

# Wood County 4-H YOUTH CONNECTIONS



OCTOBER 2025

400 Market Street | PO Box 8095 | Wisconsin Rapids WI 54495 | 715.421.8439



## ENROLL NOW FOR THE NEW 4H YEAR!

Welcome to the new 4-H year! Enrollment for this year opened in 4HOnline in September and many of you have already re-enrolled.

For those who still need to complete the process, here are a few helpful tips:

The project listing in 4-H Online has been simplified and Wisconsin 4-H has published a new [Project Guide](#) to help you navigate the new system.

1. Projects have been broken into 7 project groups that are easier to related to fair departments.
2. The guide includes descriptions of each project area along with examples of how youth can grow in the project area.
3. Cloverbud remains the only project available for youth in K-2nd grade. It is under the "Leadership & Community" project group.
4. Exploring (for all 3rd graders) is also found under "Leadership & Community." In Wood County, Exploring is the project to select for 3rd graders, not for all first-year members as the guide describes.
  - All 3rd graders should enroll in Exploring.
  - 3rd graders interested in animal/livestock projects and shooting sports should also enroll in those projects to assist in communication.


[4HOnline](#) is the enrollment software we use. It is easiest to use on a laptop, but will work on a tablet or mobile phone. Before you start the enrollment process, please check out our [Family Enrollment Guide](#) for step by step pictures to get you through.

*Youth and adult volunteer re-enrollments are due by November 1st. Members who have not enrolled by this date will no longer receive program communications from our office.*

**Questions? Please reach out! You can email us at [woodcounty4h@woodcountywi.gov](mailto:woodcounty4h@woodcountywi.gov) or call 715-421-8439!**

### CONNECT WITH US!

 Wood County 4-H, WI

 4hwoodcountywi

[woodcounty4h@woodcountywi.gov](mailto:woodcounty4h@woodcountywi.gov)

<http://wood.extension.wisc.edu>

### 4-H PLEDGE:

*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.*

### WOOD COUNTY 4-H STAFF

Laura Huber, 4-H Educator  
Trina Bores, AmeriCorps Member  
Wendy Young, Support Staff



# NATIONAL 4-H WEEK

National 4-H week is coming up on October 5-11. **This is the week to show your 4-H spirit!** This is YOUR week. The week to wear your green, your clover, and bring 4-H to your school, family, friends, and community. It's our Super Bowl, our World Series, and our holiday.

Did you know that Wisconsin 4-H has over **26,000 members** and over **5,000 volunteers** who make up over **1,100 clubs** and groups?

**As a 4-H member, leader, and family you are part of something greater than just yourself.** You belong to a community that is making a difference. YOU are making a difference. Let's celebrate that this week, this month, and all year long.

We would love to see pictures of how you are celebrating National 4-H Week! Send them to [woodcounty4h@woodcountywi.gov](mailto:woodcounty4h@woodcountywi.gov) so we can share them on social media and in future newsletters!

## JOIN US ON NATIONAL 4-H WEEK

### Service Sunday

Complete an act of service or share about an act of service you have completed

### BEYOND READY: GO GREEN

Go GREEN and show your 4-H State spirit!

### Thank You Tuesday

Thank a local educator, club leader or 4-H volunteer

### Rewind Wednesday

Wear your favorite 4-H gear

### BEYOND READY: 4-H FOR GOOD

A day to recognize all the 4-H'ers who are making a positive impact

### Fun Fact Friday

Share your favorite 4-H fun fact!

### Sing Along Saturday

What's your favorite 4-H song?



UW-MADISON EXTENSION



CELEBRATE NATIONAL 4-H WEEK WITH US FROM **OCTOBER 5TH TO 11TH** BY JOINING IN ON THIS YEAR'S THEME DAYS! SHARE YOUR PARTICIPATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND CONNECT WITH FELLOW 4-H'ERS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.

