



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



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September 29, 2025

Dear 4-H Leader,

4-H Online enrollment is OPEN for the 2025-2026 4-H Year!

- ALL current 4-H members and adult volunteers MUST re-enroll in order to be active in the new year. Current enrollments DO NOT roll-over. Returning volunteers must complete enrollment by November 1st, and complete training and background checks by December 1st.
- Log into your current 4HOnline account to re-enroll. DO NOT set up a new account.
- Please be sure to review all information as you re-enroll and update any info that has changed (ie: phone number, email address, mailing address, etc.) *This is an important step as the office uses 4H Online information when communicating with 4-H members.*
- If you run into any problems with the new training on 4H Online or if you need the training printed out, please call the office at 920-906-4623.
- Questions about re-enrolling, check out resource library for instructions: go.wisc.edu/1w3197

Thank you for all you do for the young people in Fond du Lac County. **Thank you for your volunteer leadership!**

Fall Kick-Off: Neon Night Celebration

Let's GLOW! Join us for our Annual Fall Kick-Off during National 4-H Week, where creativity, connection, and community come together to launch a brand-new year.

Date: Wednesday, October 8 **Time:** 6–8 PM **Location:** Fond du Lac County Campus (FCC), 400 University Dr

What to Expect: Youth will rotate through hands-on mini projects and complete a community service effort. Expect glowing activities, vibrant snacks, and a night full of fun, friendship, and fresh starts!

Who Should Attend:

- New Families: Meet club leaders, mingle, and learn what 4-H is all about.
- Club Leaders & Youth Leadership: Welcome new members, plan the year, & submit your club charter.

What to Bring: Refillable water bottle, notebook and pen/pencil, service project items (e.g. laundry pods, dish soap, shampoo, Ziplock bags, lotion). Full list here: <https://skdsfdl.org/list-of-items-needed/>

What to Wear: Neon colors, white, or 4-H gear—let's light up the night!

RSVP by September 30 Please complete the [Google Form](#) and include names of all attendees.

Officers are being elected for the **2025-2026** 4-H year. Please send a list of the names and officer positions to the Extension Office. I would like to reach out and support the officers. I will need to know their contact information, so I can personally invite them to the county-wide officer training. The date will be Saturday, November 8 at the Fond du Lac County Campus in Room 205/206.

Charter Application - The 2025-2026 4-H Charter Application is now available on the Wisconsin 4-H Charter Application website: go.wisc.edu/477699. This new version of the 4-H Charter Application has been converted into an online format making the process easier. With just a few clicks and no signatures needed, you can complete the online form in less than 15 minutes! Ask your club or group leader how you can work together to plan for the 4-H year! Wisconsin 4-H Clubs and Groups Charter Applications are submitted online and are **due by November 1, 2025**. If you have questions, please contact Tracy Keifenheim. Clubs are encouraged to work together on the charter and have time to complete it at the Annual Fall Kick-Off.

Club Bylaws - As the 4-H Educator for Fond du Lac County, I need to review and approve by-laws, policies, and handbooks for all 4-H Clubs, 4-H Groups, and 4-H Associations before they are voted on. Bylaws and policies should be reviewed annually by club members and all changes or additions voted on. New members should be given copies and expectations shared when joining a Club, Group, or Association. A copy of the most recent bylaws should be submitted to the office by **November 1st**. If you have recently updated them and there is no change please let the office know, so we can check that we have the most updated copy on file. Here is a link for resources on updating the club bylaws if you need to update them: go.wisc.edu/z177xm

National 4-H Week is October 5-11

National 4-H Week and the months of September and October are great times for 4-H members to recruit new youth. Set aside time at your September meetings to plan how your club will reach out to new people. Personal contact displays at area schools or the library, or a club open house are the best ways to get new faces at your next meeting. Find more information in future editions of the 4-H newsletter. Watch the 4-H Facebook for posts and challenges throughout the week. This has been happening the last couple of years.

We will be hosting another **Goosechase Experience to help Celebrate National 4-H Week**. Goosechase is an electronic scavenger hunt. The 4-H Goose Chase is a virtual team mission-based scavenger hunt played through the GooseChase App for FREE. You will have missions for your team to complete. Missions have a name, description, point value and are completed through snapping photos, texting in answers, or GPS location tags. As you complete missions, your team will accrue points at a chance to win great prizes!

Each club will need to set up a Club team. The Goosechase will kick-off on **Sunday, October 5 and end on Sunday, November 9**. During the experience new missions will be released. Members can complete challenges at a club meeting, at home, etc. The team with the most points will win a prize as a club.

