Established in 1914, MSU Extension helps people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs and opportunities. Extension offices in counties throughout the state link the research of the state’s land grant university, MSU, with the issues of concern in local communities. Extension provides information and offers educational programs in agriculture and natural resources, youth and families, community and economic development. Local citizens serve on the County Extension Council and help select current focus areas for programming.

**4-H Youth Development**

We offer expertise, programs and educational resources for urban, suburban and rural youth and adult volunteers designed to help children, youth and families reach their fullest potential – programs such as MSU Exploration Days, Character Education, our Citizenship Academy, leadership development. Ask about our resources for schools, churches and other youth development organizations. Ask about starting a 4-H Club.

**Contact:**
Darren Bagley  244-8515  bagleyda@msu.edu

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**Special thanks to the Genesee County Board of Commissioners:**

This MSU Extension 4-H Citizenship Academy is made possible through your tax dollars and the support of the Genesee County Board of Commissioners.

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2008 Genesee County Board of Commissioners

- **District 1:** Omar Sims
- **District 2:** Brenda Clack
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- **District 4:** John Northrup
- **District 5:** Mark Young
- **District 6:** Tony Brown
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**Special thanks also to:**

**Genesee County’s State Leaders**

- State Rep. Woodrow Stanley
- State Rep. Pam Faris
- State Rep. Joe Graves
- State Rep. Phil Phelps
- State Rep. Charles Smiley
- State Sen. David Robertson
- State Sen. Jim Ananich
- Gov. Rick Snyder

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**APPLY FOR THE 4-H CITIZENSHIP ACADEMY**

For details:
Phone: (810) 244-8515
Or visit us ONLINE any time at:
http://www.msue.msu.edu/genesee

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Michigan State University Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, or family status. MSU is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.
**What is the Citizenship Academy?**

The Genesee County 4-H Citizenship Academy is a collaborative education program sponsored by the Genesee County Board of Commissioners and Michigan State University Extension in Genesee County. The program provides selected high school aged students an opportunity to learn about local and state government with a "hands-on" approach. Students will also engage in identifying public issues, and learn how citizens work within government to accomplish public objectives and meet community needs.

**Why Citizenship Education?**

It is imperative that citizens have a working knowledge of government to make informed decisions and participate in civic life. According to the Content Standards and Benchmarks set by the State Board of Education, "Civic knowledge builds understanding about the exercise of power. With knowledge of government and politics, citizens are equipped to evaluate domestic and international policy and to exert influence in public affairs."

**How busy will you be?**

YOU WILL BE BUSY! You will learn how county government works, sit next to your commissioner during an official board meeting, visit with various county department heads, work as a team to identify community issues important to teens, and work on possible action plans to address the issues. You will then head for Lansing to visit state offices and agencies, have breakfast with your state senator and representative, visit with lobbyists, and spend a lot of time at the Capitol.

**How do I apply?**

You must be between 14 and 19 years of age. You need to complete an application by February 7, 2014.

A selection committee will review the applications and select the student representative for each district. **PROGRAM RELATED EXPENSES WILL BE PAID FOR AS AN EDUCATIONAL COURTESY OF YOUR GENESEE COUNTY COMMISSIONER & MSU EXTENSION!**

**AGENDA/ IMPORTANT DATES**

**March 5 (Wednesday), 6-9 p.m. at Genesee County MSU Extension Office**

You will receive a fantastic notebook and information regarding local units of government and Genesee County demographics. (Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend)

**March 12 (Wednesday), ALL DAY**. This will require a full day off from school. You start by sitting next to your commissioner at an official board meeting. The rest of the day, you will visit county departments including the county jail, probate court and others.

**March 14 (Wednesday) 6-7:30 p.m. at MSU Extension**, we will have an orientation for you and parents prior to attending Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience. (Parents are strongly encouraged to attend)

**March 16-19 (Sunday - Wednesday)**

Academy participants will represent Genesee County at Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience held at our state Capitol. You will miss 3 days of school. If needed, we will contact school officials to explain the program. You will have breakfast with your state senator and representative. You will visit lobbyists, state agencies and state departments. You will discover first hand how state public policy is made. Issue groups will include criminal sentencing, prison system, domestic violence and juvenile crime, etc.

**April 2 (Wednesday) 6-9 p.m. at MSU Extension**, we will be meeting with representatives from other county departments, potentially including the Health Department, Emergency Management, Drain Office, Road Commission, and Parks, and others.(Parents are welcome to attend)

**April 9 (Wednesday), 6-9 p.m. at Genesee County MSU Extension Office**, the nine member academy will work together to identify community issues and propose possible action plans to address the issues. (Parents welcome to attend)

**April 16 (Wednesday), 6-9 p.m. at MSU Extension**, we will have a meal with the commissioners and present the issues identified March 29. We will also be conducting an extensive evaluation. (Parents are strongly encouraged to attend)