



# Pepin Pacer

Pepin County 4-H Newsletter



Extension  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
PEPIN COUNTY

December, 2025

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#### **Extension Pepin County website:**

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#### **4-H Online:**

<http://wi.4honline.com/>

### Let's take a look back at some highlights of 4-H's history ...

Most early clubs were project-based focusing on a particular crop, animal, or skill. Because of this they had names like "Corn Club," "Cow Club," or "Canning Club." The main goal of these clubs was to have children learn about a subject by doing it themselves. Students would learn about the subject in a group setting and then try it themselves at home. For instance, students might raise a pig or cow, or grow a plot of corn using the knowledge they learned. At the end of a growing season fairs were sometimes held to display the students' work throughout the year. In some ways children brought home knowledge from the club and taught their parents how to implement those skills and practices on their own farms.


In 1910 Jessie Field Shambaugh designed the recognizable 4-H clover emblem. Originally, the emblem consisted of a three-leafed clover signifying the group's "H" values of head, hands, and heart. A little later a fourth "H" hustle was added. Eventually the fourth "H" was changed to health establishing the four values that exist today. By 1912 clubs were calling themselves 4-H clubs.

The Smith-Lever Act passed in 1914 created the cooperative extension service connected to land grant universities helping them educate rural Americans in ag-related subjects. 4-H groups became incorporated into the cooperative extension system which helped further establish and spread 4-H across the U.S. Throughout the 1920s 4-H became more organized creating requirements for clubs, determining 4-H leaders' duties, and clarifying curriculums. In 1927 the 4-H pledge was penned by a Kansas 4-H leader named Otis Hall. The pledge was adopted at the first National 4-H Camp held that year in Washington, D.C. The pledge spelled out what 4-H stood for and the ideals that 4-H members were to aspire to saying:

*I pledge my head to clearer thinking,  
My heart to greater loyalty,  
My hands to larger service,  
and my health to better living,  
for my club, my community, my country, and my world.*

The pledge has remained largely unchanged to this day except for the phrase "and my world" which was added to the last line in 1973.

Every month we will hide a special symbol somewhere in that month's Pacer. If you are the first person to call (715) 672-5214 or email ([gwen.prom@wisc.edu](mailto:gwen.prom@wisc.edu)) the Extension Pepin County and tell us where that symbol is found you will win \$5 and be named in next month's Pepin Pacer as the "4-H Fast Finder".

Good Luck Hunting! **This is this month's symbol :** 



# DISCOVER 4-H CLUBS



**Chippewa 4-H Club**  
Typically meets 2nd Sunday of month.  
Contact Nicki Moline @  
715-442-5371

**Pepin/Buffalo 4-H Shooting Sports Club**  
Typically meets Monday & Tuesday nights  
@ 6:30 p.m. in Pepin Sportsman's Club,  
January-March. For 3rd Graders and older.  
Contact Nicole Schonke @  
612-644-7525

**Lima Lads & Lassies 4-H Club**  
Typically meets 3rd Sunday of month.  
11:00 a.m., Durand City Hall  
Contact Wendy Brantner @  
715-495-4472

**Community Health Youth Leaders (CHYL)**  
**Durand /Arkansaw In-School Club**  
6th - 8th Graders  
Typically meets (2) Fridays a month  
in Room #009 during lunch  
Contact Sky Holt @  
715-279-7677



**Pepin County 4-H Parent/ Leader Federation Meeting**  
**Tentatively - January 10, 2026 @ 6:00 pm**  
**Hide-A While, Mondovi**

**Volunteer in Pepin County 4-H and help make our 4-H program stronger.**  
**Typically, meetings are held in February, April, June, August,**  
**October and December, normally held in the Boardroom at the**  
**Government Center in Durand.**  
**Call the Extension Office for more information.**



4-H Fast Finder for the Month:  
**MADY DERRICKS**  
Congratulations for being our  
4-H Fast Finder this month!  
We hope you enjoy the  
Pepin Pacer !



# CHIPPEWA 4-H CLUB



HEAD



HEART



HANDS



HEALTH

# CLOSES : DECEMBER 5



**WISCONSIN 4-H  
THRIVING SURVEY**

**LAST CHANCE!**

Parents/Guardians of youth ages 13–19:  
Please check your email for directions and access  
to the survey.

Design by: Jordan Blue, Chippewa County 4-H Program Educator

*Happy Birthday*

DECEMBER 1ST - LANDON NOEL - CHIPPEWA 4-H CLUB

DECEMBER 11TH - MYA MOLINE - CHIPPEWA 4-H CLUB

DECEMBER 22ND - ARCHER STERRY - CHIPPEWA 4-H CLUB

DECEMBER 23RD - OWEN INGLI - CHIPPEWA 4-H CLUB

**Enroll Today As An Adult Volunteer** -4-H relies on all volunteers, as little or as much time as you can invest! Anyone who may lead an activity even at the club level, must be enrolled.

