

Wood County 4-H YOUTH CONNECTIONS



DECEMBER 2025

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



VOLUNTEER RETREAT

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10 | EAU PLEINE TOWN HALL, JUNCTION CITY | 9:00AM—3:00PM

The 4-H Volunteer Retreat is for all 4-H volunteers who would like to learn more about creating the best 4-H programs possible.

At 4-H Volunteer Retreat, you'll enjoy all the best that 4-H has to offer: meeting new friends, learning that is fun and hands-on and sharing your successes with others. This program is for all 4-H volunteers. You'll learn and enjoy the day whether you're an activity leader, project leader, or club leader.

[Please RSVP by January 5th so we can create a great experience for you!](#)



VOLUNTEER RETREAT 2026

A day dedicated to ALL 4-H volunteers! Join us for the food and fun, and leave with ideas and inspiration. Open to ALL 4-H volunteers!


January 10th at Eau Pleine Town Hall (Hwy 34)
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM


FREE! Lunch & refreshments provided.

Register at: bit.ly/4-Hretreat26



CONNECT WITH US!

 Wood County 4-H, WI

 4hwoodcountywi

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



WI 4-H THRIVING SURVEY

Every fall, Wisconsin 4-H encourages members (ages 13-18) to complete a survey about their 4-H experience. The survey will help Wisconsin 4-H to learn about the quality of our programs.

The survey will be sent to all eligible Wisconsin 4-H members by e-mail in the first week of November. Youth who complete the survey will be entered into a raffle to win a \$25 gift card! Youth who attend Fall Forum will have the opportunity to complete the survey early - right at Fall Forum!

For more information on the 4-H Thriving Model, visit [4-H Thriving Model – Wisconsin 4-H](#)

Please keep an eye out for messages and more information about this important survey.



WISCONSIN 4-H THRIVING SURVEY

Opens November 5, 2025!

Information will be sent to 4-H members
ages 13–19 using the family email address
listed in 4-HOnline



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

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

SHOOTING SPORTS ORIENTATION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 | CENTRAL WISCONSIN SPORTSMANS CLUB, MARSHFIELD | 12:00PM

Have you tried shooting sports? This program is open to youth in 3rd grade (and at least 8 years old) and up. There are many disciplines to choose from ranging from archery to air pistol and air rifle, as well as the summer shotgun program.

The Central Wisconsin 4-H Shooting Sports program is a great program for youth to gain important life skills such as self-discipline, decision-making, problem-solving and self-confidence. If you are new or returning, this program may be just what you want. When you enroll in 4-H, be sure to select the appropriate Shooting Sports project that you will be participating in, as the projects are separated by discipline (Shooting Sports – Archery, Shooting Sports – Air Rifle, etc.). This will ensure that you are included in all future communications for the program.

The open house and orientation is scheduled for December 7th at the Central Wisconsin Sportsman's Club, 11841 Stadt Rd, Marshfield.

- The open house starts at Noon, which allows new and returning members to check out the equipment and talk with instructors and get any questions answered that you may have.
- We will have a beginner orientation at 12:45 which is mandatory for all new members. This will give you a more in-depth look at the program. Sign-up will start at 1pm. We will ask all youth and adults to sign the rules and acknowledge them as read. Those that attend the 1pm sign-up will have first choice for line times.



New this year! We will have Glen's Sport Shop on site to do bow inspections. If you have archery equipment that needs to be inspected, we will have forms on hand and the cost will be \$5.

We will also have the bow rental program running, which allows youth the opportunity to rent the equipment for the season, and not only use it at practice but also practice at home and/or attend other shoots/tournaments put on by other counties. There will be NO new registrations or rentals after the 2nd practice.

We are excited for the 2026 season and can't wait to start! Reach out to Liz Knutson at jlcaknutson@yahoo.com with any questions.

MULTI-COUNTY FLAT STANLEY PROJECT!

Get ready for an exciting mail adventure with Flat Stanley and Flat Stella! In this fun pen pal project, youth in K - 2nd grade will send their own Flat Stanley or Stella to a new friend and receive one in return. Along the way, you'll share stories, take photos, and explore new places together!

The Flat Stanley Project is a fun and creative way for Cloverbuds to explore new places, make new friends, and practice writing all through the mail! Youth will color their own Flat Stanley or Stella, send them on an adventure, and receive a new friend in return. Along the way, they'll share stories, take photos, and build excitement around reading and connection. It's a great way to bring learning to life, one envelope at a time!

[Register here before January 9th.](#)

Join the multi-county 4-H FLAT STANLEY PROJECT

IMPORTANT DATES:

JANUARY 6: READ ALOUD ON ZOOM

WEEK OF JANUARY 19 : YOUR FLAT STANLEY ARRIVES AND YOU MAIL IT TO YOUR PENPAL

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 9: FLAT STANLEY MAILED BACK TO HIS OWNER AFTER A WEEK OF ADVENTURES

FEBRUARY 22: JOIN US ON ZOOM TO SHARE YOUR STANLEY'S OR STELLA'S ADVENTURES!

