

Medina County 4-H January Newsletter

2026
Family

Monthly Highlight:



January is the perfect time for 4-H members to start the year by setting goals and exploring new opportunities. 4-H encourages youth to dream big, try new projects, and build life skills through hands-on learning. Whether members are returning to a favorite project or trying something brand new, goal setting helps youth stay motivated and confident throughout the year. Families play an important role by supporting youth as they plan their goals, attend meetings, and learn by doing. We are excited to kick off another great year of growth, leadership, and fun in 4-H!

In this Newsletter:

- Important Dates and Deadlines
- Enrollment Open
- First Shot Opportunities
- Tractor Certification
- Quality Assurance Dates
- Skillz Skool 2026
- Safe Sitter Classes
- 4-H Camp Dates
- 2026 Fair Theme
- Survey Response Request
- State Updates





[Click here to visit the website!](#)

January 2026

- **Club Advisor Training and Youth Activity and Program Policy Training**- January 7th, 6:00-8:00PM
- **New Volunteer Orientation Training**- January 7th, 6:00-7:30PM
- **Beef and Dairy Beef Tag In**- January 10th (See here for details <https://medina.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/junior-fair-livestock-projects>)
- **Tractor Certification Registration**- Due January 23rd
- **Junior Leaders Meeting**- January 26th
- **Volunteer Re-enrollment** - Due January 31st
- **New Volunteer Application** - Due January 31st
- **Club Documents Due**- Due January 31st
- **Achievement Form** - Due January 31st
- **Skillz Skool Early Bird Sign Up**- Due January 31st
- **Committee/Affiliate Financial Summary/Audit Report** - Due January 31st
- **Background Checks**- Due Jan.31, for Volunteers who received a notification letter. [Click here to find a local WebCheck location!](#)**
 - All volunteers must submit a receipt to our office in person or by email ** If you currently work with kids and have had a Background Check completed in the past 12 months, you can request a copy to be sent from the BCI to OSU for \$8 *using this form.*



Enrollment Due: April 15th

Enroll now at: [4-H Online](#)

- Log in with your Family Email and Password.
Do **NOT** make a new account!
 - Update your information for 2026
- Forgot your password? You can reset it or call us to help at 330-725-4911.



Please note that your enrollment will appear as “submitted” but not “approved” until your club leader has turned in your **yearly dues**. **This is fine!** Enrollments must be submitted by April 15th not necessarily approved. Approval after April 15th will not affect your eligibility so long as it is submitted on time. We are receiving a large volume of payments this week and it may take a few days to process them all especially if turned in on Monday. We appreciate your patience!

First Shot Opportunities



CFAES



FIRST SHOT RIFLE

- General information session



First Shot Rifle

- February 19th
- 7-9PM
- South Cuyahoga Sportsmen's Association
- For youth interested in learning more about the Rifle project through the Medina County Sharpshooters

First Shot Archery

- February 26th
- 7-9PM
- South Cuyahoga Sportsmen's Association
- For youth interested in learning more about the Archery project through the Medina County Sharpshooters

CFAES



First Shot Archery

- Orientation with Q&A





Deadline: January 23rd!

CFAES

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

MEDINA COUNTY

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

2026 TRACTOR SAFETY CERTIFICATION COURSE

Orientation Meeting – Saturday, February 7th, 9:00am-10:00am

Classroom Sessions 1-6 – Saturdays, February 14th – March 21st

Promptly start at 8:15am and end at 12:30pm, end at 1:00 pm, on 3/21

Tractor Skills & Driving Test – To be announced

Why: Successful completion of this 24-hour course along with passing scores on the written; skills; and driving exams, will certify a 14*-15 year old youth to legally operate a tractor and farm machinery and meeting the current Federal Bureau of Labor Standards for employment of a minor. ***Participants must be age 14 by the course completion date.**

Cost: \$50. Payment is required with registration. Course materials will be distributed at orientation. Make checks payable to: **OSU Extension, Medina County**

Registration Deadline: January 23rd, Must have 4 enrolled by registration deadline for class to be offered.

Class Location: Medina County Agricultural Society – Fair Office 720 W. Smith Rd., Medina

Important Note: Students should have the basic ability to operate a farm tractor and have access to a farm tractor.

