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Iosco County 4-H Recap

During the 2025-2026 4-H Year, Iosco County 4-H continued to create opportunities for young people to learn by doing, discover their passions and build the skills they need for their futures. From agriculture and animal science to natural resources, STEM, leadership and career exploration, 4-H connected youth with caring adults and meaningful experiences both within Iosco County and beyond. These experiences help young people develop confidence, responsibility, communication, problem-solving and leadership skills while strengthening their connection to the communities in which they live.

Iosco County 4-H is part of the much larger Michigan 4-H and MSU Extension system. National 4-H was officially established in 1902, and the first Michigan 4-H clubs were formed in 1908 as boys' and girls' agricultural clubs. The original emphasis was very practical: teaching young people agricultural skills that they could take home and use in their families and communities. That agricultural foundation is particularly meaningful in Iosco County. 4-H has historically provided young people with opportunities to work with livestock, agriculture, natural resources, food, and other hands-on projects, while also developing leadership and citizenship skills. But Iosco County 4-H has never been just about animals or the county fair. Over time, the program has expanded considerably to include STEM, science, natural resources, leadership, community service, career exploration, outdoor education, camps, school enrichment and special-interest programs.

One of the biggest things that makes 4-H different from many

youth activities is that it isn't simply about keeping kids busy. It's about giving young people responsibility, ownership and a place to belong. Iosco County 4-H is intentionally creating opportunities for young people to connect with positive adult mentors, make friends in safe learning environments, take leadership in their own learning, develop productive life skills and become active citizens.

4-H nationally was established in 1902, and Michigan's first 4-H clubs were formed in 1908 as boys' and girls' agricultural clubs. The original purpose was very hands-on: young people learned practical agricultural skills and then brought that knowledge back to their families and communities.

That model fits Iosco County particularly well. The country's rural and agricultural communities provided a natural setting for youth to learn through livestock, farming, gardening, food, natural resources and other practical projects. Over the decades, Iosco 4-H grew into a countywide youth organization rather than simply an agricultural program.

4-H is much more than a traditional agricultural youth program. It continues to provide opportunities in animal science, agriculture, STEM, natural resources, leadership, citizenship, outdoor education and career exploration. That matters because Iosco County is a rural community where young people don't necessarily have the same access to specialized extracurricular opportunities that children in larger communities might have. 4-H gives them a way to try something, learn by doing, work alongside adults, take responsibility and discover what they're good at.

Why 4-H Matters

For more than a century, 4-H has been helping young people learn by doing, and that mission continues to make a difference in communities like Iosco County. While many people may first think of livestock, the county fair or agricultural projects when they hear "4-H," the impact of the program reaches far beyond a show ring.

4-H gives young people opportunities to discover their interests, try new things, take responsibility and learn from both their successes and their challenges. Whether a young person is raising an animal, participating in a STEM project, learning about natural resources, attending camp, serving their community or developing leadership skills, they are gaining skills that will stay with them long after their 4-H project is finished.

Perhaps one of the most important things 4-H provides is a sense of belonging. Young people have the opportunity to build relationships with caring adult volunteers, make friends, work as a team and find adults who believe in their abilities. For some youth, a 4-H club may be the place where they discover a passion, gain confidence or realize for the first time that they are capable of something they once thought was out of reach.

The impact also extends beyond the individual. 4-H youth become leaders, volunteers, mentors and community members. The skills they develop, responsibility, communication, problem-solving, perseverance and leadership—help strengthen families, schools, businesses and

communities.

In Iosco County, 4-H reflects the community around it. Our youth can explore agriculture and animals, but they can also explore science, technology, natural resources, leadership, citizenship and countless other interests. That ability to grow with the needs and interests of young people is part of what has allowed 4-H to remain relevant for generations.

At its heart, 4-H is about more than completing a project or earning a ribbon. It is about giving young people meaningful opportunities to learn, grow, lead and make a difference—and giving them the confidence to carry those experiences with them into the future.

When we invest in 4-H, we invest in young people. And when we invest in young people, we are investing in the future of Iosco County.

For more information about 4-H, Please Contact the MSU Extension Office at 989-362-3449. MSU is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Michigan 4-H International Pen Pal Program

This summer, several Iosco County 4-H members had the opportunity to participate in the Michigan 4-H International Pen Pal Program, connecting with youth from around the world. The program connects Michigan youth ages 9–18 with international peers in countries such as South Korea, Taiwan and Costa Rica.

