



Educator's Corner

Welcome to a New 4-H Year!

As summer winds down, I am excited to welcome our members, families, and volunteers into another great year of Outagamie County 4-H!

A new 4-H year brings so many opportunities—to try something new, build friendships, develop leadership skills, serve our communities, and maybe even discover a talent or interest you didn't know you had. Whether you have been part of 4-H for many years or are just joining us, I encourage you to make this year your own. Explore a new project, attend an event, take on a leadership role, or simply say "yes" to something new!

Enrollment opens September 3, so be sure to enroll and start thinking about what you want your 4-H year to look like.

Thank you to our incredible volunteers, families, and youth who make 4-H possible. I can't wait to see what we learn, create, and accomplish together this year!

Here's to a great 4-H year!

Alicia Schroeder-Haag
4-H Program Educator

NEXT LEADERS MEETING:

Monday, November 30 | Center Town Hall | 7:00 pm

All leader meetings are open to ALL 4-H youth and adult leaders. We encourage regular attendees to bring someone new from your club each month. This is a great way to meet others and grow as an organization!

6:30 pm: Snacks provided by North Star, Oneida Creek, Shooting Stars, Smile Awhile

Agenda items: Record Books and Enrollment Information



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
OUTAGAMIE COUNTY

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Calendar

Note: Not all dates are listed on this page! Please make sure you read the newsletter, and check your email so you don't miss anything!

September

- 1 Beginning of 2026-2027 4-H Project Year
- 1 Proudly display "Join 4-H" signs in front of your homes starting today through October 10
- 3 4-H Member/Leader Enrollment Begins | go to <https://wi.4honline.com>
- 7 Labor Day, Extension Office Closed
- 10 Program Committee Budget Meeting | Center Town Hall | 6:30 pm
- 11 Registration DUE for Rabbit Project Seminar**
- 12 State 4-H Horse Gymkhana | State Fair Park, West Allis
- 15 Program Committee Sign-up DUE (Extended)**
- 15 Program Committee Budgets DUE**
- 18-20 State 4-H Horse Expo | State Fair Park, West Allis
- 20 Rabbit Project Seminar | Fairgrounds, Seymour | 1:00 - 4:00 pm
- 24 4-H Leaders Banquet | Holidays Pub and Grill

October

- 1 Educational Travel Opportunities Applications DUE | Extension Office**
- 1 November/December 4-H Connections Newsletter Articles DUE**
- 3 Tough Kid Challenge | Highlands Elementary School, Appleton | 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
- 3-4 4-H Arts Camp | Camp Upham Woods, Wisconsin Dells
- 4-10 National 4-H Week | How is your club celebrating?
- 8 Pop Tab Challenge | Center Town Hall | 4:00 - 6:00 pm
- 8 Pumpkin & Sunflower Contest | Center Town Hall | 4:00 - 6:00 pm
- 10 State 4-H Dog Agility Show | Overdale Canine Sports, Spring Valley
- 10 "Join 4-H" Sign DUE to Sheila Vander Zanden**
- 15 Leadership Lab | Extension Office | 5:00-6:15 pm OR 6:45-8:00 pm
- 27 Member Recognition | Seymour High School Auditorium | 7:00 pm
- 29 4-H Horse/Horseless Awards and Elections | Center Town Hall | 7:00 pm

November

6-8 Fall Forum 2026 | Holiday Inn, Stevens Point

National 4-H Week October 4-10

National 4-H Week will be observed throughout the United States including Outagamie County. All Outagamie County 4-H clubs are encouraged to form a special committee to help observe this occasion in your community and throughout Outagamie County. School "open houses," community window displays, and special news features are just a few methods to be considered to help tell our 4-H story to the general public.

Upcoming Events

4-H Enrollment Information

All enrollment for leaders/members/cloverbuds happens in 4-H Online: <https://wi.4honline.com>.

Enrollment fees are due by January 18, 2027. \$5 enrollment fee for members/cloverbuds, \$6 for Horse project members - Clubs collect money and send one check from the club to the Extension Office payable to Outagamie County Extension.

