2017 MSU Extension Exploration Days—Journey to Success

Youth won’t want to miss out on this exciting adventure for 11-19 year olds!

The registration books can be found at [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/4_h_exploration_days/registration_information](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/4_h_exploration_days/registration_information) and hard copies are available at the office or from club leaders. All of the forms that need to be completed are included in the registration booklet. **Please remember to sign up early for the best opportunity to get the classes that interest you the most. Many classes fill up early so don’t delay!** It’s going to be an exciting time for youth to attend classes at MSU, develop new friends and skills while having a great time with our county delegation! Youth will be able to enjoy the Detroit Circus at the Wharton Center, MSU dairy ice cream and a variety of other activities while on campus. The registration deadline is May 1, 2017—but waiting until the last minute limits the choices of classes that are available. **Exploration Days orientation will be at 6:30 PM, May 31, 2017 at the fairgrounds.**

Welcome Jordan Duckens—MSUE Support Staff

Jordan was born and raised in Sacramento, California and moved to Kalamazoo from Washington, D.C. in January to be closer to my fiancé. She received her BA in Broadcast Journalism from Howard University, a Historically Black College in the District and she is currently working on her Master’s in PR/Corporate Communications at Georgetown. She loves reading, listening to podcasts and is beginning to dabble in calligraphy and photography. She is also creating a Michigan/Kalamazoo bucket list of places to visit, things to do and food to eat so I can get acquainted with my new home. I would love any suggestions you would like to share with me! **To learn more about (insert topic), go to (web address)***
Stryke Force 4-H Robotics

Stryke Force 4-H Robotics Team 2767 competed in a District First Robotics Competition at St. Joseph High School March 10th and 11th. At the completion of qualifying matches, they were in 4th place with 9 wins and 3 losses. They were happy to be selected to work alongside the 1st place team, Team 3620, The Average Joes and Team 5567, Code Red Robotics, to form the first seed Alliance and go on to win the competition. Stryke Force will be competing again at East Kentwood on March 31st and April 2nd in hopes of qualifying for states which takes place in Saginaw April 13th through April 15th followed by Worlds in St. Louis, MO April 26th through April 30th. For more information about this year’s game and First Robotics, please visit https://www.firstinspires.org/robotics/frc/game-and-season.

Swine Project

The next swine project meeting will be held on April 25th at 7pm. We will be having a special speaker. Dr. Stephen Behan will be our guest and will be talking specifically about immunizations for your swine, along with a time for questions and answers. You won’t want to miss! Also, if you haven’t picked up your swine tags yet they will also be available that night.

PalletPalooza

Goodwill Industries is gearing up for our 2nd annual event and they are hoping that 4-H youth, clubs and projects will participate in their upcoming competition.

This is a recycled pallet creation competition. All ages can enter as well as teams. Entry period is May 22 – June 20, 2017. There is a $20 Entry fee and you get a PalletPalooza™ t-shirt with each entry.

PalletPalooza Day is August 12 which is a festival and the awarding of $2000 in cash prizes to our winners.

Their event website is PalletSWMI.com and people can sign up for emails to keep up to date with news and information at this link: palletswmi.com/contact-us

Create your own pallet, create one with your club or project. It can be entered in the PalletPalooza and in the Kalamazoo County Fair.
Have Fun Living Healthy!

Where:
Doyle Center, Sturgis, MI
310 N Franks Ave, Sturgis, MI 49091

Who is ready to be healthy? Here is your chance! Learn about different healthy snacks and activities YOU can do at home or with your friends! Join us for lots of fun, laughter, and healthy living learning!

FREE Family Event
ALL Ages welcome!

Activities include:
- Smoothie Challenge
- Obstacle Course
- 4-H Yoga for Kid
- Dance Party Challenge
- Basketball Challenge
- Jr. Snack Challenge
- Human Hungry Hippos Game
- Zumba
- Relay Race
- Cardio Drumming
- and MORE!!!

4-H Walmart Youth Voice: Youth Choice Program

This is a combined program through 4-H in Cass, Kalamazoo & St. Joe Counties
Welcome Josh Gower—Kalamazoo County Fair Coordinator/ Trail Way Coordinator

The Kalamazoo County Parks & Expo Center is pleased to introduce the new Fair Coordinator, Josh Gower! Here’s a little bit about Josh:

“My name is Josh Gower and I am the new Kalamazoo County Fair Coordinator/ Trail Way Coordinator. I have worked with the Kalamazoo County Parks Department for almost five years as Markin Glen’s Park Manager. I grew up in the Kalamazoo Area, studied biology at Central Michigan University, and now live in Martin with my wife and two sons. In my off time you will most likely find me enjoying the outdoors with my boys, or doing home improvement projects. I am excited about this new position, and look forward to working with 4-H and the Fair Council to make the Kalamazoo County Fair a fun, family oriented event for this year and years to come.”