Through weekly email exchanges over a two-month spring session, participants learn about different cultures, traditions, communities and daily life while developing friendships with youth from other parts of the world. The experience encourages youth to

broaden their perspectives, strengthen communication skills and gain a greater appreciation for cultures and communities beyond their own.

The program is offered through Michigan 4-H and typically opens for registration in March, with a \$10 participation fee. For Iosco County youth, opportunities such as the International Pen Pal Program demonstrate that 4-H is not only about local clubs and projects—it also provides young people with opportunities to connect, learn and grow on a global level.



Volunteer Trainings and Youth Opportunities

Throughout the year, Iosco County 4-H volunteers and teen leaders have opportunities to strengthen their skills and expand their knowledge through educational trainings, workshops and conferences. These experiences provide volunteers with new ideas, resources and activities that they can bring back to our county to enhance the 4-H experience for local youth.

In 2026, Iosco County 4-H Leaders' Council President John Peppler and Iosco County 4-H Program Coordinator Jennifer Colvin participated in a Project WILD K-12 Educator Course hosted by the Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education. Through multiple sessions, John and Jennifer gained valuable resources and hands-on ideas to help incorporate outdoor and environmental education opportunities throughout Iosco County.

In March 2026, Iosco County 4-H volunteers Jodi Panko, Jen Panko and Becca Panko, along with 4-H teen leader Ellie Slobodian,

attended the 4-H Spark Summit in Frankenmuth, Michigan. Participants selected educational sessions that sparked ideas for new activities and programs that could be brought back to Iosco County youth.

Additionally, several of our small-animal 4-H volunteers attended a rabbit and cavy workshop at Michigan State University. The workshop provided volunteers with more in-depth knowledge and resources to strengthen their ability to teach and support the market rabbit project within our community.

These opportunities demonstrate one of the many ways 4-H continues to grow in Iosco County. When our volunteers and teen leaders have opportunities to learn and develop new skills, they are able to bring that knowledge home and create even more meaningful educational experiences for local youth.

4-H Embryology at Local Schools

In 2026 the Iosco County 4-H Program Coordinator, Jennifer Colvin, supplied embryology materials to teachers from kindergarten through fourth grade at Hale and Oscoda Area schools. Students gained hands-on experience learning the lifecycle of a chick while watching chicks hatch in their classroom. Youth explored the developmental process and stages of chicken growth, basic chicken reproduction, and cell division. Through this program, youth also gained a deeper respect for life and the value of living things, as their understanding of the care required for a living thing grows. By the end of their participation in Michigan 4-H Embryology, students can:

- Identify the parts of an egg and their functions.
- Explain what is required to hatch an egg, how it hatches naturally and artificially.
- Describe different methods to observe a developing embryo

and various stages of development.

- List what a chick needs to live and how to care for them.
- Explain how record keeping is important in science.

If any local schools or community partners are interested in this program in 2027, please contact the MSU Extension Office at 989-362-3449.



Michigan 4-H Dairy Days

For the first time in many years, Iosco County 4-H had youth participants attend Michigan 4-H Dairy Days on the Michigan State University campus in East Lansing. This was an exciting opportunity for local 4-H members to represent Iosco County while learning more about the dairy industry, competing in educational contests, and connecting with other 4-H youth and volunteers from across Michigan.

Michigan 4-H Dairy Days is an annual summer event that features a variety of educational contests and activities focused on dairy science and the dairy industry. Each year, more than 100 Michigan 4-H youth and volunteers gather at Michigan

State University to compete, learn, build friendships, and create lasting memories. Participants have opportunities to earn awards, network with dairy industry professionals, expand their knowledge, and interact with other youth who share their interest in dairy cattle and agriculture.

Iosco County 4-H youth represented our county extremely well throughout the event. Participants competed in Dairy Quiz Bowl, Dairy Judging, Dairy Management, and the State Shows. Their accomplishments included individual awards as well as strong team finishes.



The Underwater 4-H ROV Club

Iosco County 4-H had the exciting opportunity to partner with Heritage Coast Sailing & Rowing to offer the Underwater 4-H Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) Club. This unique program combines science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) with hands-on learning, teamwork, and underwater exploration. The club was designed to challenge youth to work together as a team to design, build, test, and operate a remotely operated underwater vehicle. Throughout the program, participants learned how to use sensors, tools, and complementary technologies while working through the engineering and problem-solving processes necessary to create a functioning ROV.

