



UW-MADISON EXTENSION
OUTAGAMIE COUNTY

PROJECT ENROLLMENT GUIDE

2026 - 2027



Welcome New Families:

There are many people in 4-H who are ready and willing to help you as a new family in the program. We are here to help:

Local 4-H Club

Leaders and other families are great resources and support.

4-H Leaders Association

Outagamie County has an organization of leaders and youth leaders which support the county 4-H program.

County 4-H Office

Ask for the county 4-H Program Educator or staff, who are responsible for administering the county 4-H program, to connect you with resources and opportunities.

There are many ways for your family to be involved in 4-H; be active in your club, participate in club meetings, events and activities. There are even county and statewide events, activities and opportunities. Some examples are: speaking, demonstrations, camps, trips and tours, 4-H project workshops and county fair. **(Watch for information in your county 4-H Connections Newsletter.)**

Youth may need a little adult encouragement to stay involved. Many adults become 4-H leaders when their children become members. All leaders appreciate any assistance parents can give. If you decide that you want to become a leader, you will need to be approved through the Youth Protection process which requires a background check and a few training pieces. Ask the 4-H Program Educator or contact the Extension Office for more information.

Adults can help by:

Sharing

Take an interest in a child's 4-H projects and activities. Listen, look and offer suggestions, but don't "take over." Learning by doing is the 4-H way. A child learns through mistakes and successes.

Preparing

Help a child understand the value of projects and presentations done well and on time. Help a child understand the importance of follow through.

Being There

A child will gain more from 4-H by regular attendance at club meetings and involvement in 4-H activities. Attend meetings with them. Get to know the 4-H club leader. Lend a hand whenever you can.

Understanding 4-H Projects

What is a 4-H Project? A 4-H project is made up of three types of activities:

- 1. Hands-on activities:** making, producing, practicing, observing, testing, interviewing, caring for, etc.
- 2. Organized activities:** demonstrations, workshops, camps, county judging, project activities, exhibits, etc.
- 3. Leadership/Citizenship activities:** conducting, planning, teaching, assisting, informing, organizing, etc.

Are 4-H Members required to sign up for a project? Yes, all members must sign up for at least one project.

How does this work? Some projects are self-guided with curriculum available through the Extension Office, other projects have meetings and additional requirements to participate.

How does a member select a project? When choosing a project, consider your interests, background, what is necessary to start your project, and what is available to help you complete it. Ask yourself, "What would I like to learn and do in my project this year?" Review this guide as a family, club, or group. A good rule of thumb is to select no more than two projects as a first-year member. County fairs and the state fair often have age requirements different than those for project enrollment. When participating in a fair event, be sure to review the related guidelines.

Resource Leaders are available for some projects. See the Family Handbook for a list or contact the Extension Office.

4-H Enrollment Guidelines

Grade Requirements

- 4-H grade is determined as of September 1 of the current year.
- **Cloverbuds** – Youth entering 5K through 2nd grade are eligible only for the Cloverbud project.
- **Members** – Youth entering 3rd grade through one year beyond high school graduation up to age 19 as of December 31.
- **Graduation** - Youth may graduate following high school graduation or one year after high school graduation.
- **Home-schooling** – Children who are home schooled will participate in 4-H in their declared grade.

Enrollment Process For Members and Volunteers

- **All enrollment happens in 4-H Online:** <https://wi.4honline.com>
- **New enrollment** will be accepted at any time during the year; however, to provide a complete list of membership to volunteers and leaders, we are asking that new enrollment be completed by Nov 15.
- **Re-enrollment** must be submitted by November 15, 2026.
- **Once enrollment is submitted and approved, a project can be added or changed until March 15.**
- **County Fair** Youth may only exhibit at the county fair in the projects they are enrolled in for the current year.
- **Parents/Guardians** should double-check all information in 4-H Online before submitting their enrollment to be sure that all information is accurate and complete.