Re-enrollment deadline for all leaders, members and cloverbuds is November 15, 2026.

Leaders: To continue your years of service and to be recognized as a leader at the annual Leaders Banquet, you must be approved in 4-H Online by November 15.

New enrollment is accepted until March 15 to be able to exhibit at the Outagamie County Fair. Once enrollment is submitted and approved, a project can be added or changed until March 15.

Attention Youth in Grades 7-13: You are eligible to sign up for youth leadership (Leadership project) on your member enrollment. This makes you a member of the Outagamie County 4-H Youth Leaders Association, allowing you to participate in youth leadership activities, community service and join a great group of people who are ready to have fun!

Volunteer Leaders: There are several projects that parents can be involved in. Please consider signing up for one to help youth learn and grow. 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. Volunteer opportunities and position descriptions can be found at <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/resources/volunteer-resources/4-h-foundations/become-a-volunteer/>.

Resource Leaders are categorized under Project Volunteer when enrolling in 4-H Online. Resource Leaders are individuals who assist youth and families in finding resources for their project area at the county level.

In Outagamie County 4-H, Resource Leaders are printed in the family Handbook and **must** be reachable for questions in the project area to all county members and leaders, not a specific club. Resource Leaders are encouraged to host project meetings throughout the program year. New leaders enrolling as Resource Leaders will be contacted before approval to confirm understanding of the role and expectations.

"Join 4-H" Sign Display Contest

Hey 4-H families!! It's that time of year again to proudly display the "Join 4-H" in your yard or business. Between September 1 - October 11, show our county that we want families to join 4-H and experience what 4-H has to offer!

Those wanting to participate for a prize drawing of gas cards must email the address and picture of the sign displayed to Sheila at s.vanderzanden44@gmail.com by October 10. Please one entry per address. Drawing will take place at the November 30 Leaders Association meeting. You **MUST** be present at this meeting to win!!

Don't have a sign?? You can contact Sheila at the email address above.



Upcoming Events

Outreach Activity – Fox Cities Tough Kid Challenge

The last outreach activity in 2026 will be October 3, 2026. The Fox Cities Tough Kid Challenge will take place from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm at Highlands Elementary School in Appleton. We will promote 4-H, have some small animals, make crafts, and wear costumes. Please contact Lisa Sprangers at sprangerslisa@gmail.com if you are able to help out. Set-up of tent and crafts will start at 8:00 am with everything in place by 9:00 am.

Pumpkin & Sunflower Contest

Seeds Sponsored by Corey Ertl – CropSource LLC
Thursday, October 8 | Center Town Hall | 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Members that obtained seeds for the Big Pumpkin and Giant Sunflower contest are to have their biggest pumpkin weighed and largest sunflower measured at the contest. If you have questions, please contact Julie Marcks, contest coordinator, at 920-984-3599.

Pop Tab Challenge

October 8 | Center Town Hall | 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Bring your club's Pop Tabs to Center Town Hall to be weighed-in for the annual challenge. Money raised from the pop tabs will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Officer Training is getting an overhaul this year!

Leadership Lab October 15 | Extension Office | 5:00–6:15 pm OR 6:45–8:00 pm

This year, Officer Training will have a new two-part hybrid format designed to help youth learn their individual officer roles and practice working together as an officer team.

Part 1: Learn Your Role

Youth officers can watch short, on-demand videos posted on our website to learn more about their specific officer position and responsibilities.

Part 2: Officer Leadership Lab

After completing the videos, officer teams are invited to join Alicia for an interactive, in-person Leadership Lab. Youth will practice building a great club meeting, parliamentary procedure, problem-solving, teamwork, and other skills to help their officer team lead successfully. Two Leadership Lab sessions will be offered.

Whether you're a brand-new officer or returning for another year, come ready to practice, problem-solve, and build your skills as a 4-H leader!