The ultimate goal was to prepare youth to compete in the 2025 MATE ROV Competition in Alpena. The competition challenged participants in three major areas: a verbal presentation, marketing board, and the maneuvering and operation of their ROV. Youth were required to demonstrate not only that their vehicle could successfully complete the assigned tasks, but also that they understood their design and could effectively communicate their ideas.

This year, the club-built vehicles were designed and equipped to complete a variety of underwater challenges, with a focus on real-world applications such as documenting shipwrecks, collecting water samples, and deploying technology for global research. This club had an outstanding performance at the competition and placed first overall. This accomplishment reflects the dedication, creativity, engineering skills, teamwork,



and problem-solving abilities the youth developed throughout the program. The Underwater ROV Club provides youth with much more than an opportunity to build a robot. Participants develop valuable skills in communication, collaboration, critical thinking, engineering, technology, troubleshooting, and project management. They also gain experience working toward a common goal and learning how to overcome challenges as a team.

Iosco County 4-H would like to extend a special thank-you to our dedicated volunteers Kurt F., Dale F., Tony P., and Randy, along with Heritage Coast Sailing & Rowing, for providing their time, knowledge, and support to help make this program possible. Their commitment has given local youth the opportunity to participate in a unique STEM experience that may not otherwise be available in our community.

The Underwater 4-H ROV Club is open to youth ages 12-14 as of January 1, 2027. The club is expected to begin again soon and is currently looking for new members who are interested in STEM, engineering, technology, robotics, underwater exploration, and hands-on problem-solving.

For more information or to learn how to join the club, please contact the MSU Extension Office at 989-362-3449.



Iosco County 4-H Cloverbud Camp

The Iosco County 4-H Cloverbud Camp is designed specifically for our youngest 4-H members and focuses on fun, non-competitive activities that encourage participation, friendship, and confidence. The goal of Cloverbud Camp is to give young participants an opportunity to learn more about 4-H, try new activities, develop important life skills, and create lasting memories in a positive and supportive environment. This year, Cloverbud Camp was held at Tom Dillon Park, where 10 4-H campers spent the day participating in a variety of activities. Campers worked together to build teamwork skills, completed creative crafts, and enjoyed a fun-filled day with their fellow 4-H members. Through their participation, campers and youth leaders had opportunities to develop important life skills including responsibility, self-esteem, communication, cooperation, and teamwork. The camp provides a welcoming introduction to the 4-H program while helping young youth feel comfortable participating in group activities and trying new experiences.

To be eligible for the 2026 4-H Cloverbud Camp, youth must be ages 5–7 as of January 1, 2027. Registration typically opens during the summer.



2026 4-H STEM Camp



Iosco County 4-H Program Coordinator Jennifer Colvin and Extension Program Instructor Karen Collins collaborated to create the Iosco County 4-H STEM Camp, providing local youth with an exciting opportunity to explore science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through hands-on activities.

STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This one-day camp challenged

participants to think like scientists and engineers as they worked through fun, interactive activities and problem-solving challenges. Ten 4-H youth and two camp counselors participated in the 2026 STEM Camp. Campers designed, built, and tested rubber band-powered cars, completed engineering challenges, experimented with different ideas, and participated in a variety of other hands-on activities. These experiences encouraged youth to think creatively, work together, solve problems, and learn from both their successes and their challenges. The camp provided youth with an opportunity to explore STEM concepts in a fun and engaging environment while developing skills such as critical thinking, creativity, communication, teamwork, and problem-solving. To be eligible for the 2027 4-H STEM Camp, youth must be ages 8–12 as of January 1, 2027. Registration typically opens during the summer.

Saginaw Bay 4-H FISH Camp

MSU Extension and Iosco County 4-H partnered with Arenac County 4-H, Michigan Sea Grant, Project FISH, and other local partners to host the fourth annual Saginaw Bay FISH Camp in Iosco and Arenac counties. The two-day summer camp provided 38 youth, ages 8–12, with an opportunity to learn about fishing, aquatic ecosystems, and natural resources through hands-on educational experiences. Campers explored a variety of topics and skills, including knot tying, tackle crafting, casting, aquatic ecology, angler ethics, fish identification, and invasive species. One of the highlights of the camp was the opportunity for participants to learn about fish seining and gain a better understanding of the aquatic life found in the Saginaw Bay region. These hands-on activities allowed youth to connect classroom concepts with real-world experiences and encouraged them to become responsible stewards of Michigan's natural resources. At the conclusion of camp, each participant received their own fishing pole, tackle box, lures, and a goodie bag filled with educational information about Michigan fish species. These take-home materials allow youth to continue practicing the skills they learned and encourage them to pursue fishing and outdoor recreation with their families. We would like to extend a