IN THIS PEN PAL PROJECT, YOU WILL SEND YOUR FLAT STANLEY OR STELLA OFF IN THE MAIL, THEN GET MAIL BACK SHOWING YOU THEIR ADVENTURE.

YOUR PEN PAL'S FLAT STANLEY OR FLAT STELLA WILL VISIT YOUR HOME, AND WHATEVER YOU DO, STANLEY AND STELLA WILL LOVE TO DO, TOO!



[HTTPS://BIT.LY/4-HFLATSTANLEY](https://bit.ly/4-HFLATSTANLEY)



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

MARKET SALE EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

Youth interested in participating in the Central Wisconsin State Junior Fair Market Sale must meet educational requirements each year.

- Attend a Mandatory informational/orientation meetings
- Complete YQCA Training
- Earn 3 additional educational credits

Informational/Orientation Meetings

Two meetings will be offered:

- January 13 at Marshfield High School - enter at the commons
- January 26 at Auburndale High School

YQCA

Two YQCA in-person workshops are scheduled at MidState Technical College Marshfield. Registration is required for these sessions. To register, go to cecourses.mstc.edu, click on "Search" and enter Keyword "YQCA" and find the class.

- December 3 at 7:00 pm
- March 4 at 7:00 pm

In-person workshops satisfy the requirements for exhibitors 18 years old and younger. Those 19+ must complete training online.

Reach out to a member of the Market Sale Committee with questions.



Photos courtesy of Becky Bauer

TEEN WINTER CAMP: THE AMAZING RACE

FEBRUARY 13-15 | LIONS CAMP; ROSHOLT

You're Invited to Teen Winter Camp 2025: The Amazing Race!

Join us for an exciting weekend of fun, challenges and life-sized adventures taking place both indoors and out! Experience **The Amazing Race** like never before, where you'll navigate through decisions, new activities and challenges while building friendships and leadership skills.

- Date: February 13-15, 2026
- Location: Lions Camp in Rosholt

Registration will be open from December 1 until January 14 (or when spots are filled).

[Register here](#)

Open to all teens in grades 6-12. Don't miss this opportunity to play, grow, and make memories!

Make choices, take chances, and see where the Teen Winter Camp journey takes you!

A colorful poster for 'Teen Winter Camp: The Amazing Race'. The top half has a white background with blue clouds and a yellow sun. The title 'TEEN WINTER CAMP' is in large, bold letters (yellow for 'TEEN', blue for 'WINTER', and white for 'CAMP' on a yellow background). Below it, 'THE AMAZING RACE' is in smaller blue letters. The bottom half has a blue background. It features three circular photos: two people building a snowman, a large group of teens posing, and two people sitting in the snow. A QR code is on the left, and text on the right says 'Join us for an action packed weekend of fun, challenges, and life-sized adventures! Experience The Amazing Race like never before!'. At the bottom, it lists the date 'February 13-15, 2026', location 'Lions Camp, Rosholt', and age range 'Open to Grades 6-12'.

**TEEN
WINTER
CAMP**

THE AMAZING RACE

Register By Jan. 14



<https://bit.ly/TeenWinterCamp26>

Join us for an action packed weekend of fun, challenges, and life-sized adventures! Experience **The Amazing Race** like never before!

 **February 13-15, 2026**

 **Lions Camp, Rosholt**

 **Open to Grades 6-12**

WINTER WILDLIFE CAMP

Join the Adventure at Winter Wildlife Camp!



Join us for an exciting day to explore the outdoors and learn about the winter wildlife of Wisconsin!

- **Includes:**
 - **Activities:** den building, animal signs hike, and crafts
 - **Food:** AM snack and lunch
- **Who:** Ages 7-11 (on the day of the event)
- **When:** Saturday, February 21, 2026, 10 AM – 3 PM
 - **Drop-off window:** 9:45 – 10 AM
 - **Pick-up window:** 3 – 3:15 PM
- **Where:** Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center, N194 County Rd N, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965
- **Cost:** \$45.00
- **Registration Deadline:** February 1, 2026



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UPHAM
WOODS


WOOD COUNTY SERVICE PROJECT

"I PLEDGE MY HANDS TO LARGER SERVICE . . ."

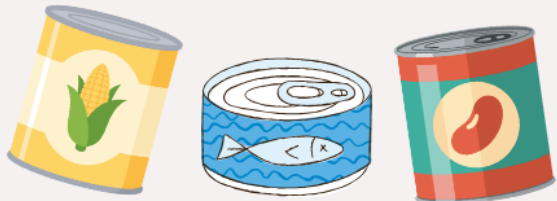
As part of the 4-H pledge, we pledge our hands to service. In that spirit, we are organizing a Wood County Service Project to collect donations that will be used to put together meal kits for FOCUS (*Feeding Our Communities with United Services*) in Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield Area United Way.