As is part of the Youth Protection process in 4-H. Then we have enrollment and screening information and you are covered by secondary liability insurance. To show your interest in volunteering for Pepin County 4-H complete a survey at :

<https://forms.gle/Zr44jDpHD23Pu5af6>

Or scan the QR code:



**ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS:** It has come to our attention that there have been some bugs in the 4Honline trainings. To remedy this please take a screenshot of the top left corner of the training and send to Gwen Prom at [gwen.prom@wisc.edu](mailto:gwen.prom@wisc.edu) There's a box that will say "% complete" and it should say 100% if you have completed all the content. There should also be a list of training headings with checkmarks that are all green if it is complete.



The Lima Lads and Lassies 4-H club decided to help out with the Pack the Bus food drive to help pack the shelves of the Pepin County Food Pantry. Chelsa Wayne volunteered to pick up essential items and non-perishable food and Lizzy Wayne delivered them to the drop off site.

When the calendar changes to November that means it's time to decorate the parks in Durand to kick off the holiday season with Dazzle Day on November 29th. We put up decorations in Memorial Park and Riverview Park. The City of Durand workers were kind enough to set up the large tree in Riverview Park for us. This year the National Honor Society from the Durand/Arkansaw High School has volunteered to put up the decorations at Tarrent Park. We set aside a bunch of our decorations and they are providing the manpower to get the job done. We are thankful for another organization stepping up to

help make our town festive. Thank you to the person that donated some Christmas lights and dropped them off at the Extension office!

*Photos: Elizabeth Wayne, Lima Lads and Lassies Club President, with their donation of essentials and non perishables for Pack the Bus to pack the shelves for Pepin County Human Services (above). Our crew of 4-H members that helped put up the decorations.*



Tis the beginning of the giving season, and once again, Pepin County is looking for volunteers to ring bells for the Annual Red Kettle Campaign. 85% of the funds contributed to local kettles are available to be redistributed to those in need of assistance (food, shelter, gas, utilities and other basic needs) throughout Pepin County via local law enforcement and/or Human Services.

Pepin County will kick off our Annual Red Kettle Campaign on **November 15, 2025**. We are grateful to have local businesses that have volunteered to be official bell ringing sites:

- **Durand Fresh Market** which offers volunteer opportunities on Mondays through Saturdays starting on Saturday, November 15, 2025, through December 24th.

- **Villa Bellezza** – Saturdays 11am to 4pm

- **Consumer Cooperative (Pepin)** – Saturdays 9am to 4pm

- **Bank of Alma** – Saturdays 8:30 - 11:30am – kettle located within the bank when open.

If you are interested in ringing bells for the Red Kettle Campaign, you can sign up online at [www.registertoring.com](http://www.registertoring.com). Individuals who don't have access to the internet can call or text Maria at 715-279-3720 to coordinate your preferred volunteer hours and location. Each shift on the Register to Ring website is an hour, all we ask is that you ring bells, spread holiday cheer, and say thank you to those who donate to the kettles. The red kettles will accept all U.S. currency (coins and cash); this year will also feature a virtual payment option via a QR code. No donation is too small and they all add up to make a difference!

Additionally, I do have extra kettles that the 4-H clubs can borrow for special events, if desired.

All members of the public who sign up and complete a bell ringing shift in Pepin County will be entered for the chance to win a Kwik Trip gift card (5 available).

**Sign up at [www.registertoring.com](http://www.registertoring.com)**

Sign up via  
QR code!



Don't want to use the QR Code  
or need help signing up?  
Call/text Maria at 715-279-3720



REGISTER TO  
**RING™**

# LEGO CLUB DECEMBER DATES:

DECEMBER 5, 12, 19

3:45 - 4:45 PM  
IN THE DURAND LIBRARY

ALL YOUTH GRADES 1-5  
WELCOME!





# DISCOVER PEPIN/BUFFALO SHOOTING SPORTS CLUB!

We are very excited to continue the Pepin/Buffalo Shooting Sports Club! Thank you, Nicole and Jim Schonke for your continued leadership in the shooting sport project!



**What's the same:**

Same great practices at the Pepin Sportsman's Club - N 10076 Sand Ridge Rd, Pepin WI  
3rd grade and 8 yro and older  
No experience necessary  
Equipment provided  
Fee: \$10-



**What's different:**

Shooting sports is now an official club. You can enroll in the Shooting Sports Club as your main club in 4honline 2.0 or inform our office and we can put it as your secondary club.



**Club and Practice Schedule:**

Monday and Tuesday nights,  
January 12- March 31  
Prac: 6:00-7:30 pm  
Meeting: 7:30-8:00 pm



## QUESTIONS



Pepin County 4-H



(715) 672-5214



sky.holtawisc.edu



# Saturday Squad



# BINGO

All youth grades 1-5 welcome!

Durand Public Library  
**NOVEMBER 8TH**  
**DECEMBER 6TH**

**10AM - 11 AM**

Pepin Co. 4H



**small prizes**





# BRIDGE BUILDING

JOIN PEPIN COUNTY 4-H AND THE PEPIN PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR THIS AWESOME STEM ACTIVITY!  
ALL YOUTH WELCOME.

JANUARY 17  
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
PEPIN PUBLIC LIBRARY



# Cultural Baking Series

Dec 4, 11, & 18

Grades: 4th and up

This virtual series explores new baking techniques and ingredients while in your own kitchen.