Get started on Part 1: <https://outagamie.extension.wisc.edu/club-officer-training/>

Register for Officer Leadership Lab: <https://bit.ly/2026OfficerTraining>

Upcoming Events

2026 Member Recognition

Tuesday, October 27 | Seymour Auditorium | 7:00 pm

The 4-H member and club recognition program is based on members' record books submitted to the Extension Office. Letters to award recipients will be mailed early October. Each member receiving a county award will get a plaque (unless they already received one) and a project disc. If a member's first plaque is filled, they need to show their completed plaque to their main leader along with a \$5 payment to request a second plaque from the Extension Office.

4-H Fall Forum

November 6-8 | Holiday Inn, Stevens Point

Fall Forum is a fun, engaging, and educational weekend for both adult volunteers and youth grades 7 and above.

The purpose of Fall Forum is to:

- Provide an educational opportunity for youth and adult volunteers
- Develop youth and adult partnerships
- Create an engaging and welcoming environment to facilitate discussion between counties and regions
- Encourage diversity of thought, perspective, interests, and people
- Promote strategies for youth and adults to reach underserved and underrepresented groups

You won't want to miss it! Registration will be open in 4-H Online September 1-15.

Project Updates

Wisconsin Shooting Sports Project

If you are enrolled in shooting sports projects, be sure to go to the State 4-H Shooting Sports website for the latest news and information, including certification requirements of adult volunteers and safety guidelines that need to be followed for project meetings:

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/projects/outdoor-education/shooting-sports/>

2026 Adult Shooting Sports Leader Certification Workshops

Check out the Wisconsin 4-H website for more information on the 2026 workshops: <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/projects/shooting-sports/leader-certification-training-workshops/>

September 19, 2026 Saturday Certification Workshops, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Central Wisconsin Sportsmen's Club, Marshfield, WI. Disciplines offered: Archery, Coordinator, Muzzleloader, Pistol/Air Pistol, Rifle/Air Rifle, Shotgun.

Project Updates

Rabbit Project Seminar - Choosing a Show Rabbit

Outagamie County Fairgrounds | September 20 | 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Join us for an introduction to the rabbit project seminar! We will cover how to find a good show rabbit, as well as what to avoid when looking for a rabbit. We are also inviting a few ARBA show breeders to bring their rabbits and showcase different breeds. These breeders will explain what they are looking for when breeding their show rabbits.

This seminar is open to all 4-H and FFA members in Outagamie, Shawano and Brown counties. PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED via email by Friday, September 11, 2026. Due to space constraints, capacity is limited to 40 participants.

Fee: \$3.00 per child to help offset cost of snacks & educational materials.

More information coming soon, but if you have any questions, feel free to contact struthea@yahoo.com.

4-H Arts Camp

October 3-4 | Camp Upham Woods, Wisconsin Dells

4-H Arts Camp provides youth in grades 6-8 an opportunity to explore different types of art including theater, music, visual arts, dance, and photography while making new friends, developing skills, and enjoying new experiences.

The purpose of Arts Camp:

- Encouraging expression and participation in the arts with middle school age youth
- Supporting youth teaching opportunities where they learn to incorporate education, creativity, and reflection into the creative process
- Increasing awareness of the arts and participation in the arts at the club level

For more information:

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/arts-camp/>

4-H Horse/Horseless Awards and Elections

October 29 | Center Town Hall | 7:00 pm

This is for new and current project members. If you have any questions about the horse/horseless project, please reach out! Our website is: <https://outagamiecounty4horse.com/>, find us on Facebook at: Outagamie County 4-H Horse Association.

Questions? Contact:

Ellen Wheaton - ellen_wheaton@yahoo.com

Danielle Schlueter - dschlueter@new.rr.com

Gail Leitermann - gleitermann@yahoo.com

Youth Leaders

Educational Travel Experience (ETE)

Information and applications for all trip opportunities are available at <https://outagamie.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/travel/>. If you have any questions contact Alicia Schroeder-Haag at 920-832-5127 or alicia.schroederhaag@wisc.edu.

There are scholarships available through the Outagamie County 4-H Leaders Association for up to 75% of the Educational Travel fees.

Trip applications are due October 1. Trip opportunities include American Spirit (ETE portfolio), Citizenship Washington Focus (ETE portfolio), National 4-H Conference (ETE portfolio) and Space Camp (ETE application).

