# Wood County 4-H
# YOUTH CONNECTIONS

NOVEMBER 2026

400 Market Street | PO Box 8095 | Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 | 715.421-8439


## WISCONSIN 4-H TOP 10 KEY AWARD WINNER

**Congratulations to Adelena Hartjes on being named a 2026 Wisconsin 4-H Top 10 Key Award winner!**

Adelena is a proud member of Badger 4-H Club who was awarded a Wood County 4-H Key Award in 2025. She served Badger as treasurer, vice president, and president. Adelena made a concerted effort to mentor younger 4-H'ers and help them find belonging in the club while building their own leadership potential. Her favorite projects include arts & crafts, communications, dairy, leadership, poultry and shooting sports.

Adelena has done a fabulous job sharing her 4-H story. She has promoted 4-H on local radio and advocated on behalf of other 4-H'ers in front of the Wisconsin Rapids School Board. She has shared her experiences with Badger 4-H Club members and even shared her skills teaching at Fall Forum several times!

Adelena is the daughter of Michelle and Jay Hartjes and a 2025 graduate of Lincoln High School. She is now studying Animal Science with a Dairy Science and Pre-Veterinary Medicine focus at UW-River Falls.

Congratulations and Great Work, Adelena!

The State Top 10 Program is sponsored by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau® Foundation

### 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*
*Rainna Simone, Associate 4-H Educator*
*Wendy Young, Support Staff*

AmeriCorps

# VOLUNTEER RE-ENROLLMENT POLICY REMINDER

All returning Wisconsin 4-H volunteers are required to re-enroll annually between September 1 and November 1. **All required trainings and background checks must be completed by December 1.**

The 4-H Program Educator or their designee has until December 15 to approve all eligible returning 4-H volunteers.

**IMPORTANT: A submitted application/enrollment form does not mean that an individual is an approved volunteer. Adults who are not approved 4-H volunteers cannot be in custodial care of youth.**

# WOOD COUNTY 4-H END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

**NOVEMBER 14 | 6:00PM | RICHFIELD TOWN HALL, MARSHFIELD**

# WI 4-H DISTANCE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The Wisconsin Distance Learning group is excited to announce three Distance Learning programs for 2027!

- **Cloverbuds:** Wizarding World of 4-H: A Cloverbud Series
- **Photography:** "I signed up for the 4-H Photography Project... Now what?"
- **The Whole Animal:** Co & By-Products Uncovered

**REGISTRATION OPENS NOVEMBER 1.** Register early so you don't miss out!

Registration in 4-H Online is free. However, some programs will have a tiered pricing fee. Additional supplies may need to be purchased.

Learn more about each opportunity on the Distance Learning website (https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/wi-distance-learning/)!

# SHOOTING SPORTS OPEN HOUSE & ORIENTATION

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 | 12:00PM | CENTRAL WISCONSIN SPORTSMENS CLUB, MARSHFIELD**

Have you tried Shooting Sports? The Central Wisconsin 4-H Shooting Sports program is open to youth who are 8 years old and in 3rd grade or higher. Youth must be a 4-H member in good standing in a club located in Clark, Marathon, or Wood County.
There are many disciplines to choose from, including:

- Archery
- Air Pistol
- Air Rifle
- Summer Shotgun Program

Shooting Sports is a great opportunity for youth to develop important life skills, including self-discipline, decision-making, problem-solving, responsibility, and self-confidence.

Whether you're new to the program or returning for another season, Shooting Sports may be just the project you've been looking for!

When enrolling in 4-H, please be sure to select Shooting Sports as a project so we have your email and can keep you informed.

## OPEN HOUSE & ORIENTATION

🕐 **12:00PM: Open House**
Come check out the equipment, meet the instructors, and learn more about the different Shooting Sports disciplines. New and returning members are welcome to stop by and ask questions.

🕐 **12:45 PM: Beginner Orientation**
Mandatory for all new members. This orientation will provide a more in-depth look at the program and what to expect throughout the season.

🕐 **1:00 PM: Sign-Up**
All youth and adults will be asked to sign the program rules and acknowledge that they have been read. Those attending the sign-up will have first choice of line times.