special thank-you to Meaghan Gass, MSU Extension Michigan Sea Grant Educator; Mark Stephens, MSU Extension Educational Program Coordinator for Project FISH; and Brandon Schroeder, Senior Extension Educator, for serving as camp instructors and sharing their expertise with our campers. We would also like to thank the Iosco County 4-H Leaders' Council for providing scholarships that helped make this educational experience accessible to local youth. The Saginaw Bay 4-H FISH Camp is available to youth ages 8–12 as of January 1, 2027, with registration typically opening in late spring.



Iosco County 4-H Baseball and Softball League

During the 2025–2026 4-H year, Iosco County 4-H hosted its third annual 4-H Baseball and Softball League. Through partnerships with Oscoda Youth Baseball/Softball and Tawas Area Youth Baseball/Softball, 4-H was able to provide more than 450 youth, throughout Iosco County, with an opportunity to participate in organized baseball and softball closer to home and at an affordable cost. The 4-H league gives youth the opportunity to learn and develop athletic skills while also building important life skills such as teamwork, communication, sportsmanship, cooperation, and perseverance. Youth learn how to work together toward a common goal, recognize opportunities to support their teammates, and celebrate both individual and team accomplishments. During the season, Iosco County 4-H teams compete against other 4-H teams from Alcona, Arenac, and Au Gres, giving youth an opportunity to travel, meet other 4-H members, and experience friendly competition outside of their local communities. The baseball and softball season typically runs from April through July, with enrollment opening in February. The league is available to youth ages 5–14 as of January 1, 2027. As this program continues to grow, it requires a tremendous amount of support from coaches, volunteers, families, and community partners. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who gives their time and

resources to help make this program possible and provide local youth with an opportunity to participate in organized sports. We would also like to extend a special thank-you to the Iosco County 4-H Leaders' Council, which provided more than \$1,000 in scholarships to help make participation in the program more affordable for local families. For more information about the Iosco County 4-H Baseball and Softball League, please visit the Tawas Area Youth Baseball/Softball or Oscoda Youth Baseball/Softball Facebook pages. Enrollment typically opens in February.



Iosco County 4-H Bowling Club

The Iosco County 4-H Bowling Club continues to be a popular program among local youth. Thanks to the support and partnership of Vista Lanes in Oscoda, 4-H members have the opportunity to participate in a fun and welcoming bowling program while developing their skills and connecting with other youth.

During the 2025–2026 season, 99 youth ages 5–19, as of January 1, 2026, participated in the Iosco County 4-H Bowling Club. Members had the opportunity to choose between two different bowling days, making it easier for families to find a schedule that worked for them.

The club focuses on teaching the fundamentals of bowling while providing youth with opportunities to practice and improve their skills each week. Throughout the season, participants work on their technique, accuracy, consistency, and overall confidence on the lanes.

The season concludes with a fun bowling tournament and pizza party, giving members an opportunity to celebrate the skills they developed and the friendships they made throughout the program.

The bowling club typically runs from November through March, although the schedule may vary depending on weather and facility availability. Registration for the 2026 season will open soon. 4-H enrollment is required to participate.



Iosco County 4-H Small Animal Club

The Iosco County 4-H Small Animal Club provides youth with hands-on opportunities to raise, care for, and show market poultry and rabbits. Members work with their animals throughout the year, developing the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully care for and prepare their projects for the Iosco County Fair.

Throughout the year, youth participate in educational workshops, clinics, and hands-on learning opportunities covering topics such as animal care and nutrition, showmanship, clipping and grooming, proper handling, and project preparation. These experiences help youth develop confidence and become more knowledgeable and responsible animal owners and exhibitors.

Market animal projects provide youth with much more than an introduction to animal science. Through caring for their projects and preparing for the fair, members develop valuable life skills including written and verbal communication, record-keeping, decision-making, planning, organization, responsibility, and time management. Youth also learn the importance of setting goals, following through on commitments, and taking pride in their work.

