



# St. Joseph County 4-H Innovation Grant

St. Joseph County 4-H semi-annually approves the distribution of competitive grant opportunities to encourage development of age-appropriate educational 4-H programs in our county. These grants are designed to encourage innovative educational programming and increased availability of 4-H programs.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the St. Joseph County 4-H innovation grants is to provide monetary support for new and progressive educational initiatives for 4-H youth.

**Description:** The Innovation Grant was created to reward creativity in 4-H educational efforts. The Innovation grant can be awarded to any number of 4-H initiatives: short-term and long-term projects, workshops, speakers, etc. To be awarded the grant, the project **must** meet the following criteria:

1. The project must be innovative, and move the educational efforts in a new and enhanced direction. The basic rule to qualify for the grant is that monies must be spent to support new programming, or upgrades/updates or expansions of existing programs.
2. The project should encourage existing 4-H'ers to increase their involvement in 4-H, and help recruit new members.

**Eligibility:** Programs, events and activities that receive funding **must**:

1. Be based on identified needs
2. Be innovative
3. Reflect the 4-H name, emblem and programming philosophy
4. Ensure adults are officially processed and enrolled as 4-H volunteers and youth are enrolled as 4-H members

**Grant Schedule:** Grants are accepted on a rolling basis, and will be reviewed at regular intervals. July 1, 2008 will be the first review.

**Who can apply for a grant?** St. Joseph County 4-H leaders, or 4-H members with an adult leader supervisor, may apply for these grants.

**What can the money be used for?**

- Workshop costs, supplies, educational kits.
- Curriculum, books, videos and other learning materials.
- Equipment that enhances learning.
- Events that enhance learning.
- Community service projects.

**Is there anything it can't be used for?** Yes. The following items are prohibited uses for the grant dollars:

- Paying the insurance fee for participants.
- Covering the cost of youth show expenses.
- Transportation costs.
- Re-dispersal as donations.

**How can we apply for a grant?** Complete the application and return it to the St. Joseph County MSU Extension office. Please note that applications must include youth and adult volunteer signatures.

**How are grant applications reviewed?** Grants are reviewed by a committee of 4-H Leaders and the MSU Extension Office. Grants are judged upon how well they fit the selection criteria, and grant monies are distributed among qualified applicants.

**What happens if our grant is approved?** If you are chosen to receive a grant, you will receive an evaluation report form and budget sheet to fill out once the project is completed. Some grantees may be asked to present the results of their project to the St. Joseph County 4-H Youth Council, or another community forum.

**How will we obtain the money if we are chosen to receive a grant?** Dispersal arrangements will be made through the MSU Extension office. Grant monies may be delivered as an upfront sum, or may be in the form of reimbursement for charges incurred, or a combination of the two. You will need to submit original receipts for all grant expenses and a final report to Michigan State University Extension at the completion of your project. Any unused monies at that time will be forfeited.

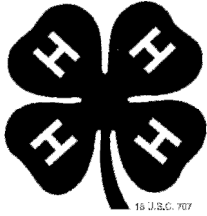
**When do grant dollars need to be spent?** Groups receiving funding must use the grant dollars by **September 30** regardless of when the funds were awarded in that program year.

*Note: Financial support for the distribution of the above grant dollars has been made available through the 4-H participation fee paid by youth and their families.*

**For more information, contact:**

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## St. Joseph County 4-H Innovation Grant Application Form

### Project Information

Project title:	
Amount requested:	
Dates of project:	
Club/Group:	
Name of person(s) writing the grant:	

### Teen Volunteer Information

Printed name	
Address	
City, State, Zipcode	
Telephone	
E-mail address	
Signature	

### Teen Volunteer Information

Printed name	
Address	
City, State, Zipcode	
Telephone	
E-mail address	
Signature	

### Adult Volunteer Information

Printed name	
Address	
City, State, Zipcode	
Telephone	
E-mail address	
Signature	

**Feel free to answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.**

**1. What principles of positive youth development are reflected in your project? Check all that apply. Projects must include a strong focus on one or more principles of positive youth development:**

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

**2. Describe why the program or project is needed in your community.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Describe your grant project including setting (out-of-school program, camp, 4-H club, etc.), the ages of the participants you will work with, the number of hours you plan to work with your audience and what you plan to accomplish:**

a. Description: \_\_\_\_\_

b. What aspects of your project make it distinctive and innovative? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c. Setting: \_\_\_\_\_

d. Ages of youth participants: \_\_\_\_\_

e. Estimated number of contact hours: \_\_\_\_\_

f. List your objectives and the specific connection to a 4-H guiding principle (e.g. outcome is linked to positive relationships, safety, youth engagement, youth directed participation, skill development, diversity and multiculturalism, service and leadership):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**4. What specific kinds of activities and opportunities will young people in your community have as a result of the grant?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**5. In the end, what will be improved or be better in your community or for young people as a result of your project?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

