



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Extension Fond du Lac County

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<https://fonddulac.extension.wisc.edu/>



March 25, 2025

Dear 4-H Leader,

SPRING 4-H ADULT LEADER MEETING

The 2025 spring adult leader meeting will be **Wednesday, April 30**, 6:30 pm at Fond du Lac County Campus room AE-205/206. All general leaders are encouraged to attend. Cloverbud Pumpkin seeds will be distributed to club leaders to get to the Cloverbud members. Raffle tickets will also be distributed at this meeting. There will also be some items up for grabs since we have cleaned some spaces and have extras of materials, various 4-H items, etc. This is a meeting you won't want to miss! Leaders may want to bring a tote, bag, or box to carry some of the items to their car.

New Family Newsletters

Each month, new families will receive the Exploring 4-H for New Families newsletter to help support them through their family's first year in the 4-H program. Each edition will cover a new topic and will be two pages, front and back. The front page is meant to give adults a more well-rounded understanding of 4-H. The back page is meant for youth 4-H members to either go through on their own or with a parent or caregiver to explore how 4-H operates and fits their interests. While Exploring 4-H for New Families will cover a wide variety of topics, the new families may reach out to general leaders or project leaders with more questions!

National Volunteer Week, celebrated in April, is an opportunity to salute you, the 4-H volunteer!

Thank you for giving your all to make your club environment a place where young people can belong, grow, learn, be challenged, have fun, and give back. Your passion to make the 4-H experience meaningful and memorable is commendable. The 4-H program would not exist without volunteers! We will be celebrating in various ways throughout the week of **April 20-26**. One way to help us celebrate all the wonderful volunteers is to nominate a volunteer you would like to recognize for doing an awesome job! You can nominate them by filling out a quick form online or emailing Tracy a photo of the volunteer you are nominating and why you are nominating them. **To nominate a volunteer or youth leader:**
<https://go.wisc.edu/2025thankavolunteer>

Silent Auction is in the planning stages. The auctions have generated thousands of dollars for the Fond du Lac County 4-H Endowment Fund. In turn, the interest from the Endowment Fund supports the activities of 4-H members. Each club is asked to donate an item to the silent auction, volunteer to help man the area, and secure donations from three businesses in your area. Let Cindy Koffman know ahead of time how your club will be involved, so space for auction items and volunteer time slots may be allocated. Call her at (920) 477-5006.

Volunteers Needed for Adult Leader Food Stand Committee

Adult volunteers are needed to serve on the Adult Leader Food Stand Committee. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jennifer Ladwig at jaladwig73@hotmail.com.

Adult Leaders Raffle - The 4-H Raffle Committee is looking for help with securing donations for the annual raffle. It would be very much appreciated if each club could please acquire at least one raffle prize. Please get raffle prize information to Judy Bertram by **Monday, April 7**; you can reach her at mandibertram@gmail.com or by phone 920-922-9379. Most of our prizes are mailed out to the winners, so certificates/gift cards work out the best. **The raffle tickets will be distributed to clubs at the April 30 Adult Leaders Meeting.** The raffle drawing will take place at the Adult Leaders Meeting on August 20. This is a primary source of money to build programs for our 4-H youth. Raffle tickets will be sold for \$5 a ticket and youth will not need to sell as many.

Club Dues - Club dues are included in this mailing and should be paid by **April 30th**. If you have any questions about the dues, please reach out to the office. Remember this is a fairly new process yet.

Summer Camp Update - There will be different day camp programs offered this summer. We are seeking volunteers who would like to be part of the 2025 Day Camp Committee. If you know of individuals who would be a great fit for Cloverbud Day Camp, Art Day Camp, LEGO Camp, Foodie Camp, STEM Camp, Around the World Camp, or Cardboard Day Camp opportunities for the summer of 2025, please contact Tracy at tracy.keifenheim@wisc.edu. The planning for many of these opportunities is done over the next couple of months. Youth can start signing up for day camps in [4Honline](#) on **April 15**.

(NEW) Around the World Camp - Grab your passports and pack your bags to travel with us around the world. Play sports or geography games, listen to music, create cultural crafts, and enjoy traditional foods. Youth will have the opportunity to visit one country in the morning and one country in the afternoon to collect 6 passport stamps in total. Youth may also learn some vocabulary from the different countries. Grades 3rd-8th.

Cloverbud Day Camp is a camp for youth from grades Kindergarten to 2nd. This camp focuses on a topic for the youth to explore. The camp runs from 9 am-3 pm at UWO Fond du Lac Campus. Topics include Buzz, Flutter, Crawl, STEM, and Teddy Bear Adventures. We are seeking volunteers who would like to help plan the camp as well as volunteer during camp to help the counselors.

Cardboard Day Camp is a multi-day camp for youth in grades 3rd-8th, where youth engineer cardboard creations and participate in team building and leadership exercises under the leadership of counselors. Youth will design a city and use their design to build a model. Youth will construct the model using various materials such as cardboard boxes, paper towel tubes, paper plates, and more. Youth will work as a team to complete a challenge! The camp runs from 9 am -12 pm at UWO Fond du Lac Campus. The goal of this effort is to engage young people in leadership roles while learning about science, technology, math, and engineering.