Members have the opportunity to showcase their hard work at the

Iosco County Fair, where they can demonstrate their knowledge and skills through showing and selling their projects.

The Small Animal Club is typically open to youth ages 5–19 as of January 1. Registration generally begins in December.

Iosco County 4-H is always looking for dedicated volunteers who are interested in helping youth learn about animal science and livestock projects. If you are interested in becoming a 4-H volunteer or helping with the market livestock programs, please contact the MSU Extension Office at 989-362-3449.

For more information about becoming a Michigan 4-H volunteer, visit https://www.canr.msu.edu/becoming_a_4_h_volunteer/



Iosco County 4-H Dairy Club

For the first time in several years, Iosco County 4-H was able to offer a Dairy Club to local youth interested in learning more about dairy cattle. This opportunity was made possible thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of our new 4-H volunteer, Jess Jakubik, who helped bring dairy programming back to Iosco County.

The Dairy Club provides youth with hands-on experience working with dairy cattle and learning about the responsibilities involved in raising and showing livestock. Members have the opportunity to learn important skills such as proper animal care, feeding, grooming, clipping, fitting, handling, and showing dairy cattle. Through these experiences, youth develop responsibility, confidence, patience, and a better understanding of the livestock industry.

In addition to working directly with their animals, Dairy Club members have opportunities to participate in statewide 4-H events, dairy shows, educational programs, and other dairy-related experiences throughout Michigan. These experiences allow youth to expand their knowledge, meet other 4-H members who share their interests, and learn from experienced dairy exhibitors and industry professionals.

The return of the Dairy Club provides an exciting opportunity for Iosco County youth to explore agriculture and livestock through hands-on learning. We are grateful to Jess Jakubik for volunteering her time and knowledge to help make this program possible and bring this opportunity back to our county.

If you are interested in joining the Iosco County 4-H Dairy Club or would like more information, please contact the MSU Extension Office at 989-362-3449.



4-H Exploration Days

Michigan 4-H hosts an annual pre-college experience called 4-H Exploration Days, a three-day program designed to help youth ages 12–19 explore their interests, discover potential career paths, try new experiences, and gain a better understanding of college life. The program takes place on the Michigan State University campus and provides youth with an opportunity to experience college firsthand while developing confidence, independence, and valuable life skills.

Throughout the three-day event, participants stay in MSU residence halls, eat meals in the dining halls, and attend educational sessions of their choice across campus. Youth participate in hands-on learning experiences, meet other 4-H members from across Michigan, and have the opportunity to build friendships and connections that can last well beyond the event. Approximately 1,000 Michigan 4-H youth ages 12–19 participate in Exploration Days each year.

Iosco County 4-H members Nevaeh Bieri and Ellie Slobodian were two of the youth who attended 4-H Exploration Days in 2026. During their time on campus, they participated in sessions of their choosing, allowing them to explore careers while gaining valuable hands-on learning experiences.

A special thank-you goes to the Iosco County 4-H Leaders' Council for sponsoring Nevaeh, Ellie, and chaperone John Pepler to attend this event. Their support helps make opportunities like 4-H Exploration Days accessible to local youth and allows Iosco County 4-H members to experience educational opportunities beyond their local community.

Registration for 4-H Exploration Days typically takes place from mid-March through April, with session assignments available on a first-come, first-served basis. Families interested in learning more about the program, available sessions, registration, and upcoming opportunities can visit the Michigan 4-H Exploration Days website at https://www.canr.msu.edu/4_h_exploration_days/.



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4-H Holiday Craft Nights

Many 4-H families participate in the Iosco County 4-H Craft Nights held at the MSU Extension Office. These events provide youth and families with an opportunity to spend time together, connect with other 4-H members, and participate in fun, hands-on activities in a welcoming environment. Staff and volunteers typically organize come-and-go style craft nights around various holidays and special occasions throughout the year.

In 2025, Iosco County 4-H hosted seven holiday- and 4-H-themed craft nights. Themes included National 4-H Week, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter, and Mother's Day. During each event, youth participants were provided with a variety of craft supplies and materials at no cost, allowing them to explore their creativity and create projects that reflected their individual interests and personalities.