**REGISTRATION CLOSES at NOON, NOVEMBER 17, 2025**



Extension  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

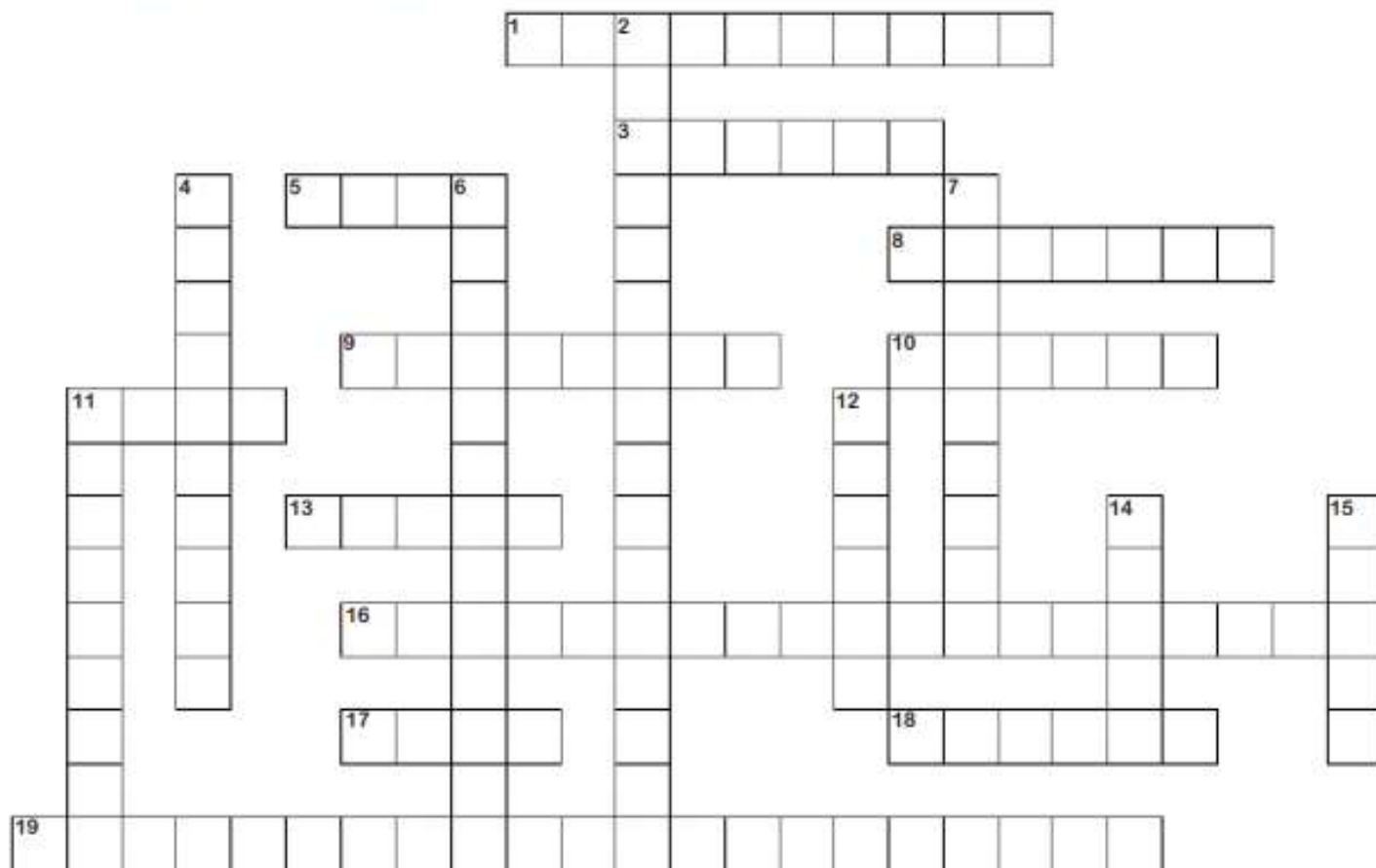


Register for the Cultural Baking Series held at 6:30 PM on Dec 4, 11, & 18 via Zoom. We will learn new baking techniques, try new-to-us ingredients, and explore our cultural connection to food. This series is recommended for those in 4th grade and up. Families will receive a recipe book and ingredient list by email. There is no fee for this program. Your family will need to purchase ingredients and supplies. We will be making: Swedish Crackers, Cornmeal cranberry cookies, and Helbeh (Middle Eastern Fenugreek Cake)

[Cultural Baking Series Registration](#) - **Registration closes Nov 17 at Noon**

## Celebrate Crossword Day on December 21 with this 4-H fun!

4-H has a lot of words that might not get used in other places. See if you can fill in the word that matches each definition!



