Welcome to

Richland County 4-H!



2026-27

4-H Handbook

And Project Guide

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https://richland.uwex.edu/4-h-youth-development/

State 4-H website: https://4h.uwex.edu/

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UW–MADISON EXTENSION

Welcome to the Richland County 4-H program!

What is 4-H?

4-H is a youth organization that provides opportunities for young people to learn new skills and contribute to their communities.

In 4-H, young people share, grow and learn together through various projects, events and activities. Members choose projects that fit their interests. Group activities and events such as trips, camps, fairs and conferences provide additional learning opportunities.

Most 4-H clubs have meetings once a month throughout the year. During these meetings, 4-H members make decisions about what they want to do as a group, including: service learning activities, educational programs, fundraising efforts and recreation activities for the entire 4-H club.



4-H is open to all youth and adults regardless of their ethnic background, race, creed or ability. 4-H programs are funded through a joint effort of local county government, the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Who can be a 4-H Member?
Membership is open to anyone in 3rd grade to one year out of high school.
The membership year is October 1 – September 30.

Who can be a 4-H Cloverbud?
Cloverbuds is a 4-H program for younger children.
Youth in 5K to 2nd Grade may only enter in the Cloverbuds project.

Who can be a 4-H Volunteer?
Parents & community members serve as a 4-H volunteers.
After enrolling as a volunteer, they complete an online training and a background check is completed. You do not have to be a parent or relative of a 4-H member to volunteer for 4-H.

Enrolling in 4-H

New Members - Enroll in Richland County 4-H at https://wi.4honline.com/. New members may enroll in 4-H at any time throughout the year. To be eligible to exhibit at the Richland County Fair, new members must be enrolled by March 1.

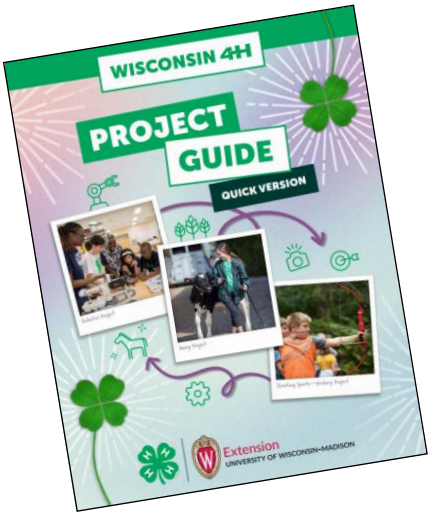
Returning Members – Please visit https://wi.4honline.com/ to re-enroll in the Richland County 4-H program. Returning members re-enroll by December 1st.

Sign-up for 4-H at
https://wi.4honline.com
or use QR code

What are 4-H Projects?

A 4-H project is what a 4-H member chooses to learn about. Discover your "spark" with 4-H projects! See the list of 4-H projects on the next few pages. If you have a special interest that is not included in the project guide, you can enroll in the 4-H Self-Determined project and design your own 4-H project.

Note: The projects that you enroll in are the only projects you can exhibit at the county fair.



Check out 4-H projects! With nearly 100 projects to choose from, there is something for everyone in 4-H!

Let's begin.... Select one of the two 4-H Project Guides:

- The "Quick Version" gives an overview of 4-H projects.
- The complete Project Guide includes suggested learning activities for each project and links to educational resources.

Both project guides can be found on the Wisconsin 4-H website at https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/4h-resources/4-h-project-guide/

Project Learning Opportunities:

Youth may explore a project independently, or several members interested in the same subject or topic can form a project group. Some, but not all, projects have volunteers to lead youth groups with hands-on learning activities. *See list of county-wide 4-H project groups on the last page of this handbook.*

• **Individual Learning**—Youth can learn at their own pace using 4-H curriculum (Links available on the Wisconsin 4-H Project website https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/projects/) and other educational resources.

• **Club Project Meetings**—Volunteer club project leaders and/or youth leaders may organize project activities during club meetings or at a time that is convenient for club members.