Art Day Camp is a camp for youth to learn different art skills. We are seeking volunteers and youth to be part of this camp planning committee and to help run the camp. The camp will be 3 days, and each day will focus on a different art media. The committee decides the format of the camp. Topics covered are Art-Rageous 2-D Camp, Super Sculptures 3-D Camp, and Creative Cultural Arts. The art projects are some of the most popular projects youth enroll in. We want to support them with learning experiences and different project opportunities. If you are interested or know someone who would be a good fit, please contact Tracy. Grades 3rd-8th.

Foodie Camp is a camp for youth to learn different cooking and baking skills. We are seeking volunteers and youth to be part of this camp planning committee and to help run the camp. The Foods

and Nutrition project is one of the most popular projects youth enroll in. We want to support them with learning experiences and different project opportunities. If you are interested or know someone who would be a good fit, please contact Tracy. Grades 3rd-8th.

LEGO Camp is a camp for youth to learn different LEGO building skills. The LEGO club and project is growing fast. Join us during this camp and get a taste of what LEGO club is like! Youth will build different creations with the LEGO bricks at the office. No need to bring any from home! Youth will also learn about different building and engineering techniques, as well as doing some LEGO crafts they can take home! This camp is running in the afternoons opposite of Cardboard camp. Grades 3rd-8th.

STEM CSI Camp - Are you ready to dive into the thrilling world of crime scene investigation? Join us for an action-packed, three-day STEM CSI Camp designed for curious minds in grades 3rd-8th. This camp is perfect for young detectives who love solving mysteries and exploring the fascinating science behind crime-solving. Youth will participate in hands-on activities such as fingerprinting, learning how to crack codes, and other techniques to examine evidence. At the end of the camp, they'll have the chance to solve a mini crime scene! Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to become a junior CSI agent!

More information on camp can be found on the Extension website:

<https://fonddulac.extension.wisc.edu/events-activities/>.

Summer Academy

This program is open to any **4-Hers in grades 8-11** and will be held from **June 16-19, 2025**, on the **UW-Madison campus**. Youth will be able to experience life in a residence hall, with the chance to build lifelong friendships with other students from across Wisconsin. There will be chances to learn about higher education from UW-Madison and Madison College, as well as career discovery and networking opportunities. For more information about this experience please visit:

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/summer-academy/>

Here is a video recap from 2024: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DfiLbDsiOQ8&t=1s>

Youth will be able to choose from SPARK tracks to learn what it takes to have a career or hobby in a field that fits them the best. These tracks are:

- **Agriculture & Animal Sciences:** Explore agriculture and animal sciences with facility tours and hands-on experiences in dairy, livestock, meat science, food science, veterinary science, plants, and more.
- **Baking & Decorating:** Learn the basics (reading a recipe, scaling ingredients, evaluating for doneness, decorating) while gaining confidence that leads to self-sufficiency while exploring career opportunities in baking and decorating.
- **Civic Engagement Through Local Leadership and Community Design:** Our track will help you reimagine your community and work to develop a plan that can build the community you want to be a part of now into the future. We want you to be able to not just imagine yourself in local leadership but provide tools so you can make it happen.
- **Performing Arts:** Get creative while developing your performance skill through sessions in disciplines like Theater, Dance and Music.
- **Skilled Construction Trades:** Explore a rewarding career in the skilled construction trades with this hands-on educational opportunity! Participants will gain experience in carpentry, plumbing, and electrical work through interactive activities led by industry professionals. Participants will also learn about registered apprenticeship programs, the most common form of training in the skilled trades industry. Don't miss your chance to build, wire, and plumb your way to new opportunities!
- **The Transportation Experience:** Be ready to experience a transportation career while working with technical college staff and industry professionals to practice industry repairs and experience the

transportation industry with some fun competition along the way. You will explore the various systems with hands-on activities including creating electrical circuits, using power tools (and a variety of other tools) to disassemble and reassemble components, and learn about components of a variety of vehicles.

- **Visual Arts:** Exploring the depths of what it means to be an Artist: Youth will work with artists to develop their creative skills and build a deeper understanding of some of the applications of art as a critical part of any culture.
- **The Water Quest:** Explore how researchers study the health of Wisconsin waterways using analytical methods and observation. Be introduced to invasive species detection methods, understand the importance of healthy waterways and be exposed to careers in the field.

Club Officers- I sent an email to reporters and secretaries on Friday, March 14. Many clubs lack youth submitting updates, which is part of their responsibilities. Please encourage youth club reporters to by completing a short form and uploading their articles and photos at this link:

<https://forms.gle/QBMvvsCzhaiHEfNM8>. **SAVE THIS LINK!** Articles for the current week must be submitted by **12 pm on Wednesday**. *Secretary minutes can also be submitted using the same form!

Youth can write articles of any length. They can use photos and information from your club's Facebook page for the newsletter. Tag or mention them in comments to empower them to submit. This is a great learning opportunity and skill builder.

