

Wood County 4-H YOUTH CONNECTIONS



OCTOBER 2026

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



CLUB LEADERSHIP KICK-OFF MEETING

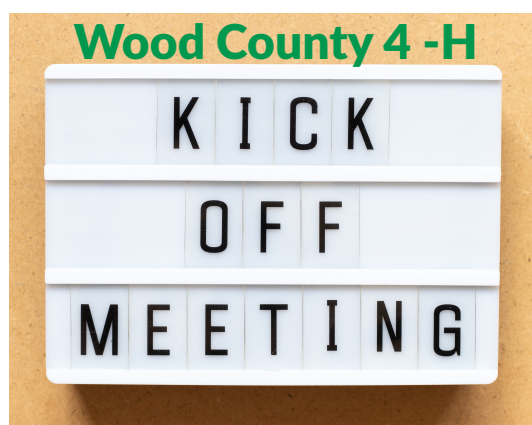
NOVEMBER 14 | 10:00AM-2:30PM | PITTSVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

4-H club officers, club leaders, and project leaders are invited to come together for a dynamic and interactive day to prepare you and your club for a great 4-H year!

We will work on building youth-adult partnerships, discover new ideas to help members find their sparks and create welcoming club experiences to make this your best year yet. There will be a combination of interactive activities, leadership challenges and idea sharing to help you plan a 4-H year your members will LOVE!

Lunch and all programming materials will be provided. Please spread the word and gather your fellow adult volunteers and your youth officer team to attend together.

Save the date now and watch your email for the official RSVP.



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

WELCOME RAINNA SIMONE TO WOOD COUNTY 4-H

Hello all! My name is Rainna, and I am excited to join Wood County Extension as the new Associate 4-H Program Educator. As a Wood County 4-H alumna, I am excited to return home and have the opportunity to work with area youth while promoting both agriculture and STEM.

I have spent the last few years in River Falls, WI studying at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. In 2025, I earned my Bachelor's degree in Dairy Science and Spanish. After graduation I decided to continue my studies at UWRF by pursuing a Master's degree in Agricultural Education. I look forward to presenting my research this winter as I finalize my graduate studies.



I recently have moved back to my hometown, Marshfield, WI, to be closer to family. Growing up I was an active member of Golden Glow 4-H, Marshfield FFA, and Wood County Holstein Association. Through 4-H and FFA, I participated in dairy judging, dairy bowl, and parliamentary procedure. Outside of school and work, I enjoy spending time with my family, watching motocross, and playing volleyball. I love fall weather and look forward to spending cozy Sundays watching movies with my two cats (Patches and Duchess).

This role is an incredible opportunity to develop the foundation for my professional career. I am excited to build connections within my community while supporting the goals of the Wood County 4-H Program.

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars now for these can't miss events in the new year!

- **TEEN WINTER CAMP:** January 29-31, 2027
- **CREATIVE ARTS DAY:** April 3, 2027
- **SUMMER CAMP:** June 7-9 2027



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 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 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 any questions.

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.



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

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

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



WISCONSIN 4-H HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS OPEN

Nominations are now open for induction into the 2027 Wisconsin 4-H Hall of Fame!

The Wisconsin 4-H Hall of Fame is established to recognize 4-H volunteers, financial supporters, staff and pioneers who made major contributions to the 4-H movement at the local, state, and national levels. Give some thought to who you would like to honor and talk to others to get the ball rolling in your county!

You will find the nomination form at <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/wisconsin-4-h-hall-of-fame/>. Nominations can be submitted through the Qualtrics link or the editable document on the website. Review the criteria on the website for more details on requirements.

The deadline for submitting nominations is November 2nd, 2026.



Laureates will be notified in mid-December if they have been selected for induction in the 2027 class. They will be honored at the 4-H Hall of Fame Ceremony on April 17, 2027, at the Holiday Inn & Suites Wausau-Rothschild.

WI STATE 4-H DOG LEARNING DAYS

OCTOBER 24-25 | 9:00AM - 2:00PM | BARK ACADEMY, WAUSAU

REGISTRATION LINK: <https://fall264hdoglearningdays.4honline.com>

If you are interested refining your skills as a dog project handler, plan to attend the WI State 4-H Dog Learning Days! Participants must be currently enrolled WI 4-H Dog Project Youth Members – 3rd grade and older. All experience levels are welcome—activities tailored to individual skill sets and training goals.

Space is limited! There are 40 spots available for this event, each day. There is a 1 dog maximum per handler. All youth members need to be accompanied by a parent/guardian or chaperone. [4-H Dog Project Policies](#) will be followed at this event.

All WI [4-H Dog Project Vaccination Policies](#) will be followed for this event. A copy of the vaccination records needs to be added with your online registration for your registration to be complete. Registration will not be accepted without submitted vaccination records.

Cost: \$10.00 per youth/dog team per day. It is \$20 dollar for both events.

Registration deadline: October 16th or when the event is filled to capacity, whatever happens first.

Please bring your own lunch with you – the group will eat while a question and answer session is held. There will not be a food vendor at this event. You should also bring a folding style camp chair.