## ARCHERY EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS

- Glen's Sport Shop will be on site to perform bow inspections. If you have archery equipment that needs to be inspected, forms will be available at the open house.
- Cost: $5 per bow

# SHOOTING SPORTS OPEN HOUSE & ORIENTATION

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 | 12:00PM | CENTRAL WISCONSIN SPORTSMENS CLUB, MARSHFIELD**

**BOW RENTAL PROGRAM**

Our bow rental program gives youth the opportunity to rent equipment for the entire season. Rental equipment can be used at:

- Shooting Sports practices
- Home practice
- Shoots and tournaments hosted by other counties

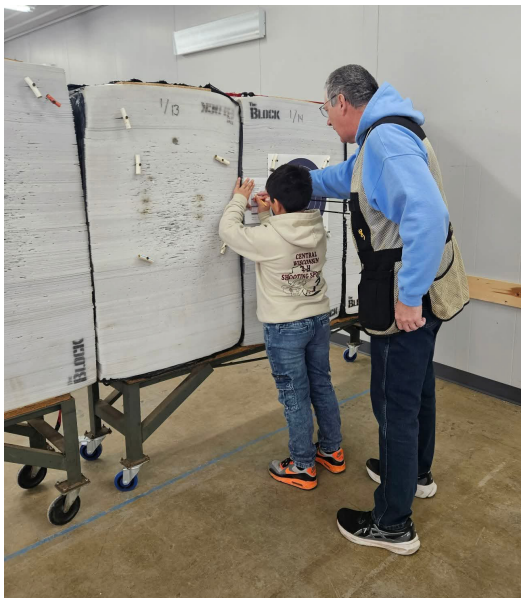
If you are renting a bow, we will take the necessary measurements and check eye dominance so your equipment is ready for the first practice.

**IMPORTANT: There will be NO new registrations or rentals after the 2nd practice.**

We're excited for the 2027 season!

We can't wait to see everyone and get another great Shooting Sports season underway!

**Questions? Please contact Liz Knutson at jlcaknutson@yahoo.com.**



# AVIAN QUIZ BOWL COMPETITION

Congratulations to members of McMillan Mavericks 4-H on their recent success at the Avian Quiz Bowl.

On September 26, team Henlightened placed 2nd at the 4-H Avian Quiz Bowl (Juniors Division) in Portage, Wisconsin. Team members were Renata and Atia Kampstra and Emma and Elsa Kowalski

The double-elimination style quiz bowl took place during the Wisconsin International Poultry Show and featured questions about topics such as biosecurity, cooking and baking with eggs, chicken breeds, and raising waterfowl.

Great work Kampstra and Kowalski families!

*Team Henlightened (left to right: Renata and Atia Kampstra, Emma and Elsa Kowalski) photo by Lisa Kowalski*

# WISCONSIN 4-H AMBASSADORS

**APPLICATIONS OPEN OCTOBER 1!**

Interested in meeting 4-H members from throughout Wisconsin and exploring your unique Sparks through exciting statewide opportunities? Apply to join the Wisconsin 4-H Ambassador Teams for Arts, Ag, Leadership, and new this year - Outdoors!

**Applications will be opening October 1st in 4-H Online.**

The 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 Leadership Ambassadors will support statewide events including teaching at Summer Academy and Fall Forum.

Youth from this ambassador group also serve on the Wisconsin 4-H Hall of Fame committee and assist with the ceremony.

The Wisconsin 4-H Arts Ambassadors includes 3 teams, each with a specific arts focus:

- Through working together in the spring and summer, **4-H Drama Company** creates a stage performance involving acting, singing and dance to present at the Summer Academy in Madison, WI. Show content is a collaborative effort between company members and their director. Each Drama Company member contributes ideas for the show and works with the group to problem solve issues on the set and in the script. Drama Company members also lead workshops for youth attending the UW-Madison Summer Academy.
- **4-H Arts Team** creates collaborative artwork to represent Wisconsin 4-H each year as well as mounting the Wisconsin State 4-H Art Show held at the Ruth Davis Gallery on UW-Madison campus. During Summer Academy team members teach seminars and train to be peer leaders for county and regional events including Fall Forum. The 4-H Arts Team is led by a professional artist who teaches team members artistic techniques using a variety of mediums.
- New to the Arts Ambassadors in 2027 is **Photo Fanatics**! Members of this team will build technical and artistic skills in photography and videography through hands-on learning, while capturing and supporting local and statewide events.

The **Wisconsin 4-H Ag Ambassadors** serve as ag-vocates in the 4-H program. Youth and adult team members work together to contribute ideas and shape our statewide programs. Members of the team will build leadership skills, engage in vast agriculture opportunities, meet other teens from throughout the state, and engage in opportunities to tell their story to stakeholders. They will help support and teach agriculture sessions at WI 4-H Summer Academy and Fall Forum. Ambassadors will also have the opportunity to be an integral part of the WI 4-H Meat Products auction. They will also shape new opportunities for the group - their voice will be a key.

New for 2027 is the **Wisconsin 4-H Outdoor Ambassadors**! Outdoor Ambassadors are leaders, advocates, and role models who develop outdoor skills and ethical practices through hands-on experiences, promote safe and responsible recreation, and use their voices to help shape the future of 4-H outdoor programming. Through shooting sports, ATV safety, and outdoor conservation, Outdoor Ambassadors will build skills, explore new opportunities, make a positive impact, and help inspire the next generation of outdoor leaders.