### ACROSS

1. Where you keep track of all your 4-H project work in a year (2 words)
3. Any young person signed up for 4-H
5. I pledge my \_\_\_\_\_ to clearer thinking
8. Item you enter into the fair for judging
9. Website where adults sign youth up for 4-H (2 words)
10. Adult volunteer who helps youth in 4-H
11. Group of 4-H members who meet regularly to conduct business, learn about projects, do community service, and have fun
13. The 4-H \_\_\_\_\_: To Make the Best Better
16. Leadership group made of volunteers and youth leaders from around the county (2 words)
17. Event where 4-H youth may exhibit their projects
18. I pledge my \_\_\_\_\_ to better living
19. Travel opportunity that explores other places with Wisconsin 4-H members (2 words)

### DOWN

2. Project or event done by 4-H members to help make the community a better place (2 words)
4. Person who leads and coordinates the county-level program
6. Presentation by a 4-H member where they teach a project-based skill to other club members
7. System that is home to the 4-H program, established by the Smith-Lever Act (2 words)
11. 4-H member in grades K-2
12. Commitment or promise; most clubs recite this to start each meeting
14. I pledge my \_\_\_\_\_ to greater loyalty
15. I pledge my \_\_\_\_\_ to larger service

**Stuck on a clue? That's ok! You can find the answers on the next page.**

## Learn the Language

4-H uses terms that may be unfamiliar or used differently than what you've experienced in other places. Some of those words are explained here, but there may be some more terms you hear that aren't listed. Don't be afraid to ask your club leader if you're not sure what something means. The number next to each **bolded** word corresponds to the answer in the crossword puzzle on the opposite page.

### 4-H words you might hear in your **Club**

A 4-H **club**<sup>11</sup> is made up of youth **members**<sup>3</sup> and caring adult volunteers who meet regularly. Clubs typically conduct business, serve the community, and have fun! Clubs can also be school-based, afterschool or have a project area focus. A **Cloverbud**<sup>11</sup> is a 4-H member in grades K-2. All clubs have at least one adult club **leader**<sup>10</sup> who works with youth leaders to guide the group. 4-H clubs often do **community service**<sup>2</sup> projects to make a difference in their community. Some clubs also have their members track project progress throughout the year (and their 4-H career) through a **record book**<sup>1</sup>. Clubs may also encourage members to give a **demonstration**<sup>6</sup>, where they teach a project-based skill to other members.



Credit: Ben Hoppe



Credit: Alysse Zirbel

### 4-H words you might hear across your **County**

County 4-H programs offer opportunities for youth such as project days, camps, and more. For many 4-H members, one of the highlights of the year is showcasing their hard work at a local **fair**<sup>17</sup>. At the fair, members enter their project as an **exhibit**<sup>8</sup>. Many counties also have a **Leaders Organization**<sup>16</sup> made up of adult volunteers and youth leaders. This group provides education, raises funds, and promotes 4-H throughout the county. The organization is usually known as a Leaders Federation, Leaders Association, or Leaders Council.

### 4-H words you might hear across **Wisconsin**

In 1914, the Smith-Lever Act established a partnership between the USDA and land-grant institutions. In 1890, it expanded to include historically black colleges and universities, and in 1994 added tribal colleges. This partnership is known as Cooperative **Extension**<sup>7</sup>. In Wisconsin, Extension is a division of UW-Madison and is home to the Wisconsin 4-H program. UW-Madison employs a county **4-H educator**<sup>4</sup> who leads and coordinates the county's 4-H program. Wisconsin 4-H uses the web platform, **4-H Online**<sup>9</sup>, to keep in touch with 4-H members. On this website, members can also enroll in an **educational experience**<sup>19</sup>, which is an educational travel opportunity organized by the state 4-H office.



Credit: Ben Hoppe

### 4-H words you might hear across the **country**

The 4 H's are **Head**<sup>5</sup>, **Heart**<sup>14</sup>, **Hands**<sup>15</sup>, and **Health**<sup>18</sup>. These are all part of the 4-H **Pledge**<sup>12</sup>, which is usually recited at the beginning of meetings. The 4-H **Motto**<sup>13</sup>, adopted nationally, is "To Make the Best Better."

For more information see the 4-H Statewide Opportunities page at: <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/>