We have selected items that can be used to make specific recipes; these items can be found on our wish list at <http://bit.ly/4-HFOCUS>. Items can be sent or dropped off at our office. Our goal is 200 meal kits!



Watch for information on a future date to help sort and pack meal kits!




JOIN THE
WOOD
COUNTY
SERVICE
PROJECT



Support these local organizations!



Our Wish List:
Our full wish list is linked below and contains canned items, dry goods, and more.
<https://bit.ly/4-HFOCUS>



Where Do I Send My Items?
Items can be dropped off or mailed to:
Extension Wood County
400 Market Street
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Collection Deadline:
February 20, 2026

STATE LIVESTOCK EVENTS

Save the dates for these upcoming animal science education contests happening this winter and early spring. Watch for future posts with more information about registration and contest details.

Questions? For livestock contest connect with Bernie at borourke@wisc.edu or Jill at Jill.Jorgensen@wisc.edu. For dairy quiz bowl, connect with Jill at Jill.Jorgensen@wisc.edu or Maya at mwiltzius@wisc.edu.

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





SAVE THE DATE
**STATE 4-H DAIRY
QUIZ BOWL**
FEBRUARY 7, 2026
UW GREEN BAY
STEM INNOVATION BUILDING





STATE HORSE EVENTS

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



HORSE & PONY PROJECT TACK SWAP

SATURDAY, MARCH 14 | CWSF JUNIOR FAIR BUILDING, MARSHFIELD

The Wood County Horse & Pony Project is excited to host their annual tack swap at the Marshfield Junior Fair Building once again this year. What's new? Food Trucks!!!

Vendor space is still available. For more information, contact Kate Kohl at (715) 383-2018.



Wood County
Horse & Pony
Project



Save the Date

**For our Annual Tack Swap
& Bucket Raffle Fundraiser**

What will we have:

- Food Trucks
- Bake Sale
- Tack Swap
- Vendors
- Bucket Raffle

**Date:
March 14, 2026**

More information to follow.

JOIN THE SUMMER CAMP STAFF TEAM

Ready to make an impact *and have an unforgettable time doing it*? We're looking for enthusiastic teens (Grade 8+) and awesome adults to help create an amazing camp experience for our 4-H campers!

Spend three days outdoors, build leadership skills, make new friends, and be part of a fun, supportive team that truly makes a difference. Whether you love campfires, canoeing, crazy skits, or just cheering on young campers—you belong with us!

- **Teens (Grade 8+):** Apply to be part of the youth staff!
- **Adults:** Volunteer as part of our adult leadership team!

[Sign up here before January 7th](#) .

Let's make Summer Camp 2026 the best one yet!



**Join Us for Unforgettable
SUMMER CAMP STAFF EXPERAINCE!**

Adults and Teens (8th–13th grade)
Are encouraged to apply to the
Langlade, Marathon & Wood 4-H
Summer Camp Staff!

Sign Up By Jan 7th
More Information:
<https://bit.ly/4-HCampStaffInfo26>

~ Exciting Outdoor
Adventure Leading Youth!
~ Creating Connections and
life long memories!
~ Training for Purposeful
Roles at Camp

THRIVENT GENEROSITY

Are you a member of Thrivent? Please consider working with Wood County 4-H to create a Thrivent Action Team. Together, we can make gather a team of youth and adult volunteers to do great work in our communities. Thrivent will donate \$250 for each event. That would go a long way in supporting the upcoming lasagna making day or our upcoming backpack meals programs.

Contact Laura for more information on how you can use your Thrivent membership to support 4-H'ers service learning efforts.



WEBSTER ROLLER SKATING PARTY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30 | MELODY GARDENS, MARSHFIELD | 6:30-8:30PM

Webster 4-H will be sponsoring a 4-H roller skating night at Melody Gardens in Marshfield on Tuesday, December 30 from 6:30-8:30.

Cost is \$4.00 and \$1.00 for skates. All Wood County 4-H members and their friends are invited.



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 by the 25th of the month and we'll include it in the newsletter and on social media.



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!

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

Cards are good at ALL Kwik Trip car wash stations.




Make checks payable to Wood County 4-H Leaders Association

Cards on sale now!



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WOOD COUNTY



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- DECEMBER 7: Central WI Shooting Sports Orientation; 12:00pm; Central WI Sportsmans Club, Marshfield
- DECEMBER 7: Lasagna Love (rescheduled); 4:30pm; First English Lutheran Church, Wisconsin Rapids
- DECEMBER 30: Webster Roller Skating Party; 6:30pm; Melody Gardens, Marshfield
- JANUARY 10: Volunteer Retreat, Eau Pleine Town Hall, Junction City
- JANUARY 24: Project Discovery Day, 2nd Street Community Center, Marshfield
- JANUARY 26: Leaders Association Meeting
- FEBRUARY 13-15: Teen Winter Camp; Wisconsin Lions Camp, Rosholt

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



4hwoodcountyiwi

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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