**Ambassador Teams are open to youth currently in grades 9-12. Applications will be opening October 1 in 4-H Online, and will close on November 15, 2026. For more information on the Ambassador groups, visit https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/statewide-events-and-opportunities/#state_ambassadors**

# EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

Application dates are quickly approaching for many of the statewide educational travel experiences.

Below is a list of experiences with application dates opening in October and November.

More information on each experience can be found on the Wisconsin 4-H State Programs and Educations Experiences website.

### NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2027
Application Dates: October 15-December 1, 2026
Participant Grades: 10th-12th
Program Dates: April 9-14, 2027

### BEYOND WISCONSIN 2027
Registration Dates: October 26-November 22, 2026
Participant Grades: 6th-8th
Program Dates: February 11-15, 2027

### AMERICAN SPIRIT 2027
Application Dates: November 1-30, 2026
Participant Grades: 8th-10th at time of registration
Program Dates: June 25-July 3, 2027

### WINTER ACADEMY 2027
Registration Dates: November 1-29, 2026
Participant Grades: 8th-10th
Program Dates: January 13, 20, 27, February 3, 2027

### SPACE CAMP 2027
Registration Dates: November 16-December 13, 2026
Participant Grades: 6th-8th
Program Dates: April 29-May 3, 2027

## WOOD COUNTY LEADERS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Wood County 4-H members can apply for scholarships from the Leaders Association. There are 2 application periods:

- Application for Beyond Wisconsin, Space Camp, American Spirit, 4-H National Conference, Citizenship Washington Focus @ IGNITE and IGNITE by 4-H: **due November 15th**
- Application for 4-H National Congress, Advanced Space Camp and Summer Academy: **due March 15th**

Reach out to the Extension Office with questions.

# HOLIDAY PARADE SEASON REMINDERS

Parades are a fun community event and 4-H'ers LOVE to join in that fun! Parades are also a great team building activity for your club as they select the theme, create decorations, and more.

Remember that anyone driving in a parade for your 4-H club must be an approved volunteer with an active driver authorization. Driver authorization is simple, and it takes a few weeks to complete. If your club will be driving in a parade this holiday season, please reach out to the office ASAP to take care of driver authorization.

The Parade Policy can be found at:

https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/files/2023/02/4-H-Members-Participating-in-Parades-FINAL.pdf

# WILDLIFE & WOODS PROGRAMS KICK OFF IN JANUARY

Wildlife and Woods is Wisconsin 4-H's statewide natural sciences, wildlife, and forestry monthly virtual program. Together, outdoor enthusiasts of all ages will explore the natural world with a special focus on wildlife, habitats, and trees. Participants learn about wild places across the United States following the 4-H Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP) and the 4-H Forestry Program. Materials are designed for all ages and knowledge levels. Sessions are co-presented by youth and adult leaders so youth leadership opportunities are plentiful!

**Register for this program in 4HOnline. There are two different tracks:**

Wildlife & Woods Exploration Virtual Series, for youth in grades 5K-5:

- January 28
- February 25
- March 25
- April 29
- May 20

Wildlife & Woods Careers & Competition Virtual Series, for youth in grades 6-13:

- January 26
- February 23
- March 23
- April 27
- May 18

For more information or to join the Wildlife & Woods Leader Team, contact: Lee Delcore, Kerri Ast, and Micha Stege at wi4hwildlifeforestry@gmail.com.

# FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

Now is the perfect time to plan ahead and start fundraising if you are planning to attend a state or national travel opportunity, winter or summer camp or another 4-H event.

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 2027.

For every Kwik Trip Ultimate Car Wash Card you sell, you'll receive $15 credit toward your 2027 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.*

KWIK TRIP

5-count ULTIMATE car wash cards **ONLY** $36; regular price is $50—a SAVINGS of $14!