## 2025-2026 State & National Experiences Calendar

Last updated on 8/28/2025

What?	When?	Where?	Who?	How much?	How to register	Staff Leads & Adult volunteers
<b>Arts Camp</b> <a href="https://go.wisc.edu/ArtCamp">go.wisc.edu/ArtCamp</a>	October 4 - 5, 2025	Upham Woods Wisconsin Dells, WI	Grades 6-8	\$150 (tiered pricing) Billed individually	2025 Registration <b>closed</b> August 29. <i>Stay tuned for 2026 details!</i> <b>Payment due: October 4, 2025</b>	1 adult / 10 youth track leads & advisory support application via 4HOnline registration
<b>Fall Forum</b> <a href="https://go.wisc.edu/4Hfallforum">go.wisc.edu/4Hfallforum</a>	October 31 - November 2, 2025	Green Lake, WI	Grades 7-12 & 4-H Volunteers	\$65 (day only) \$185 (2 nights) Billed individually	Registration in 4Honline open <b>September 3 - 26, 2025</b> <b>Payment due: October 15, 2025</b>	Youth must identify a chaperone or will be assigned to one. All 4-H volunteers are welcome to attend.
<b>Youth as Partners in Civic Leadership</b> <a href="https://go.wisc.edu/ypcl">go.wisc.edu/ypcl</a>	November 14 - 16, 2025	Upham Woods Wisconsin Dells, WI	Grades 9-12 & Adults (21 or older)	\$180	Registration in 4Honline open <b>June 13 - October 3, 2025</b> <b>Payment due: October 15, 2025</b>	1 adult / 10 youth
<b>National 4-H Congress 2025</b> <a href="https://go.wisc.edu/4HCongress">go.wisc.edu/4HCongress</a>	November 28 - December 2, 2025	Atlanta, GA	Grades 9-12, maximum age 18 on January 1 of program year.	\$1,500	2025 Registration <b>closed</b> June 30. See 2026 details below! <b>Payment due: October 24, 2025</b>	1 adult / 10 youth 2 adult advisors selected 2 staff leads
<b>ArtBEAT!</b> <a href="https://go.wisc.edu/ArtBeat">go.wisc.edu/ArtBeat</a>	March 13 - 15, 2026	Upham Woods Wisconsin Dells, WI	Grades 3-5	\$150 (estimate; tiered pricing) Billed individually	Registration in 4Honline open <b>January 12 - February 8, 2026</b> Capacity is limited. <b>Payment due: March 13, 2026</b>	1 adult / 10 youth track leads & advisory support
<b>Citizenship Washington Focus @ Ignite by 4-H</b> <a href="https://go.wisc.edu/CWF">go.wisc.edu/CWF</a>	March 24 - 29, 2026	Washington, DC	Grades 10-12	\$2,800	Applications in 4Honline open <b>September 4 - 29, 2025</b> Capacity is limited. <b>Payment due: October 15, 2025</b>	1 adult / 10 youth 2 staff leads
<b>Ignite by 4-H STEM Track Animal Science Track</b> <a href="https://go.wisc.edu/igniteby4h">go.wisc.edu/igniteby4h</a>	March 25 - 29, 2026	Washington, DC	Grades 10-12	\$2,500	Applications in 4Honline open <b>September 4 - 29, 2025</b> Capacity is limited. <b>Payment due: October 15, 2025</b>	1 adult / 10 youth 2 staff leads

## 2025-2026 State & National Experiences Calendar

Last updated on 8/28/2025

What?	When?	Where?	Who?	How much?	How to register	Staff Leads & Adult volunteers
<b>National 4-H Conference</b> <a href="http://go.wisc.edu/NationalConf">go.wisc.edu/NationalConf</a>	TBD	Washington, DC	Grades 10-12	\$2,000 (estimate)	Application process TBD Five youth delegates selected <b>Payment due: TBD</b>	1 adult / 10 youth 2 staff leads
<b>Space Camp</b> <a href="http://go.wisc.edu/SpaceCamp">go.wisc.edu/SpaceCamp</a>	April 23 - 27, 2026	Huntsville, AL	Grades 6-8	\$1,300 (estimate)	Registration in 4-Online open <b>November 15 - December 14, 2025</b> Capacity is limited. <b>Payment due: March 19, 2026</b>	1 adult / 10 youth 2 adult advisors selected 2 staff leads
<b>Summer Academy</b> <a href="http://go.wisc.edu/HSummerAcademy">go.wisc.edu/HSummerAcademy</a>	June 14 - 18, 2026	Madison, WI	Grades 8-11	\$600	Registration in 4-Online open <b>March 6 - April 26, 2026</b> <b>Payment due: May 10, 2026</b>	1 adult / 10 youth Track leads & advisory support All staff are invited to serve as leads

## 2025-2026 State & National Experiences Calendar

Last updated on 8/28/2025

What?	When?	Where?	Who?	How much?	How to register	Staff Leads & Adult volunteers
<b>American Spirit East</b> <a href="http://go.wisc.edu/AmericanSpirit">go.wisc.edu/AmericanSpirit</a>	June 19 - 26, 2026 July 3 - 12, 2026	East Coast	Grades 8-10 at time of registration	\$3,000 (estimate)	Apply in 4-Online, open <b>November 1 - November 30, 2025</b> Capacity is limited. <b>Payment due: May 15, 2026</b>	1 adult / 10 youth 2 staff leads per week

## 2026-2027

What?	When?	Where?	Who?	How much?	How to register	Staff Leads & Adult volunteers
<b>National 4-H Congress 2026</b> <a href="http://go.wisc.edu/4HCongress">go.wisc.edu/4HCongress</a>	November 27 - December 1, 2026	Atlanta, GA	Grades 9-12; maximum age 18 on January 1 of program year.	\$1,500 (estimate)	Registration in 4-Online open <b>June 1 - 30, 2026</b> <b>Payment due: October 23, 2026</b>	1 adult / 10 youth 2 adult advisors selected 2 staff leads



Registration will be available soon for our NEW Winter Academy. The Winter Academy is open to grades 8-10 and is an opportunity for youth to gain experience in problem solving strategies and to prepare for successful career pathways. Completion of the 2026 Winter Academy grants a coupon code for the 2026 Summer Academy! Keep an eye out for more registration details and program information on our website:

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/winter-academy/>



# NEW WINTER ACADEMY

VIRTUAL

 Grades 8-10

 • January 21, 2026  
• January 28, 2026  
• February 4, 2026

**Free to attend!**

 Completion of the Winter Academy program will earn participants a 30% coupon code off registration for Summer Academy in the same year!

