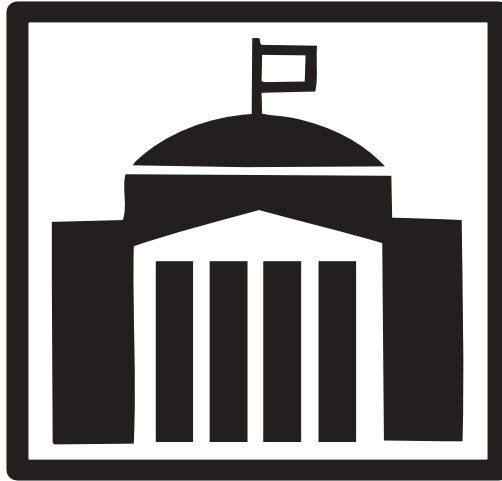


THE GUIDE TO MICHIGAN 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



CITIZENSHIP & COMMUNITY ACTION

Help kids discover their roles as citizens. Capitol Experience offers a firsthand look at Michigan government in action, while Citizenship Washington Focus shows 4-H'ers how government in the nation's capital operates. The 4-H citizenship project demonstrates to kids how their actions today (such as voting, participating in community service projects or writing letters to legislators) can make a difference in how their government operates tomorrow.

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KEEP THESE IN MIND

As you work with young people, please keep these valuable resources in mind.

“Michigan 4-H Today”

Michigan 4-H Today is a newsletter providing youth development news and event information for the Michigan 4-H community. Issues include an 8- to 12-page, tabloid-size publication (*Michigan 4-H Today*) published every fall and four topical newsletter supplements (*Michigan 4-H Today In Focus*) that are distributed online as inserts in county newsletters throughout the year. The newsletter, which is sent to volunteers across Michigan, features articles and photographs related to youth development issues, project news and activities, upcoming events and new 4-H resources. Visit *Michigan 4-H Today* on the Internet at <http://www.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/M4HTD/>.

The Developmental Stages of Kids

As you work with young people, it's important to keep in mind the many changes they're going through (including physical, thinking, social and emotional changes) and the kinds of issues these kids are facing in their everyday lives. Refer to these sections of the *Guide to Michigan 4-H Youth Development* to learn more about resources designed to help you provide learning environments that are safe, appropriate, healthy and fun:

- Five- to Eight-Year-Olds – the Kaleidoscope materials
- Early Adolescents (aged 9 to 14) – the Help Me – I'm Growing Up! Understanding Early Adolescents materials
- Older Youth (aged 15 to 19) – the Peer-Plus, Group Dynamite and Youth Experiencing Action materials

For insight into the needs and interests of young people, you can also visit *Ages and Stages of Child and Youth Development: A Guide for 4-H Leaders* on the Internet at <http://www.agcom.purdue.edu/AgCom/Pubs/NCR/NCR-292.html>. The guide discusses the physical, thinking, social and emotional characteristics that are common to children at each age level. “Ages and Stages” (NCR292) was written by Jeanne Karns, graduate assistant, and Judith A. Myers-Walls, Extension specialist, Human Development, Department of Child Development and Family Studies, Purdue University.

Improving the Communications Skills of Young People and Adults

People in a position to know – school officials, employers and employees – agree that good communications skills are essential for young people and adults. The *Communications Toolkit: Fun, Skill-Building Activities to Do With Kids* (4-H 1560) will help you help the young people with whom you work develop and improve their communications skills. The toolkit is designed for individuals who work with young people aged 12 and up and want fun, easy and meaningful communication activities to use with clubs and in classrooms, camps, after-school programs or other settings where kids come together. In the toolkit, you'll find background information for group leaders, hands-on activities, handouts and other resources that will help kids build on their skills in public speaking, writing, graphics, and video, media and technology. (172 pages, Michigan 4-H, 2000)

4-H Club & Group Development

Many 4-H experiences take place within the 4-H club or group setting. If you're interested in learning more about how clubs and groups can operate and the various officer and committee roles that young people can have within a club or group, refer to the Club and Group Development section of the *Guide to Michigan 4-H Youth Development*.

Volunteer Development

Volunteers can be positive role models for the young people they work with. If you'd like to learn more about fulfilling your potential as a volunteer, refer to the Volunteer Development section of the *Guide to Michigan 4-H Youth Development*.

CITIZENSHIP & COMMUNITY ACTION

■ PUBLICATIONS

4-H PUBLICATIONS

The following 4-H publication is available from your county MSU Extension office.