***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

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

Make checks payable to Wood County 4-H Leaders Association

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WOOD COUNTY

# WINTER TEEN LEADERSHIP CAMP - SAVE THE DATE!

# SAVE THE DATE - SUMMER CAMP 2027

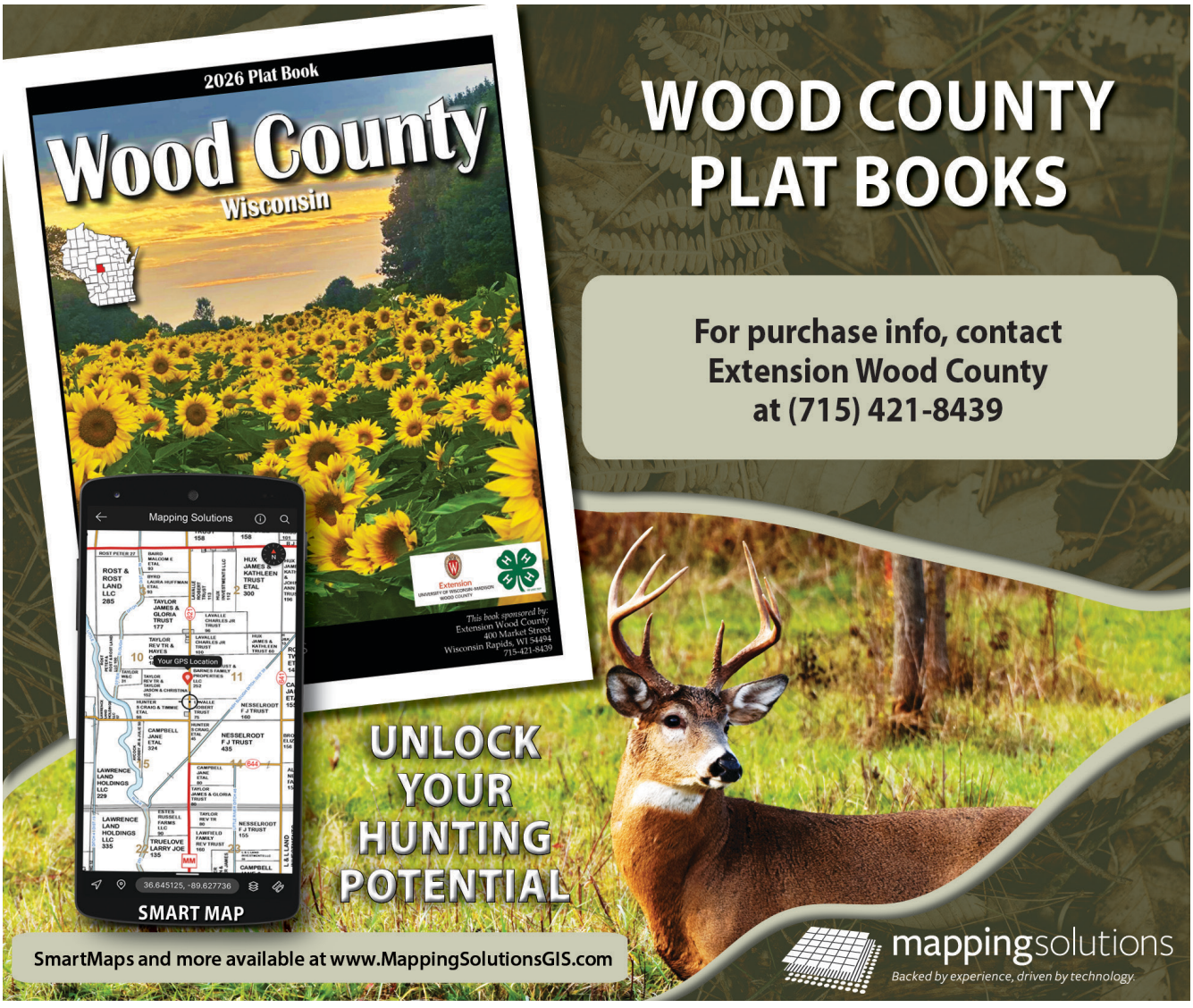
# 2026 PLAT BOOKS

Hunting season is quickly approaching and a new plat book can be a great tool - especially in areas where cell service is spotty and you need to quickly verify property lines.

Books are available at the following locations throughout Wood County:

- Auburndale: First State Bank
- Marshfield: MACCI, Nasonville Dairy
- Nekoosa: Nekoosa Port Edwards State Bank
- Pittsville:  Chasteen Hoesley Insurance Agency
- Port Edwards: Paper City Savings
- Wisconsin Rapids: Extension Office, First State Bank, Paper City Savings

If your club wants to sell books at a local business, let us know so we can get books to you and add the business to the list! Remember, your club will get $5 for every book sold!



# UPCOMING EVENTS

- **NOVEMBER 6-8:** Fall Forum; Stevens Point
- **NOVEMBER 14:** 4-H Club Kick-Off Meeting; 10:00AM-2:30PM; Pittsville Community Hall
- **NOVEMBER 14:** Wood County 4-H End of Year Celebration; 6:00PM; Richfield Town Hall
- **NOVEMBER 23:** Leaders Association Meeting; 7:00PM
- **DECEMBER 6:** CWSS Open House & Orientation; 12:00PM; Central WI Sportsmens Club; Marshfield

# SHARE YOUR EVENT IN YOUTH CONNECTIONS

The Youth Connections newsletter is a great way to let 4-Her's around Wood County know what your club or project group is up to.

Youth Connections 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 post 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.

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

**Wood County 4-H, WI**

**4hwoodcountywi**

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