  **Positive Youth Development Institute**  
DIVISION OF EXTENSION  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

# STATE TEAM APPLICATIONS

**NOW OPEN!**



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

## Arts Ambassadors

Learn about leadership, interpersonal skills, and how to promote the 4-H Expressive Arts. Apply to join the Drama, Visual Arts, or Communications/Media team!

## Leadership Ambassadors

Advocate for Wisconsin 4-H and engage in opportunities to build personal leadership skills and encourage others to grow their leadership potential.

## Agriculture Ambassadors

**NEW!**

Youth and adult team members will work together to contribute ideas and shape our statewide programs. Build leadership skills, meet other teens from throughout the state, and engage in opportunities to teach others.

Apply to the Wisconsin 4-H Ambassador Teams!

Ambassadors get unique opportunities to represent Wisconsin 4-H, develop leadership skills, and contribute to statewide programming.

Apply to join the Arts, Leadership, or Agriculture Ambassadors depending on what inspires you most.

Youth must be in grades 9-12 to apply!

Applications open now and until Dec. 15th! Learn more and apply here: <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/.../wi-4-h-ambassador-team/>

## 2026 4-H American Spirit Experience: Empowering Youth Through History & Leadership

Are you a 4-H member in grades 8–10 who loves history, travel, and making new friends? The 4-H American Spirit Experience might be the perfect adventure for you!

The 4-H American Spirit Experience empowers youth to take ownership of their learning and leadership through a 10-day educational journey exploring history, culture, and civic identity across the East Coast and Canada. While staff and volunteers support and facilitate the experience, youth are at the center, not just as participants, but as leaders, learners, and changemakers. They actively shape the experience by presenting content, leading discussions, reflecting on their learning, and building a vibrant community with peers from across Wisconsin.

### **2026 Travel Dates:**

June 18–29, 2026

July 3–12, 2026

### **Program Highlights:**

- \*Visit historic sites like Lexington & Concord, Salem, and Gloucester
- \*Explore American and Canadian culture (**passport required!**)
- \*Lead activities and discussions with fellow youth
- \*Build lifelong friendships and leadership skills



### **Application Details:**

Open November 1–30, 2025 in 4H Online: youth and a parent/guardian must complete the application together. Important...A completed application does not guarantee participation. Final selections will consider group composition, eligibility, and application timing.

### **Estimated Cost: \$3,000**

Invoices will be sent to counties in April 2026. Counties and participants are encouraged to collaborate on payment plans and fundraising.

### **Eligibility:**

Open to youth in grades 8–10 (older youth may inquire with Amber Rehberg at [amber.rehberg@wisc.edu](mailto:amber.rehberg@wisc.edu))  
Each week is limited to 45 youth, so apply early!

**Don't miss this chance to experience history, culture,  
and leadership in action.**

Applications for 2026 National 4-H Conference are now live! Youth are invited to apply to participate in this conference. National 4-H Conference is a premiere leadership and civic engagement opportunity, where youth will get the chance to work with a branch of the federal government on an action plan, visit with legislators, and explore Washington DC! Application details are available on our website: [go.wisc.edu/NationalConf](https://go.wisc.edu/NationalConf)

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR  
**NATIONAL 4-H  
CONFERENCE**

Until Dec 1, 2025

 April 10-15, 2026  10th-12th Grade

 Washington DC  \$2,000 to attend

  **Positive Youth Development Institute**  
DIVISION OF EXTENSION  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



WISCONSIN 4-H

# SPACE CAMP

*Adventure Awaits!*

MAY 1-5, 2025

U.S. SPACE & ROCKET CENTER, HUNTSVILLE, AL

## WHAT?

Delegates team up for hands-on mock space missions and STEM activities in this NASA program while exchanging ideas with 4-H youth from across Wisconsin. Expect tons of learning, meeting new friends, and FUN!

## WHO?

- Must be in 6th-8th grade, maximum age 15 at time of program.
- Carry county approval through time of program. Check with your county office about scholarship opportunities.
- Register during registration period - Nov 15-Dec 15
- Delegates may only attend once as a youth.

## HOW MUCH?

- The total cost of Space Camp is approximately \$1,300
- Some counties offer local sponsorships.

## QUESTIONS?

- Check out the website: [go.wisc.edu/spacecamp](http://go.wisc.edu/spacecamp)
- Call or email the State 4-H Office at 608-263-5971 or [justin.lieck@wisc.edu](mailto:justin.lieck@wisc.edu)



UW-MADISON EXTENSION



# SAVE THE DATES

## STATE 4-H HORSE EVENTS

HORSE EDUCATION DAYS  
MAY 2 & 3, 2026

STATE HUNT AND DRESSAGE SHOW  
JUNE 26, 27, & 28, 2026

STATE GYMKHANA SHOW  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

STATE HORSE EXPO SHOW  
SEPTEMBER 18, 19, & 20, 2026

# upcoming MEAT ANIMAL EVENTS

- 2/21/26** Market Beef Weigh-In @ Independence NFO
- 2/28/26** Back up Beef Weigh-In date if there are poor road conditions the Saturday before
- 4/11/26** Hog Tag Pick-up @ Fairgrounds, Mondovi
- 4/25/26** Market Sheep & Goat Weigh-In @ Fairgrounds, Mondovi

Registration link and specific times to come!