Questions: Contact [Brittney Robinson](mailto:Brittney.Robinson@osu.edu) 330-661-6343 or robinson.3375@osu.edu



2026 Medina County 4-H Tractor Certification Course

Return this completed form with \$50 check made payable to: **OSU Extension, Medina County**
4046 Medina Rd, Medina OH 44256

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Participant's Full Name | | | |
| Mailing Address | | | |
| City | OH | Zip | County of Residence |
| Daytime Phone | | Cell Phone | |
| Birthdate (month/day/year) | Age (on Jan. 1) | Parent/Guardian's Signature | |



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information, visit cfaesdiversity.osu.edu. For an accessible format of publication, visit cfaes.osu.edu/accessibility.



Quality Assurance

Test Out By Appt.
Ages: 15+

2026
MUST ARRIVE BY
6:00 PM

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Feb. 16 | 10:00 am-Noon or 1:00-3:00 pm Medina County Community Center |
|-------------------|---|

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Mar 11 | 6:00-8:00 pm Medina County Community Center |
|------------------|---|

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| April 29 | 6:00-8:00 pm Medina County Community Center |
|--------------------|---|

RSVP Link and Lorain Dates to
come!

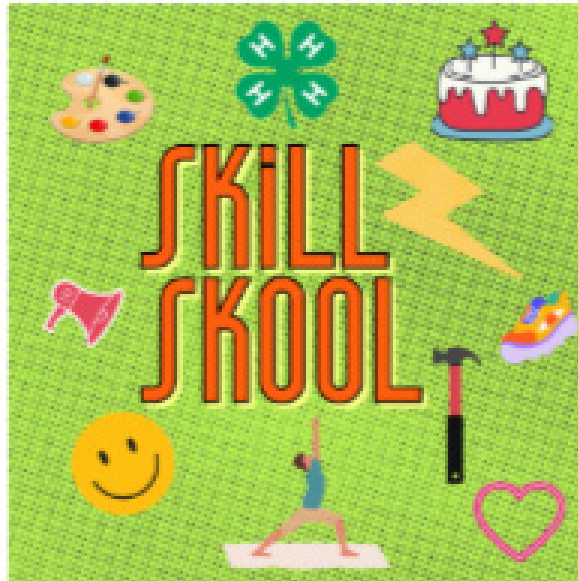
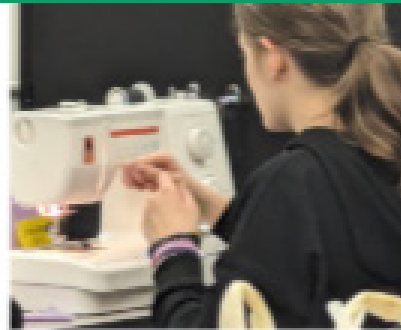
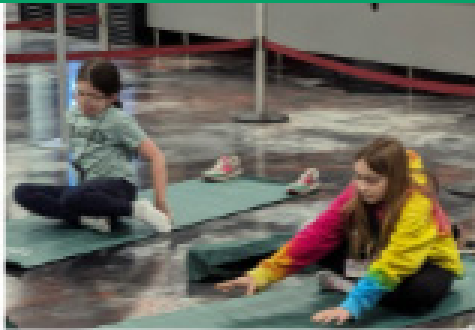
AQCA is updated this
year, doors close at
6:10pm.

AQCA Test out: Please
email
robinson.3375@osu.edu

YQCA Certificates Send
to:
robinson.3375@osu.edu

RSVP LINK

County Updates



Skillz Skool

Presented By Medina County 4-H (Age: 9-19)

Saturday, March 28th
9:00 am- 5:00 pm

Youth will take project classes at our event that will kick start their 2026 4-H project learning from experienced instructors!

Cost:

Early Bird by
January 31st
\$40.00

Registration by
February 28th
\$50.00

Each youth will receive project books and some project materials.
Lunch will be provided.

Please bring canned food to donate to our local food bank and learn about why we need to assist other in our community.

Register Here:

go.osu.edu/skillzskool

Tracks Offered

Let's Start Cooking

This project takes a fresh look at basic cooking and baking skills.

You'll learn about kitchen equipment and food prep, and how to read recipes and measure ingredients. Then you'll tackle how to slice and dice food, and how to cook in a microwave oven.

Basic Sewing

Come to get comfortable with a sewing machine and learn basic sewing skills to help you get start on the 4-H sewing project of your choice. Coupons for any 4-H sewing book will be given to these youth.

Cake Decorating Beginner or Intermediate/Advanced

Track your learning as you gain new skills and showcase your decorating talent!