Literature/Curriculum

Several projects have helpful, informative literature that is research based. We encourage you to either pick up from the Extension Office or purchase from National 4-H Supply at <https://shop4-h.org/>.

Please note that the Extension Office has a limited amount of literature available in some project areas. Therefore, contact the Extension Office for the most up to date inventory available.

Volunteer Leaders

There are several projects that could use a leader. Please consider signing up for one to help youth learn and grow in that area. Choose to be a club or county leader. Check with the main leader of your club for more information on leadership opportunities. You do not need to be an expert, just have a passion for the topic and learning. You do not have to be a leader in each area. Contact the 4-H Program Educator for more information.

Volunteer Leaders must re-enroll by November 15.

Resource Leader - An approved volunteer who serves on the county level as a resource to other leaders and members in a specific project or activity.

4-H at County Fair

The Outagamie County Fair is held each year in June. It is a time when 4-H members have an opportunity to show the results of their learning efforts and reflect on what they have accomplished. It is also a chance to meet other members from across the county and share experiences and ideas with them.



Participation at the Fair is not required by the county, but members that choose not to participate are missing an excellent opportunity for additional fun, enrichment, and learning. All 4-H members are encouraged to participate in the Fair, if possible.

To participate in the Fair, the child must be enrolled by the dates listed on page 3 for both new members and re-enrolling members. Per the Outagamie County Fair Association Junior Fair Rules and Regulations "Members must be in good standing of their organization on or before March 15 of the fair year." Many projects have educational requirements or opportunities that occur early in the calendar year.

Fair entry forms are due in May. For more information concerning the Fair, consult the Fair Premium Book.

About this guide

Please note:

- Descriptions listed by each project are **examples** of what could be learned through self-discovery, organized project meetings/activities and other events.
- Please reference the Outagamie County Fair Premium book for ideas of exhibits that can be taken to the fair <https://www.outagamiecountyfair.com/junior-fair/>
- If you cannot find a corresponding Department or Class in the premium book, please contact the Extension Office 4-H program 920-832-5123 and we will help you find the information you are looking for.

How to Enroll 4-H Online



To enroll in Wisconsin **4-H Online**, you need a computer, internet access, a valid e-mail address and a web browser. You must use Google Chrome or Firefox, the program won't fully run on a different browser. Family profile and member information should be entered by a parent/guardian unless the member enrolling is 18 years or older.

Please visit <https://outagamie.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/> for more information.

Expressive Arts

Project area	Examples of project-based learning within project area	Outagamie Fair Department
Art Appreciation	Celebrating art, art in your future	133
Computer Graphic Design		121
Creative Writing		131
Fiber & Textile Arts	Macrame, rug hooking, tie dyeing, wearable art, creative/cross stitchery, needlepoint, weaving, string/wire art, handmade dolls, knitting, crocheting, wool spinning, weaving	118
	Knitting, crocheting	127
Folk Arts & Crafts	Basketry, beadwork, calligraphy, candle making, decorative boxes, decoupage, fuzzy posters, liquid embroidery, rock art, soap making, soap carving, wood art, wood burning, leathercraft, blacksmithing	118
Performing Arts	Clowning, dance, juggling, music, theater arts, puppetry	118
Photography		120
Self-Determined-Expressive Arts		118 or 133
Upcycling	Trash and Treasure	133
Videography		120
Visual Arts	Block printing, ceramics, collages, drawing and painting, glasswork, jewelry making, metal enameling, mosaics, ornaments, paper art, plastercraft, posters, print making, pottery, rubber stamping, scrapbooking, Sculpey clay, stencil painting	118



Leadership and Community

Project area	Examples of project-based learning within project area	Outagamie Fair Department
Civic Engagement	Citizenship	134
Cloverbud		117
Cloverbud Youth Leader		133
Communications	Demonstrations, sign language, speaking, Books on the Move	131 or 133
Community Service	Service learning	134
Exploring		133
Global & Cultural Education	Latino cultural arts, international	134
History & Heritage		134
Intergenerational		134
Leadership	Youth leadership	133
Self-Determined–Leadership & Community		133 or 134
Workforce Readiness		134