CAMPING DURING THE KALAMAZOO COUNTY FAIR

The Expo Center also wants to remind 4-H families that they will begin taking camping reservations for the Fair on May 1. Camping rates are the same as last year, $135.00 per week plus a $5.00 reservation fee. You can call the office at 383-8778 to make reservations. Parking passes, fair admission and ride wristbands can also be purchased at the same time as you make camping reservations. We are pleased to announce the Maple Leaf Amusements will be the new carnival company this year and they will be offering $10.00 pre-sale ride wristbands. https://www.facebook.com/MapleLeafAmusement
OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CHALLENGE

The Outdoor Adventure Challenge (OAC) Orientation Workshop is fast approaching on May 5th-7th. The workshop is held on property along the Manistee River near Kingsley. This workshop is a great introduction to the OAC program; the activities, opportunities, practices and expectations. This workshop takes place outdoors so camping is the means along with appropriate clothing, equipment and food preparation. Equipment is not a barrier to participation so assistance is provided to encourage participation.

Please share with anyone interested or others you feel would be a good candidate. For a copy of the brochure of the OAC program and 2017 workshops please contact the 4-H office.

SAVE THE DATE

2017 Michigan 4-H
Creative Arts Celebration

Previously the 4-H Visual Arts, Crafts, Sewing, and Textiles Workshop
November 18-19, 2017
Kettunen Center in beautiful Tustin, MI for
4-H volunteers and teens ages 12 and over (4-H age)

Watch for complete packet by mid-August
**2018 National 4-H Forestry Invitational**

**Who:** A team of 3 - 4 youth between ages 14-18 (as of January 1, 2018)

**When:** *July 28 – August 1, 2018*
Youth will participate in monthly training sessions spring of 2018 – Dates to be determined.

**Where:** The National 4-H Forestry Invitational is held at Jackson’s Mill in Weston, West Virginia
Youth will participate in monthly training sessions spring of 2018 – Locations to be determined.

**What:** Learn a diverse set of forestry skills and compete in the 2018 National 4-H Forestry Invitational in Weston, West Virginia. Develop leadership, career and citizenship abilities.

**Cost:** FREE!
Travel to training sessions and incidentals on trip to West Virginia may require minimal expense.

**Interested youth should** contact Julie Crick, 989-275-7179, crickjul@anr.msu.edu for more information about the MSUE Forestry Program and the National 4-h Forestry Invitational
MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

April is the Month of the Military Child, an annual awareness campaign that recognizes the sacrifices made by military families and their children. To show support of children who are military-connected, Michigan State University Extension 4-H Military Family Programs is asking residents throughout Michigan to “PURPLE UP” on April 15, 2017 by wearing purple in support of military families.

The color purple is chosen as the signature color because it symbolizes all branches of the military: it is the combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue. We hope everyone will take this opportunity to appreciate and celebrate all of our state’s young heroes who sacrifice as their parents and family members serve.

In partnership with many other states across the United States, Michigan 4-H Military Family Programs is participating in the seventh annual Purple Up! for Military Kids campaign. We invite Michigan residents to join us in wearing purple on Saturday, April 15th as a visible way to show support and thank military children for their sacrifices and strength.

Looking for ways to spread the word about Purple Up? Be creative! The goal is for military families to actually see the support of their local community. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Turn the campus of MSU from green and white to purple to show our support for military kids
- Ask news and media outlets to feature a story about Purple Up! For Military Kids (http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/purple_up_for_military_families)
- Involve schools, sports teams, youth organizations, clubs, daycare programs and afterschool programs by having them wear purple to show their support for military youth and families.
- Ask local businesses to “purple up” by displaying purple decorations or allowing their employees to wear purple. Take advantage of the ready-made “Purple Up” flyer and “Purple Up” poster.
- Find other ways to support military families in your community by contacting your local Veteran groups or support organizations such as Operation Homefront to see how you can help.

Are you part of a military family? Request a certificate of appreciation for your child during Month of the Military Child:

Certificate of Appreciation: You may request a certificate to present to your child in honor of the Month of the Military Child. Get a certificate request form by emailing: mail-to:ng.mi.miarrng.mbx.child-and-youth-programs@mail.mil?subject=Certificate Request.

