



Michigan State University - Extension

For Immediate Release

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Macomb County Extension is bringing youth a FREE event in October: “4-H Science Blast”

Children and their families from throughout our neighboring counties are invited to the 4-H Science Blast for a youth-oriented event featuring fun, hands-on science experiments and activities presented by Michigan State University Extension as part of its statewide “I Know MI Numbers” initiative. This science event introduces youth to science through fun, hands-on activities.

Date: Thursday – October 6, 2011

Time: 6:30 pm

Place: MSU Extension Office/VerKuilen Building
21885 Dunham, Clinton Twp., MI 48036

Who: Youth ages 5+ and adults

Cost: FREE – must register by calling 586-469-6431 by Oct. 3, 2011 (Senior Auditorium)

Previously held once a year on the campus of Michigan State University, 4-H Science Blast is expanding into all 83 Michigan counties as MSU Extension educators aim to boost science literacy and improve students’ college readiness, which Gov. Rick Snyder has called a key to the state’s future, even listing it on his Michigan Dashboard.

At 4-H Science Blast, youth ages five to 19 will have the chance to engage in science activities in key subject areas such as environmental science, biology and plant science. MSU Extension educators will be talking with youth and parents to see if doing the experiments changed their science knowledge or attitudes about science.

Two of the experiments offered will be Fashion a Fish and What Genes Do. Fashion a Fish teaches youth how to identify and classify fish, how fish adapt to their environment and even how to become a better angler. What Genes Do helps students understand genetics, dominant and recessive genes, and how to compare and contrast inherited traits.

Those experiments will be included in the 4-H Science Blast in the Class handbook, a new resource being developed by MSU Extension for teachers to use in classrooms and after-school settings utilizing the learn-by-doing approach 4-H employs so successfully in its researched-based youth programs.

4-H Science Blast and 4-H Science Blast in the Class are part of MSU Extension’s I Know MI Numbers initiative to help Michigan understand areas of critical need, and provide programming to help improve those numbers. The initiative is looking at five critical issues confronting Michigan. In addition to its effort to boost science literacy, the initiative also aims to reduce obesity, improve early childhood literacy, protect Michigan’s waters to improve the environment and boost agribusiness, and help cities and towns negotiate falling tax revenue while still meeting the needs of their residents.

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