# **SAVE THE DATES**

## **STATE 4-H LIVESTOCK EVENTS**

**4-H MEATS JUDGING CONTEST  
JANUARY 31, 2026**

**SKILLATHON AND QUIZ BOWL  
MARCH 21, 2026**

**BOTH EVENTS HELD AT THE  
UW MADISON CAMPUS**



**Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



# **SAVE THE DATE**

## **STATE 4-H DAIRY QUIZ BOWL**

**FEBRUARY 7, 2026**

**UW GREEN BAY  
STEM INNOVATION BUILDING**



**'Tis the season to spread joy—and support 4H youth across the country while you do it! Whether you're shopping for family, friends, or even your furry companions, this guide is packed with purposeful gifts that give back. Let's make this holiday season merry, bright, and meaningful!**



# 2026 Conservation Speech Contest Guidelines



**State Contest**  
**Wednesday, March 4th, 2026**  
 Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI



## Contest Divisions

1. Elementary Division... (3-5 minute speeches, *required*) ..... Students enrolled in grades 5-6
2. Junior Division..... (4-6 minute speeches, *required*) ..... Students enrolled in grades 7-8
3. Senior Division..... (5-7 minute speeches, *required*) ..... Students enrolled in grades 9-12

## Subject Matter

Speeches must promote the conservation of natural resources and the protection or enhancement of environmental quality. Topics should address soil and water conservation issues. Emphasis should be placed on the subject as it relates to your locality or to the state of Wisconsin.

Authenticity and accuracy of information is important, and the speaker should demonstrate familiarity with the subject matter. Feel free to contact Natural Resource professionals as they can provide knowledge on numerous topics. The internet is a rich resource; however, not all internet sources are reliable. When using the internet, be sure to consider your source!

All speeches should be backed up by facts. Both sides of an issue should be presented in a fair and non-accusatory manner. Using names of people or businesses for slander will not be accepted and shall result in disqualification.

## Visual Aids

Use of visual aids (posters, charts, etc.) is prohibited; however, notes may be used.

## Speeches

A speech, in part or whole, used in this contest in previous years may not be used again. However, speeches used for other speaking events may be used. Group presentations are not allowed.

## County Contest

An individual student may only enter in one County level speech contest, either in the County in which they reside or in the county in which they attend school. If the County an individual lives in does not host a speaking contest, the individual may seek permission from another County to enter their contest. The winners of each division in each County may compete in the Area Association contests. Students must compete in a County and/or Area contest to qualify for the state contest. All contest entry forms must be signed by a parent or guardian.

## Area Contest

Local County winner will advance to their area contest. Please view our website for your area contest dates, <https://wisconsinlandwater.org/our-work/youth-education/poster-speaking-contest>. The results of the Area contest (including the parental/guardian signature, legible names, addresses and counties of residence of the winners) shall be sent by the Area contest coordinator to all County contest coordinators immediately following the contest for State contest set-up and publicity purposes.

The Area association committees and coordinators are responsible for arranging the participation of its three winning speakers (1st place in each division) in the state contest.

**Contest Scheduling**

County and Area Association contests should be completed by **Friday, February 6, 2026.**

**State Contest**

State contest entry forms for each area contest winner must be received at the WI Land+Water office no later than **Friday, February 6, 2026.**

The state contest will be held in the morning of Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI.\*

**Registration will be from 9:00am-9:30am.**

First place winners in each division are invited to present their winning speeches at the 2025 WI Land+Water Annual Conference Luncheon that same day at **11:00am.**

State contest RSVP must be completed by **Monday, February 9, 2026** and emailed to [kim@wisconsinlandwater.org](mailto:kim@wisconsinlandwater.org).

*\*If you are planning to come in the night before and wish to book a hotel room. Please contact the Chula Vista Resort directly and mention WI Land+Water Annual Conference to receive the state rate at the Chula Vista Resort.*

All state contest entry forms must be completely filled out and **signed by a parent or guardian** and emailed to [kim@wisconsinlandwater.org](mailto:kim@wisconsinlandwater.org) no later than Monday, February 9, 2026 in order for the student to be eligible to compete.



