involvement?

4-H completion certificates are available to all 4-H Club volunteers at any time of the year. Please contact MSU Extension office two weeks prior to the date needed. All 4-H members who have completed a 4-H project are eligible to receive a certificate and pin. The club leader decides which members have completed the project. Costs for the certificates and pins are provided by the 4-H Leaders' Council. Members only receive one pin per year regardless of the number of clubs they are involved in.

What are Blue Ribbon Awards?

A blue ribbon award is a special county award that is given to 4-H members between 9 and 12 years old that demonstrate outstanding work in their clubs. Members must be nominated by a 4-H Club Leader to receive a Blue Ribbon Award.



What are County Medal Awards?

4-H members aged 12 years and older who have completed two or more years in a project area are eligible for county medal awards. The process is initiated by the 4-H member's leader nomination of the member. The nominations are reviewed by the Awards Committee and presented at the Awards and Recognition Banquet. A member may not be awarded the same project medal two consecutive years.



What other awards can 4-H members receive?

Each year there are several award categories for 4-H members who go above and beyond. To be eligible for an award, a 4-H member must first be nominated by a 4-H volunteer. Secondly, the member must complete the 4-H Awards packet and participate in an interview with a selected panel. These interviews are meant to encourage leadership and personal growth in the young people.

- * **The Award of Excellence** is earned by a 4-H member's outstanding achievements. This award is for members who have already received a county

- * **The “I Dare You” Award** was first offered in 1941 by William H. Danforth, a successful business man, who dared young people to achieve their highest potential and to influence others through leadership and service. This award is given to a 4-H member who exhibits these characteristics.
- * **Dedication to the 4-H Program Award** is given to a 4-H member who takes on leadership responsibilities, actively participates in program planning and development, contributes to community development, and helps recruit new members and volunteers.
- * **Certificate of Merit Award** goes to a 4-H member who has shown exceptional achievement, leadership and/or citizenship. This award is given to members that were nominated for 4-H'er of the Year, but were not selected.

Members may only receive these awards once.

How do I become “4-H'er of the Year?”

The first thing someone must do to become 4-H'er of the Year is to be very involved with 4-H. Being a 4-H member for many years, taking part in 4-H Leaders' Council activities, fundraisers, community service activities, training workshops, Exploration Days, international travel, and being a teen leader are all examples of qualified candidates for 4-H'er of the Year.



Members may only receive this award once.

What is the Michigan 4-H State Awards Program?

Participation in the Michigan Awards program offers 4-H members an opportunity for State 4-H awards. After participating in county and state 4-H programs, 4-H members can apply for a 4-H State Award. This award is based on project areas and focuses on personal development and leadership skills that 4-H members can gain through participation. More information on the 4-H State Awards program can be reviewed at the 4-H State Awards Workshop held annually in January at the Extension Office. The process involves submitting an application, participating in an interview during Exploration Days and attending the awards reception on Thursday evening during Exploration Days.



What is the 4-H Mark of Excellence Award?

- * The 4-H Mark of Excellence Award is a state essay contest for 4-H members aged 11 and 12 as of January 1st of the current year. Essays must be 500 words or less. The themes are related to 4-H for example; “Because of 4-H I can...” The contest is announced in January, and the essays must be submitted to the 4-H office by the end of February so that 2 finalists from Iosco County can be selected and sent to the State Coordinator by March 1st. County finalists will be recognized on both the county and state level and essays will be kept at the State 4-H office and the Kettunen Center.

4-H County Events and Programs

What are some events held every year?

Annual 4-H events include:

- * Achievement Day
- * Exploration Days
- * Iosco County Fair
- * 4-H Day Camp
- * 4-H Summer Camp
- * National 4-H Week
- * Awards and Recognition Banquet
- * Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF)
- * County and State 4-H Horse Shows
- * County and State 4-H Shooting Sports Tournaments
- * China Art Exchange
- * 4-H Kettunen Center Workshops
- * 4-H State Rabbit and Cavy Expo
- * 4-H State Dog Show
- * 4-H State Goat Show



What is Achievement Day?

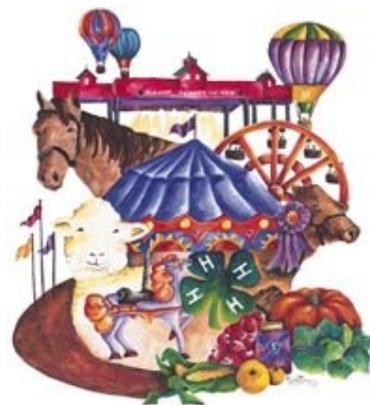
Achievement Day is a county-wide event in which all 4-H clubs participate. The event, held at the Iosco County fairgrounds, is the major opportunity for 4-H members to show their 4-H projects to the public during the Iosco County Fair!

These projects are evaluated, members are given feedback on what might be done for improvement, and awards are presented. The projects then remain on display all week of the fair and can be picked up on Sunday!

How can I show at the Iosco County Fair?

4-H projects, as well as any other youth projects, can be shown at the Iosco County Fair by following the fair guidelines. All 4-H

members and volunteers must ensure that the projects meet the given criteria. Nearly all information needed to participate in the Fair can be found in the Fair Book that comes out in June. Questions related specifically to the fair can be answered by calling the Fair Board Executives.



How do I attend 4-H Day Camp?

The 4-H Day Camp is a three day event for 5-8 year olds, and is held at a local facility. Camp is usually held from 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Information and specific camp details and dates are usually available in early March.



