

# Wood County 4-H YOUTH CONNECTIONS



FEBRUARY 2026

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



## WOOD COUNTY SERVICE PROJECT

“I PLEDGE MY HANDS TO LARGER SERVICE...”

We are in the final weeks of collecting food items to use for meal kits to donate to two vital programs right here in our community.

Check out the wish list, grab an item (or two!) and help us make a local impact before the **February 20th deadline**.

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!

**Wood County  
SERVICE PROJECT**

Help us support these local organizations!

**Collection Deadline: February 20, 2026**

**Send Items To:**  
Extension Wood County  
400 Market Street  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

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

### 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



# WINTER KICKBALL TOURNAMENT

FEBRUARY 21 | CWSF FAIRGROUNDS, MARSHFIELD



WOOD COUNTY 4-H

# WINTER KICKBALL TOURNAMENT

**FOOD** | **GAMES** | **HOT**  
POT LUCK | INDOOR YARD | COCOA  
GAMES

**02-21-26**

**9:30AM**

Hosted By:  
**Golden Glow**  
**4-H**



**JR FAIR BUILDING AND HORSE ARENA @  
FAIRGROUNDS IN MARSHFIELD**

**\$30/ TEAM**

**FOR MORE INFO CONTACT ANN LINDOW:  
CALL OR TEXT 715-819-6311**

**TEAMS OF 7-13 PLAYERS**

**ALL TEAM MEMBERS MUST BE WOOD  
COUNTY 4-H MEMBERS**

**NO LIMIT TO NUMBER OF TEAMS/CLUB**

In addition to kickball there will be games and activities in the Jr Fair building all day! Please bring a dish to pass for a meal follow burgers/hotdogs will be Provided by Golden Glow 4-H

# CREATIVE ARTS DAY 2026

## APRIL 11 | PITTSVILLE SCHOOLS

Registration is now open for Creative Arts Day 2026. It will be held at Pittsville Schools on Saturday, April 11th. This is a day to share your performing arts and talents with fellow 4-Hers and other community members. There is also a Cover Contest and an on-site drawing contest. All Wood County 4-H members are encouraged to participate.

A full list of the rules and activities can be found at <https://wood.extension.wisc.edu/files/2026/01/Creative-Arts-Day-Rules-2026.pdf>

All individuals who are planning to participate should complete an individual registration.

Club Leaders should complete registrations for Group Vocals/Instrumentals and their club's Arts & Crafts display.

### REGISTRATION LINKS

- Individual Registration: <https://bit.ly/CAD2026>
- Group Vocals/Instrumentals: <https://bit.ly/CADLargeGroups>
- Arts & Crafts Display Registration: <https://bit.ly/CADArts>

### COVER CONTEST

The Leaders Association is sponsoring a contest to design the cover of the program for the day.

Full rules can be found online at:

<https://bit.ly/CADCover>

**Registrations and Cover Contest entries are due February 22nd!**



# ROLLER SKATING NIGHT

SUNDAY, MARCH 1 | 5:00-7:00PM | MELODY GARDENS, MARSHFIELD

*Roll into the fun with Wood County 4-H!*

Join us for Roller Skating Night at Melody Gardens in Marshfield, WI!

- \$2 admission includes skate rental
- Music, friends and tons of skating fun

Register by February 20th: <https://bit.ly/4-Hrollerskating>

Don't miss out—lace up and roll with us!

WOOD COUNTY 4-H

# ROLLER SKATING NIGHT!

MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2026  
5:00PM - 7:00PM  
MELODY GARDENS  
MARSHFIELD, WI

\$2 ADMISSION & SKATES

REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 20TH

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

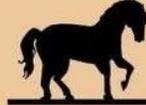
# HORSE & PONY PROJECT TACK SWAP

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.**

# EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Leaders Association Scholarship application for summer and fall educational experiences is now open. This includes 4-H National Congress and Summer Academy.