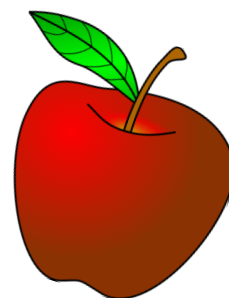


# SHADY LANE PIE FUNDRAISER

Shady Lane 4-H club is having an apple pie fundraiser! Pies will be made by club members in late October, so they will be ready in time for your holiday gatherings! They also freeze well if you want to use them later.

Pies are \$12 each and payment is due at time of delivery.

To place an order, contact Christine Jensen at 715-486-6227 or email [cnwjensen@gmail.com](mailto:cnwjensen@gmail.com)



# PLAT BOOK PHOTO CONTEST

WOOD COUNTY 4-H  
PLAT BOOK  
*Photo Contest*

- open to enrolled Wood County 4-H youth and adults
- photo must be of a Wood County scene, event or location
- must have proper permission (photo release from all identifiable people in photo)
- entries must be 600 dpi resolution or greater and full color
- portrait orientation

**\$25.00** PRIZE FOR WINNING PHOTO

Entries should be emailed to [Woodcounty4h@woodcountymi.gov](mailto:Woodcounty4h@woodcountymi.gov)

**ENTRY DEADLINE: DECEMBER 1**

\*\*Photos also needed for inside pages of the plat book; these should follow the same guidelines as above, EXCEPT they need to be landscape orientation\*

The image contains two photographs: a black and white cow's head on the left and a scenic view of a river with a bridge and trees on the right. At the bottom right, there are two logos: the Wood County 4-H logo (a red shield with a white 'W') and the UW-Madison Extension logo (a green four-leaf clover).

# EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Leaders Association is accepting applications for scholarships for the following 2026 educational experiences:

- Space Camp
- American Spirit
- 4-H National Conference
- Citizenship Washington Focus @ IGNITE
- IGNITE by 4-H

To learn more about these experiences, including travel dates, estimated cost, etc. visit <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/>

If you are planning to attend any of these experiences, be sure to apply for a scholarship now, even if registration has not yet opened for the experience.

The scholarship application is only for these experiences. There will be a separate application period for experiences with later registration and travel dates.

**[APPLY ONLINE](#); APPLICATIONS ARE DUE NOVEMBER 15TH.**

*Interview dates will be Saturday, December 6th in Wisconsin Rapids and Monday, December 8th in Marshfield.*

## WISCONSIN 4-H KEY AWARD

Did you know that the Wisconsin 4-H Key Award is the highest honor a 4-H'er can earn in the state? Youth who receive this honor are those who have demonstrated consistent growth in 4-H involvement, developed and applied their leadership skills, and have actively participated in 4-H functions in their club and community.

To be eligible for this award youth must:

- be in grades 11-13
- been a 4-H member for at least 3 years
- completed at least one year of youth leadership

Evaluation of applicants will be based on:

- Membership / Club Experience
- Projects
- Activities
- Leadership
- Personal Development
- County 4-H and Community Involvement

This award is sponsored by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and Rural Mutual Insurance Company.

**To be considered for this award, youth must submit [this application](#) by Wednesday, October 15.**



# SCIENCE BY THE RIVER

Science by the River is almost here!

Join us on Saturday, October 18 from 10:00am—1:00pm along the riverfront trail in Wisconsin Rapids for a free, outdoor celebration of science and nature.

Enjoy hands-on activities at over 15 discovery stations - including a mobile design lab with a make and take project, aging deer, Ham Radio and Morse code, FREE nitrate screening for private well water and so much more!

Trina will have a Wood County 4-H station with a fun, hands-on activity. Plan to attend!

**Find more information online on Facebook at [ScienceByTheRiver!](#)**



# WOOD COUNTY CLOVERBUD PROGRAM

## Join us for the 2025-26 Wood County Cloverbud Program!

This program is geared towards our youngest 4-H members, those in grades K-2.