What is 4-H Summer Camp?

4-H

Summer Camp is a three day, two night



camp held for 4-H members between the ages of 8 and 12 as of January 1st of the current year. Iosco, Arenac and Ogemaw Counties participate in this camp. The youth stay in cabins with a counselor and adult volunteer and nine other campers. Some of the camp activities include hiking, archery, nature study, campfire, crafts, music, swimming, kayaking, canoeing, basketball, and fitness trails. The camp utilizes the

talents of local 4-H teens as camp counselors to conduct activities, while providing a valuable leadership training experience for these young people.



Where can I find information on other county and regional events?

Many events change each year and new ones are offered all the time. Please check the 4-H Friday

Fourcast email Newsletter, the Iosco County 4-H Facebook page, the website and Shutterfly



Sharesite for the most current information on all events. Also, please call the office at anytime to get information on any upcoming events.

State and National Events and Programs

What is 4-H Capitol Experience?

The 4-H Capitol Experience is held annually in Lansing for all Michigan 4-H members who are high school students. Participants learn about state government and community service. They have the opportunity to interact with their local politicians. This is a three-day program held in March. Members stay on the MSU campus and are given tours of the



university and have a chance to meet other 4-H'ers from around the state.

What is Exploration Days?

Exploration Days is the largest statewide 4-H event held for youth and volunteers. This event, held the third week in June brings nearly 4,000 4-H members, volunteers and staff members from all over Michigan to the campus of MSU.



While there, 4-H members participate in educational workshops and classes. Members also learn what it is like to live, eat and learn on a university campus. Exploration Days gives 4-H members the opportunity to make new friends and enjoy watching top notch entertainers. Members are required to be at least 12 years old by January 1st to attend. The cost is usually \$165.00 to attend.

Partial scholarships may be available to 4-H members upon request from the 4-H Leaders' Council. Adults attending the event will act as session hosts, activity hosts, instructors, session helpers and conference assistants in addition to being volunteer chaperones. Many fundraisers are held to offset the members expenses in the spring.



What is National 4-H Week?

National 4-H Week is always the second week of October. It is a celebration of 4-H throughout the country. Clubs can plan local events and help the 4-H Leaders' Council to publicize 4-H in Iosco County.



What is Citizen Washington Focus (CWF)?

Citizenship Washington Focus is a weeklong opportunity for 4-H teens 14-19, to go to Washington, D.C.. Iosco County 4-H members are encouraged to attend this event to learn about government and community service.



This program allows youth to visit the Nation's capitol and explore many unique

What is the Great Lakes Natural Resources Camp?

The Great Lakes Natural Resources Education program is held each July at a camp in northern Michigan, and allows teen and adult educators the opportunity to learn about natural resource education. This program incorporates the use of the Great Lakes as a classroom. At 4-H Great Lakes & Natural Resources Camp, you can:



- Enjoy all of the usual fun camp activities, but also learn about science in interesting, hands-on ways (yes, it's OK to *learn* during the summer).
- Learn about our Great Lakes and the issues they face. You'll know about environmental concerns and how to be a good environmental steward to protect our state's great natural resources.
- Get off the couch and get more into the outdoors. You might even discover a career you'd like to pursue!
- Become a better leader, discovering self-confidence you never knew you had.



Does 4-H have any International Programs?

Yes, 4-H has many opportunities to bring an international perspective to any 4-H club or family. All 4-H families can host an international visitor for one to six months in their home. In addition, 4-H members and alumni can travel to other countries on international programs through 4-H. These experiences range from six weeks to six months.

What are some other events that I can attend?

There are many state programs that happen throughout the year.

Read the 4-H Newsletter, check out the 4-H Facebook page and State 4-H Website for more details about these upcoming 4-H events.

The following is a list of events, however it is not all-inclusive:

- Rabbit Show
- Dog Show
- Horse Show
- Goat Show
- Horse Benefit Clinic
- Horse Jamboree
- Trail Ride
- Livestock Judging Contest



There is usually a cost for travel and sometimes an entry for these events.

What is the State Shooting Sports Tournament?

This is held in August every summer. Location to be announced as it may vary. Members may compete as individuals or on teams based on their expertise. Teams win gold, silver and bronze medals. 4-H members must qualify to attend the state shoot at the 4-H county shoot or other shooting event. The 4-H volunteers play a tremendous role in organizing this event.



What is the Michigan 4-H Chinese Art Exchange?

The China Art program is a children's art exchange between Michigan 4-H and Chinese schools. The children learn about China through Chinese children's artwork. In exchange, Michigan youth send artwork to China to educate youth about the United States. The China Art program is open to all children in grades K-6 in all educational settings.



What is the 4-H State Horse Show?

The 4-H State Horse Show is held every August on the campus of Michigan State University. In order to attend this event, 4-H members must first submit an application, undergo an interview with industry representatives and 4-H staff members and then compete in several county Horse project events to gain “points”. Each county is only allowed to send a select number of delegates based on total youth involved in the 4-H Horse Project area. Selected participants will be announced in June.



What is the Michigan 4-H State Volunteer Forum?

The Michigan 4-H State Volunteer Forum is a one day event held annually in November on a Saturday. This event is intended to be a revitalizer for seasoned volunteers and also to spark new and creative ideas in adult volunteers and teen leaders. Each year the sessions vary on topics offered, but in prior years they have ranged from creating bionic arms to health and nutrition.