4-H1553YEA! Youth Experiencing Action: A Community Service-Learning Guide

Geared toward young people aged 14 to 19, YEA activities can be used by any group interested in community service-learning. YEA projects can be led by older teens and adults with both community service-learning and facilitation training, or those who are interested in acquiring those skills. This packet includes a leader's guide and four modules with activities. (126 pages, Michigan 4-H 2000)

EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS

A camera-ready copy of the following item is available from Beth Moore, Extension Specialist, MSU, 310 Natural Resources Bldg., East Lansing, MI 48824-1222, phone 517-353-9694.

When You Visit Michigan's Capitol

● RESOURCES

OTHER MSU RESOURCES

The following resource may prove helpful.

Michigan 4-H Community Service Web site

This Web site, explores the benefits, steps and learning process of community service projects. Sample ideas for community service projects are categorized by 5- to 8-year olds, 9- to 12-year olds and older youth. <<http://www.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/differen.html>>

OTHER RESOURCES

The following resources may prove helpful.

Citizen's Guide to State Government

This resource is available at no charge from your Michigan state representative or senator. It highlights major points concerning the Michigan legislative process and provides suggestions for effective citizen involvement.

New Roles for Youth in the School & the Community

By the National Commission on Resources for Youth, published by Citation Press, New York, 1974.

The organizations listed below may provide more information in this project area.

League of Women Voters of Michigan

202 Museum Dr.
Lansing, MI 48933
Phone: 517-484-5383

- **The State We're In** – This book explains state and local government in Michigan. \$7.50 plus postage.
- Publishes materials on current issues, citizen involvement issues, and candidate and ballot issues at election time

National Issues Forum

100 Commons Rd.
Dayton, OH 45459
Phone: 800-433-7834

- Fosters a network of locally initiated forums and study circles that bring citizens together to discuss controversial policy issues
- Resource books, moderator guides and video all help guide discussion of policy choices
- NIF issue books and program materials (many of these items are available for loan through your county MSU Extension office)

Other Resources:

- City departments of planning and development
- City governments
- Community action agencies
- County governments
- Libraries
- Newspapers and television and radio stations
- Publications from state legislators
- Township supervisors

▲ THE INTERNET

When you're looking for resources related to your kids' interests, remember to check the Internet. Each section of the *Guide to Michigan 4-H Youth Development* contains suggested search words and terms you can use at an Internet search engine site to begin locating resources. One great starting point for your visit to the Internet is the Michigan 4-H Youth Development site:

<http://www.msue.msu.edu/msue/cyf/youth/index.html>

Some sections of the Guide list specific World Wide Web sites for you to visit. The URL (Universal Resource Locator) or address of each site is given in brackets < > after the site name. The listings that contain URLs or addresses for Web sites were accurate at the time of this writing, but URLs, like most things on the Web, change constantly. If a URL doesn't work, use a search engine to find the site's current location. Remember, this information is for education and fun only! Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by Michigan State University Extension or bias against those not mentioned.

If you don't have ready access to a computer and modem, check with your local library, school or community college, computer user groups, computer stores or your county MSU

Extension office. They may be able to help you find a way to connect your 4-H group to the online world. Ask the kids you work with, too! Chances are they're already in touch with "cyberspace."

HELP KIDS BE SAFE ON THE WEB

You click on something, and then on something else, and before you know it, you're somewhere altogether different...

The World Wide Web and other parts of the Internet can be fun, fascinating and informative. But there are parts of the Internet that aren't appropriate for kids. You can help protect the kids you work with as they venture online by monitoring their computer use, visiting the Web sites they visit and staying in touch with what they're doing.

Staying Street Smart on the Web

URL: <<http://www.yahooligans.com/docs/safety/index.html>>

This page of the popular "Yahooligans" site contains Web safety advice for kids and parents, and a pledge for Web-surfing kids. It links to several sites that allow you to download software to filter out objectionable material on the 'Net.

KEYWORDS & SEARCH TERMS

The following terms could help you start a search of the Internet related to working with young people in this project area:

- Activism
- American Heritage
- Citizenship
- Citizenship Washington Focus
- Community action
- Community service
- Community service learning
- Cultural education
- 4-H Capitol Experience
- Service
- Service learning
- Shared Space
- Wonders of Washington (WOW)
- YEA! (Youth Experiencing Action)