



Kalamazoo County 4-H Teen Leader Project

Kalamazoo County 4-H program continues to implement new opportunities for teens to increase their leadership experiences. One of these new opportunities is the MSU Extension, Kalamazoo County 4-H Teen Leader Project.

Teen Leader Position Description:

4-H teen leaders gain hands on leadership experience by working closely with adults to plan, implement, and reflect on educational experiences for other youth in Kalamazoo County. Youth approved as a Kalamazoo County 4-H Teen Leader will develop leadership skills by:

- Working closely with an MSU Extension approved adult volunteer, superintendent, or staff to develop hands on learning opportunities for other youth. An approved volunteer or staff must be present at all 4-H educational programs.
- Youth will develop a variety of life skills through the teen leadership project including: goal setting, planning/organizing, team work, social skills, decision making, self- responsibility, marketable skills, etc.
- Participate in 4-H teen leader orientation, 4-H teen leader retreat and additional trainings related to individual projects, from MSU and other organizations. Training opportunities may include attending Exploration Days, Kettunen Center trainings, Great Lakes Natural Resource Camp, etc.
- Teens are required to hold a minimum of 1 educational program for youth. This may include but are not limited to:
 - One-time activity at a meeting or event.
 - Ongoing education at club or project meetings.
 - Developing and holding a 4-H SPIN Club that meets 6-8 times.
- Kalamazoo County 4-H Teen Leaders will complete the 4-H teen leadership project guide, https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/4_h_teen_leadership, and present the completed project at the Kalamazoo County Youth Fair.
- Kalamazoo County 4-H Teen Leaders will present their project to community leaders to show their leadership development. Community leaders may include a 4-H council, county commissioners, school board, conservation district, service clubs, etc.

Updated January 2019

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Eligibility:

- Between the ages of 13 – 19 years old by January 1 of the programming year.
- Complete the Kalamazoo County 4-H Teen Leader application.
- Teens 18 and 19 must pass a state police background check.
- Have a minimum of 1-year prior experience in the 4-H project area and/or other youth development organizations (Scouts, FFA, Boys/Girls Clubs, ETC.).

Benefits:

- Helping to grow and strengthen Kalamazoo County 4-H by giving back through the expertise that teen leader has learned.
- Partial scholarships for Kalamazoo County 4-H Teen Leaders to attend leadership trainings may be available through the 4-H office.
- Leadership experiences are valuable when applying for college, jobs and scholarships. MSU Extension staff or volunteer advisor will be able to complete letters of recommendation for Kalamazoo County 4-H teen leaders.
- Life skills learned help to strengthen the youth's ability to be an active citizen in their communities.
- Recognition of teen leaders will be held at the Kalamazoo County Fall Achievement program.



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Kalamazoo County 4-H Teen Leader Application

NAME: _____

CLUB: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PRIMARY PHONE: _____

Why do you want to be a Kalamazoo County 4-H teen leader? _____

What is your primary interest/skills? _____

Briefly describe other leadership experience: _____

Name of potential supervising adult: _____ Have you contacted them? _____

Please list 2 references below. References must be adults and may not be a relative or the potential supervising adult.

Reference 1 Name: _____ Phone: _____

Reference 2 Name: _____ Phone: _____

Teen's signature: _____ Date _____

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