Other Trip Opportunities due February 1 include Explore Wisconsin, Summer Academy, Key Award and National 4-H Congress.

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/>

Wisconsin 4-H Leadership Ambassadors (Previously Wisconsin 4-H Leadership Council)
Applications Open in 4-H Online October 15 - November 15, 2026

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

The goals for the 4-H PYD Ambassadors include:

- Develop and practice leadership skills
- Be an advocate for 4-H Positive Youth Development (PYD)
- Serve as youth leader models in the content area and industry
- Engage in partnership with adult professionals and volunteers
- Utilize youth voice in key statewide 4-H PYD programming
- Explore ways to extend state experiences into our local programs

For more information on cost, requirements, expectations, and important dates

<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/wi4hvolunteers/wi-4-h-leader-council/>

Volunteer Leaders

Interested in joining the Executive Board for 2026-2027? Open Positions: Vice President, Director

President - Lisa Sprangers - sprangerslisa@gmail.com

Vice-President - Amber Leitzke - Leitzkeamber@yahoo.com

Secretary - Miranda Nikolai - mirandadiedrich@gmail.com

Director - Ellen Wheaton - ellen_wheaton@yahoo.com

Director - Abbey Metz-McGlone - abbeymcg10@gmail.com

Congratulations

4-H Action Center Stage Pie Contest

The 2026 Outagamie County Pie Contest Winner is...

4-H Division Winner:

- 1st – Crystal Star, Apple – 150 pts.
- 2nd – Fairview, Cranberry/Apple – 142 pts.
- 3rd – Fast Trackers, Cherry – 139 pts.
- 4th – Bent Arrow, Apple Pumpkin – 132 pts.

4-H Participants:

Valley Epic, Raspberry Cream Cheese
Country Slickers, Red, White & Blue
Shooting Stars, Concord Grape
Wolf River Beavers, Strawberry Rhubarb
River Valley Hawks, Blueberry
Buchanan Badgers, Blueberry Mint

Open Class Division Winner:

- 1st – Claire Schmidt, Orange Rhubarb – 162 pts.
- 2nd – Tricia Van Lanen, Apple – 161 pts.
- 3rd – Jayne Vosters, Old Fashion Cherry – 160 pts.
- 4th – Abbey McGlone, Strawberry Cream – 155 pts.

Open Class Participants:

Sarah Spiegel, Black Bottom Cherry
Lucas Schroeder, Pineapple Crunch
Hunter Schroeder, Strawberry/Rhubarb
Pat Rynish, Banana Cream
Dawn Adamski, Old Fashioned Rhubarb
Audrey Sigl, Cherry
Jason Marks, Blueberry, Cranberry Hickory
Lucille Preisler, Key Lime
Anette Preisler, Apple
Joselyn Novitski, Cherry Mudslide
Bill Koleske, Blueberry Cream
Marcus Fenske, Lemon Meringue
Emmett Schmidt, Blueberry Cream
Tara Schmidt, Black & Blueberry

Congratulations and thank you to all who participated in both the contest and the samples!! See you next time at the fair!

Thank you to the judges: Joe VanThull, Raissa Ashmann, Rachael Luebker, Heather Hill

A special thank you to Manderfield's Bakery for the gift certificates provided to the first place winners and participants.

4-H Band Thank You

Congratulations to the 2026 Outagamie County 4-H Band! What an awesome job everyone did. The band's performances were amazing! I heard many nice comments about what a wonderful job everyone did. It is always an honor and a privilege to work with all of you. We could not do what we do without all of you. I'm blessed by all the help and teamwork everyone put into the 4-H band. Thank you for the lovely card and again for being part of the band! I am looking forward to seeing all of you next year.

-Donna

Congratulations Graduates!

Congratulations to all our members who graduated this year! This milestone is a stepping stone for more to come. As you enter this next chapter of your life, remember the lessons you learned in 4-H. Take them with you as you continue to make your best better!

Congratulations

Congratulations Horse Exhibitors

Congratulations to all the horse exhibitors at the County Fair. Remember, for each top blue ribbon you earned, you will get your choice of a trophy or prize at our October Awards night!