To learn more about the event and the speakers, visit:

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/wi-state-4-h-dog-learning-days-march-7th-and-october-24th/>

SCIENCE BY THE RIVER

OCTOBER 17 | 10:00AM-1:00PM | RIVERFRONT TRAIL, WISCONSIN RAPIDS

Wood County 4-H will be hosting a Discovery Station at Science by the River.

Plan to join us for this fun-filled morning, exploring all things science!



The poster features a light blue sky with a sun and clouds at the top. Below the sky is a stylized landscape with green hills, blue wavy lines representing a river, and several green pine trees. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical manner, starting with the event name and date, followed by the location and time. It then lists the event's features and provides information on how to follow the event and host a discovery station. The bottom of the poster includes logos for the University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension, Science By The River, and the Wisconsin Science Festival.

Save The Date!

SCIENCE BY THE RIVER

Celebrating scientific discovery
and the exploration of nature

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

ALONG THE RIVERFRONT TRAIL
FROM BEN HANSEN PARK TO LYON PARK
IN WISCONSIN RAPIDS

FREE • OUTDOOR • FAMILY-FRIENDLY

**15+ interactive stations
for youth and families:**
3-D printing make & take
station, rain gutter
regatta, ham radio
demo, science
experiments and more!

 **FOLLOW FOR EVENT
SNEAK PEEKS & UPDATES!**
www.facebook.com/ScienceByTheRiver

 **INTERESTED IN HOSTING A DISCOVERY STATION?**
bit.ly/SciByTheRiver-Station-SignUp

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

 **Science By The River**
Wisconsin Rapids

**WISCONSIN
SCIENCE FESTIVAL?**
CURIOSITY UNLEASHED.



2026 WI 4-H HORSE CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 14 | UW-RIVER FALLS CAMPUS & LAB FARM

REGISTRATION LINK: <https://264horseconference.4honline.com>

We are excited to open the registration to the 2026 WI 4-H Horse Conference at UW River Falls. Please note, this is not a conference that you bring horses to. This is a conference for people only - there will be information you will learn about horses and leadership but you will not be working with your horse at this conference.

On Saturday, in the morning you will have the opportunity to attend UW River Falls lab farm and experience sessions there with faculty from UW River Falls and other presenters. In the afternoon, we will be at the University Center where you will have the opportunity to choose from a number of rotating sessions on topics related to horses, developing your leadership skills, learning more about UW River Falls and so much more. More information about rotating sessions will be added to the website prior to the conference.

On Saturday evening, the conference will end with dinner. After dinner, members and volunteers are encouraged to attend the 4-H Horse Association committee meetings taking place in the same rooms and area the conference was held during the day. On Sunday morning the State 4-H Association and Youth Association will have their annual meetings back at the University Center. You do not have to be part of the conference to attend these meetings. If you are not part of the conference, any meals happening prior to the meeting will be on your own.

Youth will need a parent or chaperone with them for this experience. You will need to provide your own transportation from the lab farm Saturday morning session to the sessions happening on campus on Saturday afternoon. If you require overnight lodging, you will need to secure that from one of the local hotels in the area.

If you are acting in a chaperone capacity, you will need to work with your local county educator to ensure you have all the you have all training and health coordinator required needs in place for that role.

Thank you to the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation sponsors and the WI 4-H Horse Association - this program is partially funded by their generosity.

Cost: \$75.00 per person (includes morning coffee/hot chocolate and doughnuts, lunch, dinner, and break on Saturday). Lodging is on your own.

Registration Deadline: October 28th; space is limited - we encourage you to register early. If all spaces for the conference are full, the conference registration may close before the deadline.

Who is this experience open to? Current 4-H Members 7th grade and older and 4-H volunteers. All youth members need to be accompanied by a parent/guardian or chaperone. Youth registration will not be accepted without an adult listed as attending with them.

Website:

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

Chaperones: If you are acting in a chaperone capacity, you will need to work with your local county educator to ensure you have all training and health coordinator required needs in place for that role.



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!

2026 Plat Book

Wood County Wisconsin

For purchase info, contact
Extension Wood County
at (715) 421-8439

**UNLOCK
YOUR
HUNTING
POTENTIAL**

SmartMaps and more available at www.MappingSolutionsGIS.com

mappingsolutions
Backed by experience, driven by technology.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **OCTOBER 17:** Science by the River; 10:00AM - 1:00PM; Riverfront Trail, Wisconsin Rapids
- **OCTOBER 24-25:** Dog Learning Days; 9:00AM - 2:00PM; Bark Academy, Wausau
- **NOVEMBER 1:** Re-enrollment Deadline
- **NOVEMBER 14:** 4-H Club Kick-Off Meeting; 10:00AM-2:30PM; Pittsville Community Hall
- **NOVEMBER 23:** Leaders Association Meeting; 7:00PM

SHARE YOUR EVENT IN YOUTH CONNECTIONS

The Youth Connections newsletter is a great way to let 4-Hers 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