Family, Home, and Health

Project area	Examples of project-based learning within project area	Outagamie Fair Department
Candy Making		125
Child Development		129
Consumer Savvy		133
Entrepreneurship		134
Food Decorating	Cake decorating	125
Food Preservation		125
Foods & Nutrition	Microwave, cooking, baking, breads	125
Health		134
Home Environment	Decorative wreaths, interior design	128
Personal Finance		134
Self-Determined–Family, Home, & Health		133
Sewing	Clothing, quilting, regalia making, stuffed animals	126
Sports & Fitness	Softball, bowling, fun and fitness	134



Agriculture and Animal Science

Project area	Examples of project-based learning within project area	Outagamie Fair Department
Beef	Beef feeder, beef meat animal products (map)	102
Cats		113
Cavies		110
Dairy		101
Dogs	Dog obedience	109
Exotic Animals	Ostrich, emu, zebras, zedonk	110
Goats	Meat goat, dairy goat, pygmy goat	105
Horse	Horseless horse	106
Llamas/Alpacas		110
Pocket Pets	Cage birds, reptiles, tropical fish, hamsters, gerbils, chinchilla	110
Poultry	Poultry bantams, poultry game birds (quail, pheasant), poultry market, poultry pigeons, poultry turkeys, poultry waterfowl	107
Rabbits	Rabbit hopping, rabbits market	108
Self-Determined–Animal Sciences		110 or 133
Sheep	Sheep meat animal products (map)	104
Swine	Swine meat animal products (map)	103
Veterinary Science		110



Environmental/Outdoor Education

Project area	Examples of project-based learning within project area	Outagamie Fair Department
Astronomy		116
Birds		116
Conservation	Weather and climate, exploring your environment, water science, aquatic science, water, recycling	116
Entomology (Insects)	Bees	116
Geology	Rockhound	116
Maple Syrup		116
Outdoor Recreation	Adventures, backpacking and hiking, bicycling, camping, canoeing, fishing, rock climbing, winter travel, cross country skiing, downhill skiing	116
Safety	Off-highway vehicles, tractor certification, snowmobiling	133
Self-Determined—Environmental/Outdoor Education		133
Shooting Sports	Air pistol, air rifle, archery, gun safety, muzzle loading, pistol, rifle, shotgun	116
Taxidermy		116
Wildflowers		116
Wildlife & Habitat	Wildlife, hunting, forestry	116



Plant and Soil Science

Project area	Examples of project-based learning within project area	Outagamie Fair Department
Crops	Corn, soybeans, small grains (wheat, oats, barley, and rye)	114
Horticulture & Gardening	Herbs, vegetables, fruits, flowers, hydro/aquaponics	114 or 115
Indoor Plants	House plants	115
Landscaping & Design	Home grounds	115
Plant Crafts	Flower arranging, flower crafts	115
Self-Determined—Plant & Soil Sciences		114, 115 or 133
Soil Science		114, 115 or 133

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)

Project area	Examples of project-based learning within project area	Outagamie Fair Department
Aerospace	Model rocketry, flying	124
Coding & Computer Science	Computers	121
Energy & Electricity	Wind energy, home energy, electricity, solar power	123
GPS & Mapping	Geocaching, geospatial	124
LEGO®		124
Mechanical Sciences	Automotive, tractors, small engines, maintenance and repair	124
Model Building	Model cars, model railroad, remote controlled cars, scale model, model rocketry, radio-controlled plane	124
Robotics		124
Self-Determined–STEM		124
Welding		124
Woodworking		122



Stay Connected!

Information about upcoming events, project updates, leaders meetings and more can be found in our bi-monthly 4-H Connections Newsletter and on our social media pages. If you need additional assistance, contact your Program Educator.



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County Administration

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Extension Education Committee

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