Get Started in Art

Explore the basic elements of visual art through activities on color, line, space, balance, and more, and then complete your own work of art. Ceramics, drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, design, and crafts are all possibilities.

Location:
**Medina County
Extension Office**

**4046 Medina Rd.
Medina OH 44256**



The Ohio State University
Extension

Ohio State University Extension is part of The Ohio State University
College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences.

OSU provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information, visit osunet.edu/accessibility.



2026 DATES

~~Friday, February 27~~
~~Monday, February 23~~

Monday, March 30
Monday, April 6

Held on school holidays for your convenience!

TIME

9:30am-2:30pm

COST

\$65.00

(includes SafeSitter Kit for participants)

LOCATION

**OSU Extension,
Medina County
4046 Medina Road
Medina, OH 44256**

Safe Sitter Training Grades 5-8

Designed to prepare students in grades 5-8 to be safe when they're home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting.

This instructor-led class is filled with fun games and role-playing exercises. Students even get to use manikins to practice choking rescue skills and will receive a SafeSitter certification!

Class taught by Erin Ruggiero, FCS Educator.

To register:

Visit www.go.osu.edu/MedinaSafeSitter26
Spaces are limited.

All students must bring a packed lunch.

Contact Erin at ruggiero.46@osu.edu or 330-661-6410 with any questions



CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information, visit cfaesdiversity.osu.edu. For an accessible format of this publication, visit cfaes.osu.edu/accessibility.

Ohio State University Extension is part of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University.



Camp Dates 2026



JOIN US FOR

MEDINA 4-H SUMMER CAMPS

Camp dates are tentative and may be subject to change

CLOVERBUD CAMP

June 23rd-25th

Location: Medina County Fairgrounds

9:00 am- 3:00 pm

Ages 5-8

JUNIOR DAY CAMP

June 16th- 18th

Location: Hidden Hollow

9:00 am- 4:00 pm

Ages 9-13



KELLEYS ISLAND CAMP

June 30th- July 3rd

Location: Erie County 4-H Camp on Kelleys Island, (Overnight)

Ages 9-13

• go.osu.edu/mccamp •

Tentative 2026 Camp Dates!



August 3-9 2026

Theme:

STARS STRIPES
★ ★ ★ AND ★ ★ ★
SUMMER NIGHTS

MEDINA COUNTY FAIR
2026
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A dark blue rectangular poster with white and yellow text. At the top, 'STARS STRIPES' is written in white, bold, sans-serif font. Below it are three white stars, the word 'AND' in white, and three more white stars. The words 'SUMMER NIGHTS' are written in large, bold, yellow, sans-serif font. Below this is a bunting banner with alternating blue triangles containing white stars and red triangles containing white stripes. Underneath the banner, 'MEDINA COUNTY FAIR' is written in white, bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the year '2026' is written in large, bold, yellow, sans-serif font. The entire poster is framed by a row of white stars at the bottom.



Are you a parent or caregiver of a child aged 0-3 living in Ohio?

Help us understand how children's sleep affects parents by taking a short online survey about your experiences. Participation is voluntary and you can skip any question.



[www.go.osu.edu/
parentsleepsurvey](http://www.go.osu.edu/parentsleepsurvey)

Our FCS Educator, Erin, is conducting a brief research survey to better understand parents' experiences with children's sleep (ages 0-3). The results will be used to help inform future Extension parenting education and sleep-related programming. We would greatly appreciate your participation! Participation is voluntary and anonymous.
www.go.osu.edu/parentsleepsurvey



Support Youth Participation in the 2026 Ohio Youth Institute

We are excited to share information about the 2026 Ohio Youth Institute (OYI)—a signature youth leadership and global learning opportunity offered in partnership with the World Food Prize Foundation and The Ohio State University. OYI helps young people explore real-world solutions to food insecurity while strengthening their research, communication, critical thinking, and civic engagement skills.

The 2026 Ohio Youth Institute will take place on:
April 13, 2026
The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

About the Opportunity

High school students (grades 9–12) who participate will:
Research a global challenge impacting food security
Develop and submit a 3–5-page Global Challenge Paper
Present their findings at OYI to peers and experts
Be recognized as a Borlaug Scholar
Become eligible for international internships and fellowships

Students are encouraged to work with an adult mentor (teacher, Extension professional, coach, or community leader) who can support their research and writing process.

Paper submission and registration deadline: April 1, 2026.

More information can be found at:

<http://worldfoodprize.org/ohio>