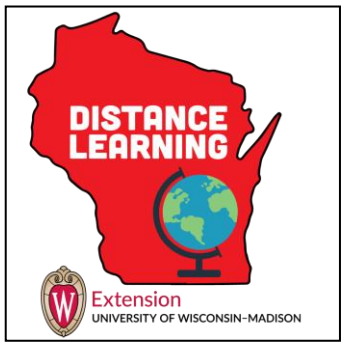
• **County-wide Project Meetings**—County-wide education committee volunteers and/or 4-H program educators may organize educational opportunities at a county level. Watch 4-H newsletter for upcoming project activities.

• **Statewide Project Learning Opportunities**—Check out the statewide 4-H educational programs listed in the project guide.



Additional information about state & national 4-H educational opportunities can be found in the Wisconsin 4-H State Programs and Educational Experiences guide: https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/statewide-events-and-opportunities/

Distance learning programs bring together 4-H members from throughout Wisconsin. Participants sign-up to receive a project kit with supplies and then join a zoom or other virtual platform to learn together. https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/wi-distance-learning/



WHAT IS YOUR SPARK?

Do you like Art? Animals? LEGOs?
Photography? Cake Decorating?

What 4-H Projects Will You Choose?

How to Select 4-H Projects:

- Make a list of the things you like to do or want to learn more about.
- Talk over your list with your parents and friends. They may recognize some special things you are good at that you don't even realize you do well.
- Compare your list with the 4-H projects listed on the next few pages of this guide.
- Ask yourself if you have the equipment, money and time to do the projects that you are interested in. There are MANY 4-H projects to choose from! If this is your first year in 4-H, select one – three projects to focus on this year.

If you still can't decide which projects to enroll in, check out the "Sparks Road Map" located in the project guides.

Project Expectations:

Cloverbuds (5-year-old kindergarten through second grade) enroll in the Cloverbud project. They can enter their projects in the Cloverbud Fair held in August.

Members (third grade and higher): Enroll in one or more project(s) each year. They will show what they have done in their projects by exhibiting at the Richland County Fair, a club fair or other public exhibition. 4-H members are expected to report on their projects in their 4-H record book.

Members in 3rd-5th grade who want to explore a variety of 4-H projects can sign up for the Exploring 4-H project.

Parents should support, but not do, project work for their child. In 4-H, youth "learn by doing"!

Expressive Arts

Project area	Examples of project-based learning within project area
Art Appreciation	Celebrating art, art in your future
Computer Graphic Design	
Creative Writing	
Fiber & Textile Arts	Macrame, rug hooking, tie dyeing, wearable art, creative/cross stitchery, needlepoint, weaving, string/ wire art, handmade dolls, knitting, crocheting, wool spinning, weaving
Folk Arts & Crafts	Basketry, beadwork, calligraphy, candle making, decorative boxes, decoupage, fuzzy posters, liquid embroidery, rock art, soap making, soap carving, wood art, wood burning, leathercraft, blacksmithing
Performing Arts	Clowning, dance, juggling, music, theater arts, puppetry
Photography	
Self-Determined–Expressive Arts	
Upcycling	Trash and Treasure
Videography	
Visual Arts	Block printing, ceramics, collages, drawing and painting, glasswork, jewelry making, metal enameling, mosaics, ornaments, paper art, plastercraft, posters, print making, pottery, rubber stamping, scrapbooking, Sculpey clay, stencil painting

Agriculture and Animal Science

Project area	Examples of project-based learning within project area
Beef	Beef feeder, beef meat animal products (map)
Cats	
Cavies	
Dairy	
Dogs	Dog obedience
Exotic Animals	Ostrich, emu, zebras, zedonk
Goats	Meat goat, dairy goat, pygmy goat
Horse	Horseless horse
Llamas/Alpacas	
Pocket Pets	Cage birds, reptiles, tropical fish, hamsters, gerbils, chinchilla
Poultry	Poultry bantams, poultry game birds (quail, pheasant), poultry market, poultry pigeons, poultry turkeys, poultry waterfowl
Rabbits	Rabbit hopping, rabbits market
Self-Determined–Animal Sciences	
Sheep	Sheep meat animal products (map)
Swine	Swine meat animal products (map)
Veterinary Science	