There will be **bonus missions and opportunities** to earn more points for clubs **who participate at the Fall Kick-Off** and at **County-wide Officer Training**.

Here are instructions on how to Download the app and sign up with a Team:

How to Register:

Register for the game and receive the Password to the game. Youth under 18 need to have an adult on their team (their adult doesn't need to be in all the pictures).

Game Name/Code:

1. Register for the game (or embed registration as part of the game?)
2. Download the Goosechase iOS or Android app
3. Log in. New to Goosechase? Sign up for an account or participate as a guest
4. Search for this Experience by code **RWRWZS** or name 2025 National 4-H Week: Beyond Ready; enter passcode: **25BeyondReady**
5. Join your club by find your club's name in the team list. (No Club should require an additional password.)
6. Lastly, set yourself apart with a photo

Disclaimer: By signing up for this game, you are agreeing that photos may be used by the Fond du Lac County 4-H for promotional purposes. All team members must be listed on the registration form. Youth teams must have an adult listed on the form.

The fall annual **Adult Leaders Association Meeting** will be held at **6:30 pm on Wednesday, November 6** at Fond du Lac County Campus. The association will be holding elections of board members and will discuss plans for the 2025-2026 4-H year. Districts up for election are 1 and 4. **District 1** rep is Yvonne Greenfield and she can run another term. **Clubs in District 1 and eligible for nominations are Alto All Stars, Brandon Tanagers, or a County Leader**. Jennifer Ladwig is the current district Rep and is not eligible to rerun as she has served 2 consecutive terms. **District 4 needs a nomination from the following clubs Helping Hands, South Byron or a County Leader**. Please keep that in mind for the next Adult Leaders Meeting. ALL adult leaders and youth are invited to attend. **Please mark your calendar for this important date- November 6.**

County Recognition is Sunday, October 19, starting at 12 pm at Holy Family Church, Fond du Lac. Both youth members and adult leaders will be recognized during a Sunday afternoon celebration. The Adult Leaders will provide the meat for the meal, drinks, utensils, and paper products. Please bring a side or dessert for the potluck meal. Please **RSVP by October 3** to Sarah Stevenson at sarah.stevenson@wisc.edu or 920-906-4623. Any members who received a golden award, project award, or other county awards received an invitation in the mail.

Club activities are highlighted in the *Club News* section of the newsletter. It's easy to have your club news included. Just have your secretary or reporter mail or e-mail their secretary minutes or report (and photos) to tracy.keifenheim@wisc.edu or fill out the Google Form at go.wisc.edu/2665ok to submit an article. With new youth taking office, this is a good time of the year to get them into the habit of sending the notes in. Highlights and pictures are also shared on the 4-H Facebook page!

Visual Arts Festival - We are seeking volunteers and youth for the Visual Arts Festival committee. We are seeking volunteers and youth who have creative ideas! If interested in helping plan the Visual Arts Festival 2025 or have any questions, please contact Tracy at tracy.keifenheim@wisc.edu or 920-906-4623. The committee will be meeting after November 15. The first meeting date will be determined by the youth and volunteers on the committee. The committee would meet a couple of times between November and March.

Youth and Adult Partnerships: We are currently seeking youth and adults to join the following countywide committees:

- 4-H Promotion (throughout the year)
- Cloverbud Day Camp (summer)
- Tri-County Visual Arts Festival (Oct - Mar planning, event in March), Might meet once a month or less until Feb
- Family Learning Day (Oct - Feb planning, event in Feb), Might meet once a month or less until Jan
- Fashion Revue (planning in Feb/March, event in June)
- Foods Revue (June)
- New Family Orientation (throughout the year)
- Summer Day Camp (Dec-May planning, actual dates TBD)
- STEM Day (Late Spring)

If you are interested in any of these opportunities or would like more information, please contact Tracy Keifenheim at tracy.keifenheim@wisc.edu. Please note there will be an electronic survey sent out as well! If you know of a parent or another volunteer who would be a good fit for any of the above committees, please share that with me and I can follow up with them!

4-H Thriving Model - Wisconsin 4-H is inviting members (ages 13-18) to complete a survey about their 4-H experience. The survey developed by National 4-H Leaders: <https://helping-youth-thrive.extension.org/> will help Wisconsin 4-H learn about our programs' quality. The information will help show how 4-H helps young people to learn new things, develop leadership skills, manage goals, set high personal standards, create positive academic attitudes, and other skills that lead to long-term success in life. An email with instructions for completing the survey online will be **sent directly to the 4-H members' addresses in 4-H Online**. Any potentially identifying information will be removed and not released publicly. The individual answers that the youth provide will be kept confidential. We are hopeful that youth will participate in this important evaluation. There is no requirement to complete the survey, and it will not affect their 4-H membership. Please encourage youth ages 13-19 to participate. The survey will be sent to all Wisconsin 4-H members by e-mail in **early November**. Youth who complete the survey will be entered into a raffle to win a \$25 gift card!