The come-and-go format allows youth and families the flexibility to participate at their own pace while still receiving guidance and support from 4-H staff and volunteers. Rather than following a strictly structured class, youth are encouraged to make their own

creative choices and personalize their projects. These craft nights help youth develop creativity, confidence, fine motor skills, and decision-making skills while also creating opportunities for positive social interaction and family engagement. Overall, the craft nights have become a fun and welcoming way for 4-H families to connect with one another while providing youth with meaningful, hands-on learning experiences.



SPIN Clubs in Iosco County 4-H

SPIN stands for Special Interest 4-H Club. SPIN Clubs are an alternative to traditional 4-H community clubs and provide youth with an opportunity to explore a specific topic or interest through a short-term, hands-on learning experience. These clubs are a great way to introduce new youth and families to 4-H while also providing experiences that may not be offered through traditional community clubs.

SPIN Clubs typically focus on one specific subject and meet for a limited period of time, often four to six weeks. Clubs may be offered

as a one-time experience or repeated from year to year based on youth interest and volunteer availability. This flexible format allows Iosco County 4-H to offer a variety of educational opportunities throughout the year and reach youth who may be interested in a particular subject but are unable to commit to a traditional year-round club.

For more information about Michigan 4-H SPIN Clubs, visit <https://www.canr.msu.edu/spin-clubs/>

Iosco County 4-H BB Gun SPIN Club

The Iosco County 4-H BB Gun SPIN Club is a beginner-level program designed to introduce youth to the Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports Program. This club provides youth with an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of BB gun shooting while emphasizing proper safety, responsibility, and sportsmanship. The club is offered at no cost to participating youth and is taught by trained 4-H volunteers. During the most recent session, 4-H volunteer John Peppler instructed the club and guided participants through weekly practices. Youth had the opportunity to develop their shooting skills, practice proper techniques, and build confidence in a safe and supportive environment. At the conclusion of the six-week session, participants took part in a friendly competition where they could demonstrate the skills they had developed throughout the program. The experience provides youth with more than just an introduction to shooting sports—it also encourages focus, patience, responsibility, and goal setting. The next BB Gun SPIN Club is anticipated to begin in early 2027 and will be open to youth ages 9–11 as of January 1, 2027. A special thank-you goes to the Iosco County Sportsmen's Club for allowing Iosco County 4-H to use their facility for this program. Their

continued support helps provide local youth with access to quality shooting sports experiences.

If you are interested in becoming a certified 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor or volunteering with this program, please contact the MSU Extension Office at 989-362-3449.

For more information about Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports, visit https://www.canr.msu.edu/shooting_sports/



4-H 10-Yard Archery SPIN Club

Iosco County 4-H offers a beginner-level 10-Yard Archery SPIN Club for youth ages 8–12 as of January 1, 2027. This program introduces youth to the fundamentals of archery while providing hands-on opportunities to practice proper shooting techniques and develop their skills. Youth learn how to safely handle and use archery equipment, properly shoot a bow, and improve their accuracy through regular practice. The club provides a supportive environment where participants can build confidence, patience, concentration, and coordination while learning a new skill. The 10-Yard Archery SPIN Club typically meets in Whittemore and is offered completely

free of charge. The program is led by 4-H Archery volunteer Ed Fischer, whose time and expertise help provide youth with a positive introduction to the sport.

Enrollment for the 2027 club will begin in December. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer and helping teach shooting sports, please contact the MSU Extension Office at 989-362-3449.

For more information about Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports, visit https://www.canr.msu.edu/shooting_sports/

4-H LEGO Night

4-H LEGO Night provides youth, ages 8 and older, as of January 1, 2027, with an opportunity to explore creativity, problem-solving, teamwork and friendly competition through hands-on LEGO activities. Youth participate in fun building challenges and competitions that encourage them to think creatively, develop their building skills and work together with others. The program is designed to provide a relaxed and engaging environment where youth can connect with other 4-H participants while learning and developing skills through hands-on activities. In the fall of 2025, Iosco County 4-H hosted a special Halloween LEGO Night, where each participating youth received a Disney Haunted Mansion LEGO kit, thanks to the generosity of a local donor. Iosco County 4-H is currently looking for a volunteer to help lead and organize LEGO Night. If you enjoy working with youth and have an interest in LEGO,

building or creative activities, this could be a great opportunity to get involved and make a difference in the lives of local youth.

For more information about volunteering with 4-H LEGO Night, please contact the MSU Extension Iosco County office at 989-362-3449.