Environmental/ Outdoor Education

Project area	Examples of project-based learning within project area
Astronomy	
Birds	
Conservation	Weather and climate, exploring your environment, water science, aquatic science, water, recycling
Entomology (Insects)	Bees
Geology	Rockhound
Maple Syrup	
Outdoor Recreation	Adventures, backpacking and hiking, bicycling, camping, canoeing, fishing, rock climbing, winter travel, cross country skiing, downhill skiing
Safety	Off-highway vehicles, tractor certification, snowmobiling
Self-Determined–Environmental/Outdoor Education	
Shooting Sports–Air Pistol	
Shooting Sports–Air Rifle	
Shooting Sports–Archery	
Shooting Sports–Gun Safety	
Shooting Sports–Muzzleloading	
Shooting Sports–Pistol	
Shooting Sports–Rifle	
Shooting Sports–Shotgun	
Taxidermy	
Wildflowers	
Wildlife & Habitat	Wildlife, hunting, forestry

Plant and Soil Science

Project area	Examples of project-based learning within project area
Crops	Corn, soybeans, small grains (wheat, oats, barley, and rye)
Horticulture & Gardening	Herbs, vegetables, fruits, flowers, hydro/aquaponics
Indoor Plants	House plants
Landscaping & Design	Home grounds
Plant Crafts	Flower arranging, flower crafts
Self-Determined–Plant & Soil Sciences	
Soil Science	

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)

Project area	Examples of project-based learning within project area
Aerospace	Model rocketry, flying
Coding & Computer Science	Computers
Energy & Electricity	Wind energy, home energy, electricity, solar power
GPS & Mapping	Geocaching, geospatial
LEGO®	
Mechanical Sciences	Automotive, tractors, small engines, maintenance and repair
Model Building	Model cars, model railroad, remote controlled cars, scale model, model rocketry, radio-controlled plane
Robotics	
Self-Determined–STEM	
Welding	
Woodworking	

Family, Home, and Health

Project area	Examples of project-based learning within project area
Candy Making	
Child Development	
Consumer Savvy	
Entrepreneurship	
Food Decorating	Cake decorating
Food Preservation	
Foods & Nutrition	Microwave, cooking, baking, breads
Health	
Home Environment	Decorative wreaths, interior design
Personal Finance	
Self-Determined–Family, Home, & Health	
Sewing	Clothing, quilting, regalia making, stuffed animals
Sports & Fitness	Softball, bowling, fun and fitness

Leadership and Community

Project area	Examples of project-based learning within project area
Civic Engagement	Citizenship
Cloverbud	
Cloverbud Youth Leader	
Communications	Demonstrations, sign language, speaking, Books on the Move
Community Service	Service learning
Exploring	
Global & Cultural Education	Latino cultural arts, international
History & Heritage	
Intergenerational	
Leadership	Youth leadership
Self-Determined–Leadership & Community	
Workforce Readiness	

Looking for project resources?

Visit **projects.wi4h.org** for more information.

Looking for learning opportunities?

Visit **opportunities.wi4h.org** for statewide events and opportunities.

Opportunities for Older 4-H Members

YOUTH/ADULT PARTNERSHIPS

In 4-H, youth leaders and adult volunteers work together. Whether they are planning a club event or serving on a county committee, older 4-H members learn leadership skills as they work & serve alongside adult volunteers.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

4-H Club Leadership Roles – Begin your youth leadership experiences at your 4-H club! Whether you serve as a club officer or assist with a planning committee for a club activity, you will be developing valuable leadership skills!

Youth Project Leader
4-H members who have participated in a 4-H project for a few years are encouraged to share what they have learned with younger members. Be a Youth Project Leader or co-lead a project with an adult volunteer.