Celebrate Month of the Military Child by encouraging everyone in your community to wear purple. Help share the support with military families across the state by taking photos of people participating in Purple Up! for Military Kids in your community and sending them to Michigan 4-H Military Partnerships at kmoyses@anr.msu.edu or share them on our Facebook page so military youth and families everywhere will see them. Let’s show our military families how much we appreciate their service!

For more information about programs and resources available to military families through Michigan 4-H, please visit Michigan 4-H Military Partnerships.
4-H Workshops

April 11: The “Write” Stuff Communications Training: Your 4-H Market Animal Project
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=02C2B6A3D674F22B
Wexford County MSU Extension Office, Cadillac

April 28-30: 4-H Shooting Sports Adult & Teen Instructor’s Certification Workshop
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=4AC5F2D9F5BE2CEA
Kettunen Center, Tustin

May 13-14: 4-H Regional Shooting Sports Air Pistol Training
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4_h_regional_shooting_sports_air_pistol_training
Demmer Center, Lansing

May 20-21: Teens as Teachers Workshop
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=3828E28B31B6CA58
Kettunen Center, Tustin

June 2-4: Michigan 4-H Companion Animal Camp
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/michigan_4_h_companion_animal_camp_1
Camp Tuhsmehetpa, Greenville

Other 4-H Events

April 8: Norma Agnew Memorial 4-H Hairy Horse Show
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/norma_agnew_memorial_4-h_hairy_horse_show
MSU Pavilion, Lansing

April 15: State 4-H Goat Expo
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=6549761B2168714F
Anthony Hall, MSU, East Lansing

April 22: Michigan 4-H Equine Educational Expo
http://www.ans.msu.edu/extension/horse_youth_programs
Anthony Hall, MSU, East Lansing

May 11: World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=194D71E98D66A7A7
MSU, East Lansing

May 20: State 4-H Poultry Show
https://events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?eventID=E025CAFF682A6962
Eaton County Fairgrounds, Charlotte Michigan State University

June 3: Iron Belle Trail Challenge
http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10369_55920---,00.html

June 21-23: Michigan 4-H Exploration Days
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/4_h_exploration_days
MSU, East Lansing

For the most up-to-date events listing, go to http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events
Teens as Teachers, A Unique Michigan 4-H Workshop

This workshop (http://bit.ly/2m0dhcw), for Michigan 4-H’ers (http://bit.ly/12NxjLN), who are 13 to 19 years old, as of January 1, 2017, provides opportunities to:

- Learn skills such as: communication, critical thinking, evaluation, facilitation, leadership, organization, responsibility, self-motivation and teamwork
- Use the 4-H Experiential Learning Model (http://bit.ly/2mxjdN6) to engage youth in rich learning experiences
- Make learning fun and relatable to the young people they teach
- Serve as positive role models for other youth
- Bring new programming and ideas back to their 4-H clubs, county programs and local communities
- Find out about career opportunities

Participants will select one of the following workshop tracks.

4-H Ag Innovators Experience (http://bit.ly/2m0lT2W)

To meet the challenges of feeding a growing world population, we need more young people entering the science and agriculture workforce. This track features the Healthy Soils CSI Challenge (http://bit.ly/2lhXfO8). While teaching life skills, the challenge promotes career exploration in science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) and agriculture. In Michigan, it will reach a minimum of 1,000 youth in classrooms, afterschool, camps or 4-H groups.

Leadership Through Parliamentary Procedure

In this track, teens will learn multiple activities to assist other young people to use parliamentary procedure to improve meeting productivity and become better leaders! This is one of Michigan 4-H’s most requested trainings.

Money Skills Education

If you are interested in (1) helping younger youth, (2) making a positive impact in your community or (3) teaching children, this track will give you the skills to do so! Track participants will teach basic financial concepts, using children’s books and hands-on activities, to 200 elementary-school students in classrooms, afterschool programs, camps or 4-H groups.

Share Your Love of Science

The True 4-H Science Leaders (http://bit.ly/2lDD2hD) program is designed to help teens develop skills, implement plans and voice their love of science with others in their community. In addition, participants will engage in a variety of hand-on science investigations to learn ways to help others experience the excitement of science exploration!


What Is the Workshop Cost? $45 - This covers meals, lodging and program materials.

How Can Someone Register?

Registration for the conference is available on the Michigan 4-H web site (http://bit.ly/2m0dhcw). If a registrant’s county is offering scholarships, it is important to check with the county (http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county), before registering.

More information is available from:
- The Michigan 4-H web site (http://bit.ly/2m0dhcw)
- Betty Jo Krosnicki (nashbett@msu.edu)
- Your local MSU Extension county 4-H staff (http://msue.anr.msu.edu/county)