After registration closes, you will be mailed a booklet with a monthly activity from November 2025 through May 2026. We will meet the 3rd Saturday of each month and work through the activity book together either via Zoom or in person.

Supplies for activities are minimal and should mostly be supplied by the families, but we will always have an option of supply pick-up if needed.

**Register by October 21st at: <https://bit.ly/CloverbudBooklet>**



A blue poster with orange wavy borders. The title "2025-26 WOOD COUNTY 4-H CLOVERBUD PROGRAM" is in large green letters. Below the title, there are four columns of text in purple and pink. The first column asks "Interested in a year of fun?" and describes the program. The second column asks "Who?" and specifies "4-H members grades K-2". The third column asks "What?" and describes the booklet. The fourth column asks "When?" and specifies the 3rd Saturday of each month from November 2025 to May 2026. A fifth column asks "Where?" and describes the mix of online zooms, in-person, and on your own. At the bottom left is a QR code with the URL "https://bit.ly/CloverbudBooklet" below it. At the bottom right are four circular images showing various craft projects: a gift box, a scarecrow, a flower, and a leaf.

**2025-26  
WOOD COUNTY 4-H  
CLOVERBUD PROGRAM**

**Interested in a year of fun?**  
Register for a monthly activity or project. There will be a mix of in-person, online, and at home activities for Cloverbud members to complete.

**Who?** 4-H members grades K-2

**What?** A booklet full of hands-on learning and activities

**When?** 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month November 2025 - May 2026

**Where?** Meetings will be a mix of online zooms, in-person, and on your own.

**Register by October 21st!**

  
<https://bit.ly/CloverbudBooklet>



# MEMBER AWARDS AND PORTFOLIOS

## MEMBER AWARDS

There are many types of awards available to members. Some are presented at the November Recognition and others are given to the clubs to award. [The applications for all of the county awards can be found here.](#)

**Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Honor Record Awards** are given to each member who has completed the 4-H Member Permanent Records form. Awards are based on the number of points earned and submitted on a member's permanent record.

**Project Awards** are given to members who have learned a great deal and done outstanding work in their projects. Each member can apply for no more than 3 project awards. For each project a member is applying for, a separate Project Award Application must be filled out. Members may choose to have their Project Story from their Portfolio considered for a Project Award instead of filling out a separate form.

**Activity Awards** are awarded in 4 areas: Leadership, Achievement, Community Service and Public Speaking & Demonstration.

**Officer Awards** are given to 3 club secretaries and 3 club treasurers who submit their completed officer books. Awards are given based on neatness, legibility and completeness of the book.

## PORTFOLIOS

Wood County 4-H members in grades 3 and higher are encouraged to complete a portfolio every year they are in 4-H. A portfolio documents what you have learned and accomplished in 4-H. It encourages you to keep a record of your 4-H work, and helps you set goals throughout your 4-H experience.

A portfolio also shows your growth over time. It is designed to be a great source of information that you will be able to use to complete scholarship, job, and college entrance applications. Additionally, it is fun to have a record of your 4-H experiences over the years!

Members can start a portfolio at any point in their 4-H experience, or continue building a portfolio after missing a few years. Members submitting portfolios can also earn awards.

***For award consideration, portfolios must be signed by your club's General Leader and submitted to the Extension Office or a member of the Leaders Association Executive Board (Stacy Musch, Jodie Budtke or Laura Strigel) by October 27th—no late entries accepted.***

[All of the portfolio forms can be found here.](#)

# ANNUAL AWARDS RECOGNITION

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2025**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

The Annual Awards Recognition will be held on Saturday, November 15th.

Everyone is invited to attend! Full details will be coming soon.





# WEBSTER 4-H NIGHT AT CULVER'S

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 6**

Come and enjoy a delicious meal or treat at Culver's in Marshfield and let the youth of Webster 4-H Club serve you.

A great way to celebrate National 4-H Week!



## PORTFOLIO REVIEW—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Adult volunteers are invited to help with the Portfolio Review, being held on Monday, October 27th at the Hewitt Village Hall, beginning at 6:00pm.