To learn more about these experiences and registration information, visit <https://wood.extension.wisc.edu/4-h/trip-applications/>

*If you are considering attending one of these experiences, you should apply for a scholarship even if registration for the experience has not opened yet.*

The scholarship application can be found online at <https://forms.gle/x2q4sJqDPeynCMS89>

**Application deadline is March 15th.**



Wood County 4-H

UW-MADISON EXTENSION  
WOOD COUNTY



## Educational Experience Scholarships

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

- ✔ 4-H National Congress
- ✔ Advanced Space Camp
- ✔ Summer Academy

Apply by:  
**March 15, 2026**

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/EDEXSCHOLARSHIPS](https://bit.ly/eDEXSCHOLARSHIPS)



# LIVESTOCK SKILLATHON AND QUIZ BOWL

MARCH 21 | UW-MADISON CAMPUS

Livestock Bowl is a quiz competition where all the questions are about beef, sheep, swine, and meat goat topics and students use a buzzer in order to answer the questions. Teams compete in a double elimination format by giving oral answers to questions posed by a moderator. Each match has both an individual and toss-up question round. The winning 4-H senior team will represent Wisconsin at the National 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl competition held each fall in Louisville at the **North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE)**.

Skillathon contest is made up of a written quiz and learning stations such as breed identification, feed identification, equipment identification as well as some team activities such as demonstrating evaluation skills. The top Senior level 4-H team will represent Wisconsin at the National 4-H Skillathon Contest, held each fall in Louisville at the **North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE)**.

Competition in Quiz Bowl & Skillathon encourages members to develop a more complete knowledge of animals and related subjects. This contest provides an educational program for all project members, including those who may not own a project animal, and provides a way to develop self-confidence. These programs are a great parallel to some similar programs that breed associations and other organizations conduct.

**Who can participate?** Any current 4-H members grades 3-13. Please note, there are age divisions for each of those contests and parameters for grade 13 members. Cloverbud project members are not eligible to participate in this experience. Even if your county has not participated in the past, round-up some 4-H friends and take advantage of this fun opportunity to show your knowledge of the animal species and industry.

If you are interested in participating in these events, contact Kerry Storms, a Wood County 4-H volunteer to be put on a team. He can be reached at [kstorms11@gmail.com](mailto:kstorms11@gmail.com) or 309-265-5225.



**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**

Wisconsin Youth Livestock Program  
4-H  
Extension UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## STATEWIDE 4-H DOG EVENTS

There are a number of statewide events throughout the year for Dog Project members.

A full list of events descriptions and registration information can be found at: <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/projects/agriculture-and-animal-science/dogs-project/>



**SAVE THE DATES**  
**STATE 4-H DOG EVENTS**

**DOG 4-H QUIZ BOWL**  
APRIL 25, 2026  
STEM INNOVATION BUILDING, UW - GREEN BAY

**STATE 4-H DOG OBEDIENCE, SHOWMANSHIP, AND RALLY; SPEAKING, PHOTO, AND POSTER CONTESTS**  
SEPTEMBER 26 & 27, 2026  
LANGLADE CO. FAIRGROUNDS, ANTIGO

**STATE 4-H DOG AGILITY SHOW**  
OCTOBER 10, 2026  
OVERDALE CANINE SPORTS, SPRING VALLEY

4-H  
Extension UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

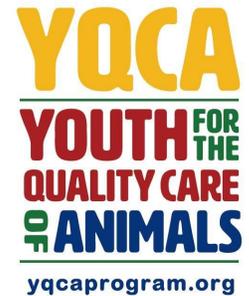
# YQCA TRAINING

MARCH 14 | 10:00AM | AUBURNDALE SCHOOL FOREST

If you still need to complete your YQCA training, Stephanie Beranek will be teaching an in-person session on March 14th at the Auburndale School Forest.

This training is required for all exhibitors who plan to show animals at the CWSF.

The training starts at 10:00am; registration is required and can be done through the YQCA website.



# WOOD COUNTY 4-H SCHOLARSHIP

The Wood County Leaders Association will be sponsoring two \$300 scholarships to local students pursuing higher education.

Full details and eligibility requirements are online at <https://wood.extension.wisc.edu/4-h/4-h-scholarships/>.

[The scholarship application can be found here.](#)

**Application deadline is March 16th.**

A green poster for Wood County 4-H Leaders' Association Scholarships. The title 'Wood County 4-H Leaders' Association Scholarships' is in yellow and white. A white box lists eligibility criteria: 'Who is eligible?' includes 'Must be a current Wood County 4-H member', 'Presently be graduating from high school or in 13th grade', and 'Have been a 4-H member for three years'. An 'OR' section includes 'Have been an approved 4-H volunteer in Wood County 4-H for 3 years'. A yellow box states 'Application deadline: March 16, 2026'. Another yellow box says 'Apply here: https://bit.ly/WoodCityScholarship'. A speech bubble says 'Two \$300 scholarships to be awarded!'. An image shows a hand holding a graduation cap.