Friday/Saturday Pleasure Classes -

High Point Grand Champion - Dylan Leitermann

High Point Reserve Champion - Adeline Thompson

Sunday Gymkhana Classes -

High Point Grand Champion - Olivia Fulk

High Point Reserve Champion - Evelyn Thompson



Thank You Corner

2026 Outagamie County Summer Camp - Thank you!

Outagamie County 4-H Summer Camp 2026 has officially wrapped up, and what a week it was! We had a fantastic time at Army Lake Camp in East Troy—swimming, canoeing, making new friends, climbing the rock wall, enjoying arts and crafts, and taking part in so many other awesome activities. We had 61 campers register, 18 counselors, and 10 adults!

A huge thank you goes out to our incredible youth and adult staff. Your hard work, energy, and dedication made this camp possible—we truly couldn't have done it without you!

We hope all our campers had an unforgettable experience and are already counting down the days until next summer. We are currently creating our new camp video which will be shared along with evaluation results. Keep an eye on your email for those!

If you'll be in grades 9–13 next year, or if you're an interested adult, watch for 2027 staff applications and "Save the Date" announcements in upcoming issues of the 4-H Connections Newsletter.

Cheers until next year,
Your Camp Director
Alicia



Club Corner

Buchanan Badgers by Lincoln

The Buchanan Badgers 4-H Club met for its July meeting at 6:30 pm at St. Mary's Church in Kaukauna.

Members started the meeting by celebrating Hannah's birthday.

During old business, members talked about ideas for the club's summer trip. After sharing different ideas, everyone decided the club will be going to Mead Pool in Kimberly.

During new business, members were reminded that record books are due at the August meeting. Everyone was also encouraged to start recording their activities for next year's record books. The club talked about electing new leaders at the next meeting. Members who received pumpkin or sunflower seeds were reminded to bring them to the October 8 meeting. We also learned about the Old Glory Honor Flights on July 24 at EAA and the flights that will take place in August and October at the Appleton Airport. The club also talked about the pop tab challenge, and members have already collected two full cheese ball containers of pop tabs that will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House. We went over the results from the 2026 Outagamie County Fair. Even though our Fair Promotion Sign and Unique Planter did not place, our club planter earned 7th place, and our promotional booth earned 2nd place.

There were no demonstrations at this meeting. To end the meeting, everyone took part in a fun activity. Members used different supplies to create an item that fit one of two categories: bugs or scrapbooking. It was a fun way to end the meeting and see everyone's creativity.

Our next meeting will be held on August 10th at St Mary's church.

Fairview by Mayson

Our club met on August 3rd, 2026. We only had 6 members present so it went quick. We discussed how our member Hannah got a 2nd place on her pie at the fair and our fair promotion booth received a Merit Award. Our fair promotion sign did well too! Our next meeting will be the election of officers.

Bits & Pieces

Wisconsin 4-H Record Retention: County & Club Activities

Please help us stay compliant! 4-H Club/Group Attendance Records and Meeting Minutes must be stored at the County Office for the Creation Year + 7 Years per Administrative Policy 625 - Youth Protection and Compliance. This includes all meetings, outreach events, activities, or gatherings involving youth participation.

Attendance sheets are posted on the Outagamie County 4-H website. **This sheet is different from the secretary's record book requirement.**

<https://outagamie.extension.wisc.edu/files/2025/08/4-H-Meeting-Attendance-Sheet-2025.pdf>

Submit completed digital attendance sheets and meeting minutes to Nicole at Nplatkowski@wisc.edu. Reach out to the office with questions!



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Phone Number 920-832-5123
Fax Number 920-832-4783

711 Wisconsin Relay

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law.

You may request an interpreter, materials in an alternative language or format, or other services to make events more accessible, by contacting Alicia Schroeder-Haag at Alicia.Schroederhaag@wisc.edu or 920-832-5127 three weeks prior to an event. There's no added cost to you for these services.

County Administration

Thomas Nelson	County Executive
Dan Gabrielson	County Board Chair
Rick Lautenschlager	County Board Vice Chair

Extension Education Committee

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*Serves Multiple Counties