Motivated youth can earn officer position awards by completing an officer book. Details are on our website: <https://fonddulac.extension.wisc.edu/4h/records/#officer>. There are officer binders reassembled at the Extension office for positions eligible for awards. If you don't have a copy please stop by and pick them up! **If you need additional officer resources please reach out to Tracy.**

RESOURCE OF THE MONTH

Idea Studio makerspace at the Fond du Lac Public Library

The Idea Studio is a makerspace -- a permanent do-it-yourself zone where people can gather to create, invent, and learn. It includes work tables, laptops, equipment, and projects, and is open to anyone age 13 and older. Children under 13 are welcome if accompanied by a parent or caretaker.

Some equipment is available for use without prior training, whereas other equipment requires a user to first become "badged" before use. All users of the space are expected to follow safe use practices, clean up after themselves, and respect the space and its other users. There is no fee for use of equipment, but some have fees for supplies, or require users to bring their own supplies. [Further details are available here](#), and are provided during badging. For more information please visit: <https://www.fdlpl.org/ideastudio>

Check the [calendar](#) for any changes due to special programs.

Available equipment (if trained). Bookings for use are made via [Skedda](#):

- 3-D printers
- Button maker (no training req.)
- Drawing Tablet
- Embroidery machine
- Glowforge Pro Laser
- Mayku Multiplier
- Printmaking press
- Recording studio
- Serger
- Shotbox light cube (no training req.)
- Sewing machines
- Silhouette Cameo 4 paper/vinyl cutter
- Sublimation printer and heat press
- VHS tape conversion station to USB (no training req.)
- X-Carve CNC Router

Contact Idea Studio with questions, at: ideastaff@fdlpl.org

Upcoming Event/Activities:

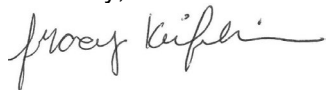
April:

- 3 **Dog Orientation (rec center)**
- 10 **Dog Obedience Classes** 5:00 pm Beginners, 5:45 pm Returning, Fairgrounds Cow Palace
- 15 Day Camp Registration Opens
- 17 **Dog Obedience Classes** 5:00 pm Beginners, 5:45 pm Returning, Fairgrounds Cow Palace
- 20-26 **National Volunteer Week**
- 23 **LEGO Club**, 6:30 pm, UWO Fond du Lac Campus
- 24 **Dog Obedience Classes** 5:00 pm Beginners, 5:45 pm Returning, Fairgrounds Cow Palace
- 28 **TLA Meeting**, 7:00 pm, Rolling Meadows Meeting Room & via Zoom
- 30 **Adult Leader Meeting**, 6:30 pm FDL County Campus (FCC) Extension Office Room 205/206
- 30 **Club Dues Deadline- send payment into Extension office**

May:

- 1 **Dog Obedience Classes** 5:00 pm Beginners, 5:45 pm Returning, Fairgrounds Cow Palace
- 6 **Air Gun and Archery**, 5:30-7:30 pm, Izaak Walton, N6491 Co Rd K, Fond du Lac
- 8 **Dog Obedience Classes** 5:00 pm Beginners, 5:45 pm Returning, Fairgrounds Cow Palace
- 8 **Air Gun and Archery**, 5:30-7:30 pm, Izaak Walton, N6491 Co Rd K, Fond du Lac
- 13 **Air Gun and Archery**, 5:30-7:30 pm, Izaak Walton, N6491 Co Rd K, Fond du Lac
- 15 **Dog Obedience Classes** 5:00 pm Beginners, 5:45 pm Returning, Fairgrounds Cow Palace
- 15 **Air Gun and Archery**, 5:30-7:30 pm, Izaak Walton, N6491 Co Rd K, Fond du Lac
- 15 **Scholarship deadline for Fond du Lac County 4-H Scholarships**
- 20 **Air Gun and Archery**, 5:30-7:30 pm, Izaak Walton, N6491 Co Rd K, Fond du Lac
- 22 **Dog Obedience Classes** 5:00 pm Beginners, 5:45 pm Returning, Fairgrounds Cow Palace
- 22 **Air Gun and Archery**, 5:30-7:30 pm, Izaak Walton, N6491 Co Rd K, Fond du Lac
- 27 **Air Gun and Archery**, 5:30-7:30 pm, Izaak Walton, N6491 Co Rd K, Fond du Lac
- 28 **LEGO Club**, 6:30 pm, UWO Fond du Lac Campus
- 29 **Dog Obedience Classes** 5:00 pm Beginners, 5:45 pm Returning, Fairgrounds Cow Palace
- 29 **Air Gun and Archery**, 5:30-7:30 pm, Izaak Walton, N6491 Co Rd K, Fond du Lac
- TBD **TLA Meeting**, 7:00 pm, Rolling Meadows Meeting Room & via Zoom

Sincerely,



Tracy Keifenheim
4-H Program Educator

UW-Madison Division of Extension, Fond du Lac County
cc: Executive Board, TLA Advisor, Horse Project President
enc: Dues Letters