# CWSF & JUNIOR FAIR SCHOLARSHIP

The Central Wisconsin State Fair Board (CWSF) and Junior Fair Board are pleased to offer a \$1,000 and a \$500 scholarship to individuals planning to enroll in or currently attending a post-secondary institution.

This scholarship can be used to cover expenses at either a technical college or a university. The CWSF and Junior Fair scholarship committee will select the recipient.

Full details for the eligibility requirements can be found online at: <https://www.centralwisconsinstatefair.com/p/getconnected/scholarships>



# STEAM GAZE: A CREATIVE FUSION OF ART & SCIENCE

APRIL 25 | 9:30AM–3:00PM | MARATHON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE; WAUSAU

MAY 16 | 9:30AM–3:00PM | KELLOGG PEAK INITIATIVE; MILWAUKEE

STEAM GAZE is a full-day, hands-on learning experience for curious and creative youth in grades 3–5, where art and science come together through interactive workshops led by educators and mentors.

Participants will explore a variety of STEAM topics, including **chemistry, environmental science, theater, music, and visual arts**, while engaging in activities designed to spark curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving skills. Youth will be supported throughout the day by professional staff and older 4-H youth leaders.

STEAM GAZE is open to both 4-H members and non-4-H youth.

Cost is only \$10 per participant; youth must register with an adult (there is no cost for adult attendees).

Registration will open in late February at: <https://bit.ly/STEAMGAZE>



## 4-H HORSE EDUCATION DAY— EVENTS ADDED

MAY 2-3 | STEM INNOVATION CENTER—UW GREEN BAY CAMPUS

The graphic is a green-bordered box. At the top left is the Wisconsin 4-H Horse Association logo. To its right, it says "WI 4-H HORSE ASSOCIATION" and "HORSE EDUCATION DAYS MAY 2 - 3, 2026". Below this is "EXCITING CHANGES!". A green rounded rectangle contains "EVENTS INCLUDE:". Below that is a checklist with green checkmarks: Horse Bowl, Hippology, Speaking and Demonstration, Photography, Model Horse, Art, Team Problems, and Creative Communication. At the bottom, it says "QUESTIONS?" and provides contact information: "(920) 757-5167, Sharon, Education Chairperson" and "See the WI 4-H Horse Association Handbook link in the post". There are two circular images: one showing two women holding ribbons and another showing a group of people sitting around a table.

Exciting changes coming from the WI 4-H Horse Association for 4-H Horse Education Days!

Several contests will now be held at Education Days instead of at Expo.

Contests moving to the Education Days event include:

- Art
- Creative Communications
- Photography
- Model Horse
- Team Problems

These events join the previous Education Days contests of Horse Quiz Bowl, Hippology, and Speaking and Demonstration.

More descriptions about the events, the two day schedule, contest information, and more about Education Days can be found in the [Wisconsin 4-H Horse Association Handbook](#) (look under Chapter 5, Statewide Events, Education Days).

# WISCONSIN 4-H PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

The Wisconsin 4-H Photography Contest is back! Open to all 4-H members in grades 3-13, this contest gives you the chance to practice your skills and share the world through your eyes—with a chance at CASH PRIZES!

The contest opens on March 1 and runs through 11:59pm on April 1. Contest guidelines and submission instructions will be available in 4HOnline.

Categories are:

- What 4-H means to me
- People
- Animals/Wildlife
- Action/Movement
- Nature/Landscape
- Travel

Photos can be submitted in color or black and white, and each photo can only be entered in one category. **Photos must be taken in the last 12 months and be the work of the member.**

## ENTRY FEES

**Each photo entry will cost the member \$3.** The cost of the entry fee helps to pay for the printing, mounting and displaying of the photos. Any excess funds will support other 4-H arts activities.

## AWARDS

Each photo will be judged by a group of skilled photographers. **The top photo in each category will be printed, mounted and displayed at the State 4-H office, be a part of the 4-H State Art show at Summer Academy, shared on the Wisconsin 4-H social media sites and available for display at other statewide events.** Each category winner will be eligible for recognition for the overall best photo. Top photos will be used to promote the 2027 contest.

## NEW

The top overall photos from the entire contest will receive \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place, and \$50 for third place.

Full details can be found at: <https://bit.ly/4HPHOTO>

If you have any questions regarding the contest please reach out to Jay Johnson at 920-449-0519 or [jay.johnson2@wisc.edu](mailto:jay.johnson2@wisc.edu).

# 4H ARTS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

# SUMMER EVENTS

Save the dates for these fun summer events!