Cedar Crest Ice Cream 4-H Flavor Contest

Who: All 4-H clubs in the State of Wisconsin

What: Collaborate to imagine a delicious new ice cream flavor, and come up with an interesting flavor name. Each club may submit up to five entries.

When: Entries must be submitted to Cedar Crest Ice Cream no later than **November 15, 2025**, via the online entry form found at <https://cedarcresticecream.com/4h-flavor-contest/>

Five finalists will be selected from all entries received. All finalists will receive a Cedar Crest Ice Cream party for their 4-H club! One finalist will be chosen as the grand prize winner and have their ice cream flavor produced and available in July of 2025! They will also receive \$500 for their club.

The 2025-26 Wisconsin 4-H Policy Update is now posted on the [Wisconsin 4-H Policies website](#). This document summarizes the changes to Wisconsin 4-H Policies over the past year and also provides a reminder of current Wisconsin 4-H Policies. Here is a list of the topics that are included in the update:

- **4-H Name, Emblem and Records Policies**
 - 4-H Program Educator Roles (New Policy)
 - 4-H Leader Organizations (New Policy)
 - 4-H Alumni Groups (New Policy)
 - Collegiate 4-H (New Policy)
- **4-H Membership and Participation Policies**
 - Wisconsin 4-H Membership Policies (Updated Policy)
 - Record Books (New Policy)
 - Dual 4-H Membership Policy (New Policy)

- **4-H Volunteers**
 - Re-Enrollment (New Policy)
 - Supervision Ratios (Updated Policy)
- **4-H Projects and Activities Policies**
 - Trick Riding at 4-H Horse Programs and Activities (Updated Policy)
 - Firearm Purchasing (Updated Policy)
- **4-H Financial Management Policies**
 - Bonding (New Policy)
- **Other**
 - [Annual Financial Report Website](#) (NEW)
 - [4-H Camp Policy](#) will be updated and posted October 1, 2025

Idea Corner: The “Idea Corner” can be a regular article in our Leader Letter where leaders share new ideas that were successful and/or a helpful resource where you found that idea! You can submit a paragraph yourself or you can ask a youth to write it up. Your idea doesn't have to be a huge, groundbreaking idea, just something that you feel that other leaders might appreciate. Please submit ideas to Tracy at tracy.keifenheim@wisc.edu.

Resource of the Month: 4-H Family Calendars - Printed calendars for the 2025-2026 4-H year will be available upon request. Please contact the office at 920-906-4623 if you would like copies!

Calendar of Events

October

- 4-5** Arts Camp, Upham Woods, WI Dells
- 5-11** National 4-H Week
- 5- Nov 9** Goosechase
- 18** Cloverbud Pumpkin Contest, 10:00 am at Fond du Lac County Campus, 400 University Dr
- 19** 4-H Recognition Program, 12:00 pm at Holy Family Church, Fond du Lac
- 27** Teen Leader Association Meeting, 6:45 pm at Rolling Meadows Meeting Room
- 28** LEGO Club, 6:30 pm at Fond du Lac County Campus
- 31** **Re-enrollment Deadline for members**
- 31- Nov 1** Fall Forum, Stevens Point, Register through 4-H Online

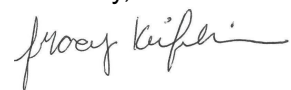
November

- 1** Club Charters DUE to Extension Office or submitted online
- 1** **Deadline for returning volunteers to re-enroll for 2025-2026**
- 5** Tri-County Science Expedition
- 6** Adult Leaders Association Meeting, at Fond du Lac County Campus, 6:30 pm
- 8** Officer Training, Fond du Lac County Campus,
- 8** WI 4-H Horse Leadership Conference, UW River Falls, *more details to come
- 24** Teen Leader Association Meeting, 6:45 pm at Rolling Meadows Meeting Room
- 25** Lego Club Meeting, 6:30 pm at Fond du Lac County Campus
- 28- Dec 2** National 4-H Congress, Register through 4-H Online

December

- 1** **Deadline for volunteers to complete training and background checks**
 - 1** Proposals due for Family Learning Day Sessions
- *Note NO TLA or LEGO Club meetings in December**

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: Charter application, Bylaws Template, Ice Cream Contest Entry Form & Club Rosters