**2025 State Speech Winners**



**Adalyn Howe  
Columbia County  
Elementary Division**



**Lydia Visger  
Columbia County  
Junior Division**



**Briella Brusveen  
Columbia County  
Senior Division**



# 2026 Conservation Awareness Speaking Contest County Level Entry

**\*\*Please fill out completely and legibly\*\***

COUNTY ENTRIES DUE: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF SPEECH \_\_\_\_\_

### STUDENT

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State WI Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County where you live \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/guardian name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check the appropriate grade level.**

Elementary  
5-6 grades

Junior  
7-8 grades

Senior  
9-12 grades

**REQUIRED** Signature of parent or guardian certifies that the information provided is accurate and allows local land conservation departments, WI Land+Water, and NACD to utilize the photos for educational or promotional purposes:

X \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### LOCAL MEDIA

Name of your local newspaper: \_\_\_\_\_

Newspaper Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Newspaper Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### SCHOOL

Public School  Private School  Home School

Teacher Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State WI Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT** (filled out by Land Conservation staff or YE Area rep)

County \_\_\_\_\_ Area \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State: WI Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# 2026 Conservation Poster Contest Guidelines

## “Soil. Where it all Begins”

### Details

- Open to grades K-12; public, private or home school students
- Each poster must go through the following contest process: Local/County, Area, State, Nationals.
- The National Poster Contest theme is: **“Soil. Where it all Begins”**

### Contest Rules

- Poster size must be 12" x 18" or 14" x 22".
- The 2026 National Contest Theme, **“Soil. Where it all Begins”** must be written on each poster.
- All posters shall be created by an individual student, rather than a team of students.
- Any media may be used: paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers, paper or other materials on regular posters. (Computer-generated posters will not be accepted)
- To be eligible for judging, each entry must have a completed and signed entry form attached to back.

<b>Posters Due to County</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Poster Due Date: <u>01/09/2026</u></li> <li>▪ Local entries due to: <u>Emilie Bonnerup</u></li> <li>▪ Phone: <u>715-672-7242 x146</u></li> <li>▪ Address: <u>740 7th Ave W, Durand</u></li> </ul>
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<b>County Contest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ County: <u>Pepin</u></li> <li>▪ Date of County Contest: <u>01/16/2026</u></li> <li>▪ Location: <u>Pepin County Board Room</u></li> <li>▪ 1<sup>st</sup> place from each division moves to Area</li> </ul>
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<b>Area Contest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Area: <u>West Central</u></li> <li>▪ Date of Area Contest: <u>01/20/2026</u></li> <li>▪ Location: <u>Chippewa Co. Courthouse</u></li> <li>▪ 1st place from each division moves to State</li> </ul>
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<b>State Contest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Posters Due: February 6, 2026</li> <li>▪ Dates of State Contest: March 4-6, 2026</li> <li>▪ WI Land+Water Annual Conference, Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells</li> </ul>
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<b>National Contest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Submitted by December 1, 2026</li> <li>▪ National Contest entries submitted by WI Land+Water</li> </ul>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Poster Evaluations</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Conservation Message 50% Visual Effectiveness 30% Originality 10% Universal Appeal 10%</p>
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Contact your County Land/Water Conservation Department for details on how to get started and/or: <https://wisconsinlandwater.org/our-work/youth-education/poster-speaking-contest/contest-dates>



# 2026 Conservation Awareness Poster Contest

County Entries Due: 01/09/2026

**STUDENT**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/guardian name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check appropriate grade level.**

Grades K-1  
 Grades 2-3  
 Grades 4-6  
 Grades 7-9  
 Grades 10-12

**REQUIRED** Signature of parent or guardian certifies that the information provided is accurate and allows local land conservation departments, WI Land+Water, and NACD to utilize the photos for educational or promotional purposes:

X \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**LOCAL MEDIA**

Name of your local newspaper Courier-Wedge  
 Newspaper Telephone Number 715-672-4252  
 Newspaper Email thewedge@nelson-tel.net



**SCHOOL**

Public School  Private School  Home School  
 Teacher Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 School Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State WI Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_



**COUNTY LAND/WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT** (to be filled out by local rep)

County Pepin Area West Central  
 Contact Emilie Bonnerup Title Admin Outreach Specialist  
 Address 740 7th Ave W  
 City Durand State WI Zip 54736  
 E-mail Address ebonnerup@co.pepin.wi.us Phone (715) 672-7242 x146



Youth who join 4-H are often excited about the many, many projects they can choose to explore. There are so many Sparks (or things they want to learn about)! Yet, if their Spark doesn't have a local project leader to support their learning, that excitement can turn to questions. They may not know how to get started on their own. Clover to the rescue!! Clover is an online smorgasbord of sparks, interactive activities, and fun. It was created by the National 4-H Council in collaboration with more than 100 universities throughout the United States. And it's FREE and ready for youth, parents, and educators to dive into. **Go to [4-h.org/clover](https://4-h.org/clover)**

**4-H Volunteer Information and Resources** - we have provided loads of great information to help you feel comfortable and confident about the basics of 4-H . Explore the Volunteer Resources website at:

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/resources/volunteer-resources/>



**SCAN THE QR CODE  
AND SHOW YOU ARE  
4-EVER GREEN**



### Check Out These Event Calendars

The calendars below show events available in surrounding areas and statewide. To filter by county or event type, use the check boxes on the left to narrow the results.

\* To find 4-H specific events see this site

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/calendar/>

\* To find workshops, classes and other events hosted by University of Wisconsin-Extension see this site:

<https://extension.wisc.edu/events/>

Badger Talks is pleased to present a LIVE series of talks on topics that intend to inspire, delight, and pleasantly distract in a time we are all needing positive experiences. Tune in to hear experts on a variety of interesting and engaging topics. For more information see:

<https://badgertalks.wisc.edu/badger-talks-live/>



