



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



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October 22, 2025

Dear 4-H Leader,

The Extension Office is moving! During the week of October 27-31, staff and educators are working remotely while we move offices and equipment to the new location. Please contact us via email during this time. During the month of November, we will be working to unpack and get things in place so responses may take longer than usual. Please call the office to make an appointment at 920-906-4623. An Open House will be held on Monday, **November 17th from 2-4pm** so you can stop in and see the new space in the Fond du Lac County Government Center at 160 South Macy St on the second floor. When coming to the new office, you will need to park in the north parking lot and come through security, then take the elevator in the lobby to the 2nd floor.

2025-2026 4-H Enrollment - ALL current 4-H members and adult volunteers MUST re-enroll in order to be active in the new year through [4HOnline](#). Included in this mailing is a list of your club's current membership based on who has enrolled in 4-H online. **Returning volunteers must complete enrollment by November 1st** and complete training and background checks by December 1st. Please contact the office at 920-906-4623 if you need any help with enrolling or completing the training or background check. *Youth wishing to show at the fair must be enrolled in an approved youth organization by February 1st of the fair year.* **This is a Fond du Lac County Fair Policy.** Last year we had 605 youth and 142 adult volunteers; let's see if we can beat that! We are **currently at 309 youth members and 58 volunteers**. Thank you for all you do for the young people in Fond du Lac County. **Thank you for your volunteer leadership!**

The fall annual **Adult Leaders Association Meeting** will be held 6:30 pm Thursday, 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 has decided to not run for another term. District 1 needs a nomination from the following clubs: Alto All Stars, Brandon Tanagers, or a County Leader.** Jennifer Ladwig is the current district 4 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.**

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 with their contact information, so Tracy can personally invite them to the county-wide officer training. **Save the Date for Officer Training on Saturday, November 8 from 3-5pm at the Fond du Lac County Campus (400 University Dr) in rooms 205/206.** Register at go.wisc.edu/271f22

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.

SHOUT OUT to the clubs who have already submitted their charters:

- Calumet
- Green Valley
- Ledgers
- LEGO
- Mountain Movers
- Rosendale

4-H Family Learning Day - We are seeking volunteers and youth who have creative ideas to be Family Learning Day presenters! If interested in helping plan Family Learning Day, please email [Tracy](#) or call 920-906-4623. Anyone interested can fill out the form to lead a session at go.wisc.edu/01d8cq or complete a paper copy that is included. The goal is to offer as many different projects as we can. Please help us recruit presenters. Thank you!

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

Certificate of Insurance - If your club needs one for a meeting space or event, please email [Tracy](#) for more info.

Holiday Parades - With Holiday parade season around the corner, please take time to read through the Wisconsin 4-H Parade Policy. Wisconsin 4-H is committed to providing safe and healthy environments for youth and adults participating in 4-H programs and activities. Preparing floats and participating in parades can be a fun way to promote 4-H, AND there are risks associated with these activities. The [4-H Parades Policy](#) outlines expectations for managing risk associated with vehicles used in parades, as well as youth and adults riding on vehicles or walking in the parade. If you have any questions, please email [Tracy](#) or call 920-906-4623. **Approval is required if a vehicle is being driven in the parade!**

Youth & Adult Partnerships: We are 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), meet once a month or less until Feb
- Family Learning Day (Oct - Feb planning, event in Feb), 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 info, please email [Tracy](#). An electronic survey is available at fonddulac.extension.wisc.edu/volunteer/! If you know of a parent or volunteer who would be a good fit for any of the 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 in early November**. Any potentially identifying information will be removed and not released publicly. The individual answers that the youth provide will be kept confidential. 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. 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.

Club activities are highlighted in the *Club News* section of the newsletter. Have your secretary or reporter mail or e-mail their secretary minutes or report (and photos) to [Tracy](#) 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!

A **New Family Orientation** will be held in **December**, more details to follow. Please encourage new families to attend this event, including families who have been enrolled for 2 years or less in the 4-H program. 4-H has so many great opportunities available, and it is hard to know about them all. We don't want our members to miss out! New families can expect to meet other new families, have questions answered, and learn about various topics such as projects, general meetings, 4-H Structure, and different opportunities. There will be two additional orientation meeting dates held in the spring/early summer with other topics. Families can RSVP here: go.wisc.edu/tv23f5. We are also seeking help to facilitate stations during the New Family Orientation. If you or someone in your club would be interested, please email Tracy or call 920-906-4623.

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 email ideas to Tracy.

Resource of the Month: The Fond du Lac County Land and Water Conservation Department is committed to serving the county school districts in teaching valuable conservation and environmental classes to students of all ages. Through a variety of classroom presentations and contests, students in Fond du Lac County will be exposed to and learn about our environment and how to preserve it for many generations to come. Educational opportunities and contests that 4-H youth can participate in:

- [Natural Resources Classroom Presentations](#): County staff come into the classroom and provide hands-on educational sessions to students regarding conservation and the environment.
- [Poster Contest](#): Open to all students grades K-12 on a different theme each Fall.
- [Speaking Contest](#): Open to all students grades 5-12 on conservation theme of choice.
- [Photo Contest](#): Open to all students grades 4-12 based on three different categories.

Calendar of Events

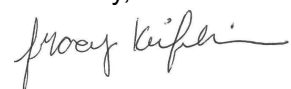
November

- 1-2 Fall Forum, Green Lake Conference Center, registration required
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, enroll through 4H Online
6 Adult Leaders Association Meeting, Fond du Lac County Campus, 6:30 pm
8 Officer Training, Fond du Lac County Campus, 3-5pm
8 WI 4-H Horse Leadership Conference, UW River Falls
17 Open House at the new Extension Office in the FDL County Gov't Center, 160 S Macy St, 2nd floor
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
27-28 Extension Office Closed - Happy Thanksgiving!
28- Dec 2 National 4-H Congress, Register through 4-H Online

December

- TBD New Family Orientation
1 Deadline for volunteers to complete training and background checks
1 Proposals due for Family Learning Day Sessions
24-25 Extension Office Closed
***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
tracy.keifenheim@wisc.edu

cc: Executive Board, TLA Advisor, Horse Project President
enc: Club enrollment tracker, Family Learning Day presenter form

The University of Wisconsin–Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law.