SAVE THE DATE

LANGLADE- MARATHON - WOOD

## 4-H SUMMER CAMP

JUNE 8-10, 2026

FOR YOUTH IN GRADES 3-7  
RHINELANDER, WI

REGISTRATION INFORMATION COMING SOON!



**SAVE THE DATES**

**2026 4-H SUMMER TRAVEL EXPERIENCES**

**DISCOVER WI**  
GRADES: 6-8  
**July 7-9**

**SPONSORED BY:**  
LANGLADE  
MARATHON  
& WOOD

**WISCONSIN  
DISCOVERS**  
GRADES: 9-12  
**July 21-24**

**\*OTHER 4-H  
YOUTH INVITED**

**NEW**

GET READY FOR ADVENTURE! WE ARE OFFERING TWO UNIQUE TRAVEL EXPERIENCES FOR SUMMER 2026 AND WE WANT YOU TO BE PART OF THE FUN!  
**DISCOVER WI** IS PERFECT FOR YOUTH IN GRADES 6-8, EXPLORING EXCITING DESTINATIONS ACROSS OUR STATE.  
 OLDER YOUTH IN GRADES 9-12 CAN DIVE DEEPER WITH **WI DISCOVERS**, AN OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY DESIGNED TO BROADEN HORIZONS.  
 PACK YOUR CURIOSITY — LET'S EXPLORE TOGETHER!

**More Info Coming Spring 2026**

# SUMMER ACADEMY

JUNE 14-18 | UW-MADISON CAMPUS

Summer Academy is the Positive Youth Development Institute's signature career, leadership, & college readiness conference hosted at UW-Madison. The event focuses on preparing young people (grades 8-11) for higher education in a way that complements formal education prep programs. Summer Academy offers an immersive college experience; participants will experience life in a residence hall, explore campus, and enjoy the unique elements of higher ed that only Madison can offer.

This year's theme is **The Quest**; Summer Academy participants will answer the call to adventure across the UW-Madison campus and explore their next steps in their career and college readiness journey! They will choose between exploratory tracks that introduce them to a variety of different Sparks and activities, core tracks that allow them to explore an area of interest in-depth, or an Advanced Art Track where youth will focus deeply on a specific area of arts.

The Summer Academy experience fee is \$150.

More information can be found online at [go.wisc.edu/4HSummerAcademy](https://go.wisc.edu/4HSummerAcademy).

Registration will open March 6, 2026 via 4HOnline.

Contact Annie Lisowski ([annie.lisowski@wisc.edu](mailto:annie.lisowski@wisc.edu)) or Laura Pine ([lpine@wisc.edu](mailto:lpine@wisc.edu)) with any questions.



**Wisconsin 4-H**

**SUMMER  
ACADEMY**

**June 14-18, 2026**  
**OPEN TO YOUTH GRADES 8-11**  
\$150 per youth!

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📍 UW-Madison Campus 

**Registration open March-April 2026**  
**on 4HOnline**

  
UW-MADISON EXTENSION

# 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 2026 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
- Presoak
- High-Pressure Wash or Soft Foam Wash
- Triple Shine Vehicle Enhancer/Cleaner
- Spot-Free Rinse
- 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.

# 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 [wood-county4h@woodcountywv.gov](mailto:wood-county4h@woodcountywv.gov) by the 25th of the month and we'll include it in the newsletter and on social media.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

- **FEBRUARY 14:** Grades K-3 Project Day; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Marshfield
- **FEBRUARY 21:** Winter Kickball Tournament; CWSF Fairgrounds, Marshfield; 9:30am
- **MARCH 1:** Roller Skating Night; Melody Gardens, Marshfield; 5:00-7:00pm
- **MARCH 8:** Creative Arts Day Committee Meeting; Hewitt Village Hall; 3:00pm
- **MARCH 14:** Horse & Pony Project Tack Swap; CWSF Junior Fair Building
- **MARCH 14:** YQCA Training; Auburndale School Forest; 10:00am
- **MARCH 15:** Summer/Fall Educational Experience Scholarship Applications Due
- **MARCH 16:** Wood County 4-H Leaders Association Scholarship Applications Due
- **MARCH 23:** Leaders Association Meeting
- **APRIL 11:** Creative Arts Day; Pittsville Schools

## 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.



Online Calendar: <https://wood.extension.wisc.edu/4-h/>



**Wood County 4-H, WI**



**4hwoodcountywi**

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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.*