Questions can be directed to Stacy Musch at [muschsbr@gmail.com](mailto:muschsbr@gmail.com).

## CHARTER APPLICATION REMINDER

A reminder that all clubs and groups are required to submit a charter application annually. [The Charter Application Form is available here.](#)

As in previous years, the charter is submitted online and is due by November 1.



## SHARE YOUR EVENT IN YOUTH CONNECTIONS!

Youth Connections is a great way to let 4-H'ers around Wood County know what your club or project group is up to. The newsletter is published and emailed to all 4-H families every month.

Submit your article, photos, and fliers to [woodcounty4h@woodcountywi.gov](mailto:woodcounty4h@woodcountywi.gov) by the 25th of the month and we'll include it in the newsletter and on social media.



## STAY CONNECTED WITH WOOD COUNTY 4-H

Be sure that you are staying connected and getting all the latest information and event details!

While we try to include everything in the newsletter, sometimes we like to send reminders or something exciting comes up between issues that we want to share right away.

Follow our Facebook and Instagram pages to make sure you don't miss an update. Our web calendar is also updated in real time to look ahead at future events or to confirm event times and locations.



**Wood County 4-H, WI**



**4hwoodcountywi**

# FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

Now is the perfect time to plan ahead and start fundraising if you are planning to attend summer camp or a state or national travel opportunity this 4-H year. The Teen Leadership Group has an opportunity to help you raise money to offset the cost! Funds raised are good for experiences and registration costs through 2026.

For every Kwik Trip Ultimate Car Wash Card you sell, you'll receive \$15 credit toward your 2025 experience! Each card includes 5 Ultimate Car Washes and is good at any Kwik Trip car wash. What's even better? Car wash cards don't expire—they just need to be used at least once every two years.


**WOW!**

For more information about the car wash card sale, please contact the office at 715-421-8439.

## CAR WASH FUNDRAISER

*Sponsored by Wood County 4-H Teen Leadership Group*

*Wood County 4-H youth are selling Kwik Trip car wash cards to off-set the cost of educational experiences.*



5-count ULTIMATE car wash cards **ONLY** \$36  
SAVE \$14 off regular price!


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**The Ultimate Car Wash includes:**

• Undercarriage Flush	• Triple Shine Vehicle Enhancer/Cleaner
• Presoak	• Spot-Free Rinse
• High-Pressure Wash or Soft Foam Wash	• 95-Second Super Dry

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**Cards are good at ALL Kwik Trip car wash stations.**



Make checks payable to Wood County 4-H Leaders Association

Cards on sale now!

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, and ADA requirements.



**Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
WOOD COUNTY



# UPCOMING EVENTS

- **OCTOBER 5-11: National 4-H Week**
- **OCTOBER 6:** 4-H Night at Culver's in Marshfield, hosted by Webster 4-H club
- **OCTOBER 15:** Key Award Applications due
- **OCTOBER 21:** Last day to register for County Cloverbud program
- **OCTOBER 22:** CWSF Junior Fair Dairy Committee Meeting; 7:00pm; Marshfield High School—Ag Room
- **OCTOBER 27:** Portfolio & Awards Applications Due
- **OCTOBER 27:** 4-H Portfolio Review; 6:00pm; Hewitt Village Hall
- **OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 2:** Wisconsin 4-H Fall Forum; Green Lake, WI
- **NOVEMBER 1:** Re-enrollment deadline for returning youth and volunteers
- **NOVEMBER 15:** Educational Experience Scholarships due
- **NOVEMBER 15:** Wood County 4-H Awards Program
- **NOVEMBER 24:** Leaders Association Meeting

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For the most up-to-date list of events for Wood County 4-H, view our online calendar at: <https://wood.extension.wisc.edu/4-h/>



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*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 or documents more accessible, by contacting Extension Wood County at 715-421-8440. There's no added cost to you for these services.*

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