Junior Leader Group
The Richland County 4-H Jr. Leaders group is just for 4-H members in 6th grade and up. Have fun while you help out with Explorer Day Camp, Cloverbud Fair, Service Learning projects and MUCH MORE!

Summer Camp Counselor
Expand your leadership skills while helping young campers learn and explore during 4-H Summer Camp at Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center.

4-H Ambassador
Share your 4-H experiences by telling your 4-H story. Ambassadors help to promote the Richland County 4-H program at the fair, during National 4-H week and throughout the year.

4-H Leaders Association Board Member
Serve as a youth representative (7th grade & up) on the Richland County 4-H Leaders Association. Board members are elected at the Annual Meeting held during the 4-H Awards Banquet in November.



STATE & NATIONAL 4-H EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL EXPERIENCES:

Information about 4-H Educational Travel opportunities, *https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/statewide-events-and-opportunities/*

- ☐ **Wisconsin 4-H Summer Academy** (8-11th Grade)
- ☐ **Fall Forum** (7th Grade-Adult)
- ☐ **Space Camp** (6-8th Grade)
- ☐ **Beyond Wisconsin:** Exploring the Midwest (6-8th Grade)
- ☐ **Arts Camp** (Grade 6-8)
- ☐ **American Spirit-East** (9-10th Grade)
- ☐ **Citizenship Washington Focus** (10-12th Grade)
- ☐ **National 4-H Congress** (10-12th Grade)

The 4-H Leaders Association provides travel scholarships to help cover the cost of participating in these programs. To be eligible for a travel scholarship, 4-H members are required to assist with the 4-H food stand or other fundraising efforts. After participating in a 4-H travel experience, youth are asked to give at least two presentations about their experiences.

Information about how to apply for travel funds can be found on the Extension website at: https://richland.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/richland-county-4-h-resume-information/

MORE YOUTH LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Wisconsin 4-H Ambassadors:
As a Wisconsin 4-H ambassador, you will meet teens from throughout the state, develop your leadership skills, and have an opportunity to assist with statewide 4-H events.

-Arts Ambassador
-Agriculture Ambassador
-Leadership Ambassador
-Outdoor Ambassador

Richland County 4-H

2027 Calendar



JANUARY
- **4-H Roller Skating Night**
- **Club Officer Workshop**
- **4-H Project Meetings begin** *(see newsletter)*
- **Beef Weigh-In #1**

FEBRUARY
- **Beef Weigh-In #2 & Animal ID Deadline**
- **4-H Discovery Day**
- **Youth Shooting Sports Program**
- **Sheep, Goat & Pig Project Annual Meetings**
- Wisconsin 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl

MARCH
- **4-H Scholarship Interviews**
- **Southern WI 4-H Volunteer Summit**
- **Beef Producers Annual Meeting**
- ArtBEAT!
- Citizenship Washington Focus & Ignite Conf.
- Beyond Wisconsin: Exploring the Midwest

APRIL
- **Richland County 4-H Arts Festival**
- **Dog Quiz Bowl**
- Space Camp

MAY
- **4-H Horse Camp**
- Horse Bowl *(Hippology, Speaking & Demos)*

JUNE
- **Cloverbud Day Camp**
- **Dairy Breakfast**
- **4-H Grilled Cheese Contest**
- **4-H Softball Season begins**
- Wisconsin 4-H Summer Academy
- Badger Dairy Camp
- 4-H Hunt and Dressage Show
- Area Animal Science Days

JULY
- **4-H Summer Camp at Upham Woods**
- **Explorer Day Camp**
- **Shooting Sports Contest**
- State Dairy Judging Contest
- State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest
- State 4-H Livestock Quizbowl & Skillathon

AUGUST
- **Countywide 4-H Picnic & Softball Game**
- **4-H Horse Show**
- **Cat & Small Pet Show**
- **Dog Show**
- **Cloverbud Fair**
- Wisconsin State Fair

SEPTEMBER
- **Richland County Fair**
- State Horse Expo
- Avian Quiz Bowl

OCTOBER
- **National 4-H Week** *(Watch for many events celebrating 4-H!)*
- **4-H Road Rally**
- National 4-H Dairy Conference
- Wisconsin 4-H Arts Camp

NOVEMBER
- **Richland County 4-H Recognition Banquet**
- Wisconsin 4-H Fall Leaders Forum
- Wisconsin 4-H Horse Leaders Conference
- National 4-H Congress

DECEMBER

4-H enrollment deadline December 1.