4-H Craft Nights

Iosco County 4-H Craft Nights provide youth, ages 5–19 as of January 1, 2027, with a fun and creative opportunity to make new friends, explore their creativity, and create hands-on projects. This free program is designed as a casual, come-and-go experience, making it easy for families to participate around their schedules. Craft Nights will be held at the MSU Extension Office and will typically take place monthly. Youth can stop in anytime between 5:00–7:00 p.m. to enjoy a snack, socialize with other 4-H members,

and work on a variety of crafts and creative projects. The flexible format allows youth to participate at their own pace while making choices about how they want to personalize their projects. Craft Nights provide opportunities for youth to develop creativity, fine motor skills, decision-making, and confidence while building positive connections with other youth and 4-H families.

Registration for Craft Nights will be available through 4-H Online.

Enrollment for 2026-2027 is Now Open!

Enrollment for the 2026–2027 4-H year is officially open! Youth ages 5–19 as of January 1, 2027, are eligible to participate in 4-H. Some clubs, programs, and events may have different age requirements, so families are encouraged to explore the opportunities available throughout the year.

Enrollment is free! Families can enroll online at 4-H Online.

Once enrolled, 4-H members and their families will receive information about upcoming clubs, events, educational opportunities, and activities available through Iosco County 4-H. There are many ways for youth to get involved, whether they are interested in animals, agriculture, STEM, shooting sports, arts and crafts, leadership, or trying something completely new.

Be sure to follow Iosco County 4-H on Facebook to stay up to date on upcoming programs, registration opportunities, events, and activities throughout the year.

Want to Become a 4-H Volunteer?

Iosco County 4-H is always looking for caring and enthusiastic adults who are interested in making a positive difference in the lives of local youth. Volunteers are an essential part of the 4-H program and help provide youth with meaningful educational experiences, mentorship, and opportunities to develop new skills.

All 4-H volunteers must complete the required volunteer screening and approval process before working with youth. This process includes an application, background check, ICHAT and MIPSOR

checks, reference checks, and other required steps. We take great pride in maintaining a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for our 4-H youth and volunteers, and our screening process helps ensure that everyone involved in the program has a positive experience.

Interested in becoming a volunteer? Contact the MSU Extension Office at 989-362-3449.

Have Questions?

If you have questions about 4-H enrollment, clubs, events, volunteering, or other opportunities available through Iosco County 4-H, please contact the MSU Extension Office at 989-362-3449. We would be happy to help your family find the right opportunity to get involved!



MSU Extension STEM Programming at Whittemore – Prescott Elementary

Michigan State University Program Instructor Karen Collins works directly within Whittemore-Prescott Elementary School, providing students with unique, hands-on educational opportunities through MSU Extension. Karen has created a dedicated STEM science lab classroom where students can explore topics related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through interactive activities and real-world learning experiences.

The STEM lab provides students with an opportunity to learn outside of the traditional classroom setting. When students visit the lab, they can observe and interact with a variety of plants and animals that are part of the learning environment. These living components help make STEM concepts more engaging and provide students with opportunities to learn through observation, exploration, and hands-on experiences.

In addition to the STEM lab, Karen has developed and supported a variety of programs to meet the needs of the Whittemore-Prescott School District. She established an outdoor school garden where students can learn about plants, gardening, agriculture, and the environment. Karen also organized a career and job fair for high school students, providing them with opportunities to learn about potential careers, connect with professionals, and explore options for their futures.

Teachers can sign up their classes to participate in educational sessions in the STEM lab. Programming is designed around the

needs and interests of the school and can include classroom lessons, hands-on activities, after-school programs, clubs, and summer school opportunities. This flexibility allows Karen to work collaboratively with teachers and school staff to provide programming that supports and complements the district's educational goals.

This position is unique because Karen works directly within Whittemore-Prescott Elementary School, allowing MSU Extension to have a consistent presence within the school community. The position is currently being offered as a pilot program and is a unique model for delivering MSU Extension educational programming directly to students, teachers, and families.

Karen also works closely with other MSU Extension staff to connect the school with additional programs, resources, and educational opportunities available through MSU Extension. Iosco County 4-H Program Coordinator Jennifer Colvin frequently collaborates with Karen on school events and programs, helping bring additional 4-H and MSU Extension opportunities to Whittemore-Prescott students.

Through this partnership, MSU Extension can provide students with meaningful hands-on learning experiences while strengthening connections between the school, MSU Extension, and the broader Iosco County community.



**dean
arbour**

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