***Bold** = Richland County Events*

Dates are subject to change.

4-H Record Books



Recordkeeping is an important life skill in our daily lives. In 4-H, young people track their activities, profits and losses and learning experiences using the 4-H record book.

In addition to record keeping, the 4-H record book gives members an opportunity to reflect on their year, measure their achievements and growth, set goals, and develop plans to meet those goals.

Additional information about Richland County 4-H record books and printable forms are available at https://richland.uwex.edu/4-h-youth-development/4-h-record-books/

4-H record books are due in October. 4-H members submitting outstanding record books will be recognized at the annual 4-H Awards Banquet in November.

Richland County Fair

The Richland County Fair is a high point of the year for many families. 4-H members exhibit the 4-H projects that they have been working on throughout the year.

Important Fair Deadlines:

December 1 – Re-enroll in Richland County 4-H program.
New members can enroll at any time throughout the year, but must be enrolled by March 1 to be eligible to exhibit at the fair.

March 1 – Last day to add or delete 4-H projects
(Must be enrolled in project to exhibit at the fair)

August 1 – Fair entries due. Late entries are not accepted.

Note: Animal projects may have additional deadlines. Ask your 4-H leader or contact the Extension Office.

Additional Junior Fair Activities:

Some fair events are held prior the Richland County Fair. Information about these events will be available through your 4-H club meetings, Richland County 4-H Facebook page and the 4-H Newsletter.

March – 4-H Arts Festival
July – Shooting Sports Contest
August – Cat and Small Pet Show
August – Dog Show
August – 4-H Horse Show
August – Cloverbud Fair

How to enroll in the Richland County Fair:

All fair entries are submitted through the online system, called FairEntry at www.fairentry.com. *Enrolling in 4-H through 4-HOnline (wi.4honline.com), is not the same as enrolling in the County Fair.*

Questions? The Richland County Fair Office can be reached at 608-647-6859

Countywide 4-H Project Groups

Do you want to learn about a project that is not offered by your 4-H club? You can also participate in county-wide project groups! If you have questions about the project, contact the 4-H group advisor:

Cats & Small Pets	Sandy Layer	sandylayer1954@gmail.com
Dogs	Holly Hysel	hhysel@yahoo.com
Dairy	Heather & Jody Cornell	redneckcornell@yahoo.com
Gardening	Stephanie Welte	stephaniew741@gmail.com
Gardening	Wendy Layer	jwmllayer@yahoo.com
Horse	Meghan Rohn	meghanrohn@outlook.com
LEGO Robotics	TBD	
Pigs	Chad Imhoff	chadimhoff@gmail.com
Poultry	Jennifer Biba	jmbiba73@gmail.com
Poultry	Abby Mathews	abbymathews120@gmail.com
Photography	Kristen Halink	kristenhalink@gmail.com
Photography	Sandy Layer	sandylayer1954@gmail.com
Sheep	Steve Banker	spbanker@hotmail.com
Rabbits	Chris & Jen Harpin	harpfam04@proton.me
Shooting Sports	Mary Cooper	ndstemchick@gmail.com

Parents.... Do you like to take photos? Decorate cakes? Do woodworking? Go on hikes? Crochet? Make candles? What are your hobbies?

Would you be willing to share your interests and talents with a small group of kids? Sign-up to be a 4-H volunteer!

Talk to your 4-H club leader, or contact Karleen Craddock, 4-H Youth Development Educator at karleen.craddock@wisc.edu to find out how you can make a difference in the life of a child.



VOLUNTEER TODAY!