

Clover Connection

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 2025

ATTENTION ALL VOLUNTEERS

ALL RETURNING WISCONSIN 4-H VOLUNTEERS ARE REQUIRED TO RE-ENROLL ANNUALLY BY NOVEMBER 1ST AND ALL REQUIRED TRAININGS AND BACKGROUND CHECKS MUST BE COMPLETED BY

December 1

**VOLUNTEER
TODAY.
INSPIRE
FOR A
LIFETIME.**



JOIN | THE REVOLUTION  OF RESPONSIBILITY | VISIT  **4-H.ORG**

The 4-H Program Educator or their designee has until December 15 to approve all eligible returning 4-H volunteers. IMPORTANT:

A submitted application/enrollment form does not mean that an individual is an approved volunteer. Adults who are not approved 4-H volunteers cannot be in custodial care of youth.

THIS WILL BE THE LAST PAPER COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER

Starting January 1st, the Clover Connection newsletter will be available only in digital format due to rising postage and printing costs. Newsletters will be sent directly to your email.

Need a printed copy?

Club leaders and anyone who prefers a hard copy can still request one. Just contact our office:

Call: 715-485-8600

Email: Kerry Hill at kerry.hill2@wisc.edu



DECEMBER

01: ALL TRAININGS FOR VOLUNTEERS AND CLUB LEADERS MUST BE COMPLETED BY DECEMBER 1ST!

02: M.E. WORKSHOP, 7PM AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN OF SCF

04: CULTURAL BAKING SERIES, VIA ZOOM

05: THRIVING SURVEY DUE

06: BEEF WEIGH-IN, 8AM-10AM IN THE SCALE BUILDING AT THE FAIRGROUNDS

11: CULTURAL BAKING SERIES, VIA ZOOM

13: WINTER WONDERLAND CLOVERBUD DAY CAMP, 9AM-1PM, BONE LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

14: M.E. WORKSHOP, 2PM AT THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN OF SCF

15: WI 4-H STATE ART AMBASSADOR APPLICATIONS DUE

15: NEWSLETTER UPDATES/CLUB HAPPENINGS ARE DUE

15: SPACE CAMP REGISTRATION CLOSING

16: M.E. WORKSHOP, 7PM AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN OF SCF

18: CULTURAL BAKING SERIES, VIA ZOOM

24: CHRISTMAS EVE, OFFICE CLOSED

25: CHRISTMAS DAY, OFFICE CLOSED

26: OFFICE CLOSED

31: NEW YEAR'S EVE DAY, OFFICE CLOSED

JANUARY

01: HAPPY NEW YEAR, OFFICE CLOSED

26: 4-H AMBASSADOR MEETING, 6PM, POLK COUNTY GOV. CENTER

26: 4-H LEADERS FED. MEETING, 7PM, POLK COUNTY GOV. CENTER

26: DESIGN YOUR LANDSCAPE, 6:30-7:30PM, ZOOM SESSION

27: TEXTILE ARTS WORKSHOP: MACRAME, 6PM JUSTICE CENTER

29: ROBOTICS KICK-OFF/ORIENTATION, 6:30-8, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SCF (719 NEVADA ST, SCF)

31: 4-H MEATS JUDGING CONTEST, UW MADISON CAMPUS

**THERE'S
STILL TIME
TO
REGISTER!**

AMERICAN SPIRIT EXPERIENCE




The 4-H American Spirit Experience offers youth in grades 8-10 a 10-day bus journey to the East Coast and Canada, focusing on American history and heritage. Participants lead content while visiting significant sites, gaining exposure to diverse cultures.

The program emphasizes career readiness, leadership development, and experiential learning in history and civics, highlighting diversity and the challenges faced by various groups. Additionally, it fosters positive relationships among participants and adults from across the state.



Applications for the program are open from November 1-30, 2025, via 4HOnline. Youth must be in grades 8th-10th when registering. Additional details about American Spirit and orientation will follow registration. Payment is due by mid-April 2026.

DECEMBER

| Sun. | Mon. | Tue. | Wed. | Thu. | Fri. | Sat. |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| | 1 All volunteer trainings must be complete by today! | 2 M.E. Workshop, 7pm | 3 | 4 Cultural Baking Series | 5 International Volunteer Day!  | 6 Beef Weigh-In, 8am |
| 7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day  | 8 | 9 National Llama Day  | 10 | 11 Cultural Baking Series | 12 | 13 Cloverbud Day Camp, 9am |
| 14 M.E. Workshop, 2pm | 15 WI State Art Ambassador Applications Due Space Camp Applications Due | 16 M.E. Workshop, 7pm | 17 | 18 Cultural Baking Series | 19 National Ugly Sweater Day  | 20 |
| 21 | 22 National Cookie Exchange Day  | 23 OFFICE CLOSED! | | | | 26 National Fruit Cake Day  |
| | | | 24   | 25  | | |
| 28 National Chocolate Candy Day  | 29 | 30 National Bacon Day  | 31  | 1  | | |
| | | | OFFICE CLOSED! | | | |

Congrats! AUBREY GOTT

For receiving the 2025 Wisconsin 4-H Top Key Award!

Aubrey Gott is a 10-year member of the Pleasant Lake 4-H Club in Polk County, where she's led major youth events, educational programs, and livestock mentorships. Her primary project is beef, but she's been active in leadership, arts, and judging contests throughout her 4-H career.



Congrats! TRISH CARLSON

For receiving the 2025 Wisconsin 4-H Volunteer of the Year Award for Outstanding Club Leader!

Trish Carlson has been a 4-H club leader of the Pleasant Lake 4-H club for several years. She's dedicated to creating a welcoming and inspiring environment for youth. She brings creativity, compassion and a passion for education to all aspects of the club. Her nominators said that "Trish isn't just a club leader, she's a mentor, role model and difference maker in the lives of so many."

POLK COUNTY LEADERS FEDERATION MEETING

The Polk County 4-H Leaders Federation Board oversees the 4-H Program, making key decisions about financial resource allocation and educational direction. Each club can send one adult and one youth representative, ensuring youth have an equal voice. The board meets six times a year.

JANUARY 26, 7:00PM

POLK COUNTY GOV, CENTER

Ambassador Meeting

**6:00PM
JANUARY 26**

**POLK COUNTY
GOV, CENTER**



Want your club to shine in the next Newsletter?

It's a piece of cake! Just whip up a fun little article about your club's latest shindig and don't forget to snap a pic with all the fabulous members in it!

Share your club's community contributions by emailing Kerry at kerry.hill2@wisc.edu!

SAVE THE DATES

STATE 4-H LIVESTOCK EVENTS

**4-H MEATS JUDGING CONTEST
JANUARY 31, 2026**

**SKILLATHON AND QUIZ BOWL
MARCH 21, 2026**

**BOTH EVENTS HELD AT THE
UW MADISON CAMPUS**



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SAVE THE DATE

STATE 4-H DAIRY QUIZ BOWL

FEBRUARY 7, 2026

**UW GREEN BAY
STEM INNOVATION BUILDING**



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CLOVERBUD DAY CAMPS!

Do you enjoy working with young children and want to make a difference in just a few hours? We're looking for adult volunteers to help with easy activities and crafts at our Cloverbud Day Camps!

- Camps run Saturdays from 9 AM to 1 PM
- All activities are simple— we'll provide step-by-step instructions
- A sign-up sheet will be available for choosing shifts that work for you
- No experience needed — just bring your enthusiasm and a smile!

Interested in volunteering? Please follow the link below or scan the QR code for more information and to sign up!

<https://bit.ly/3LPSnWC>



MEMBER EVALUATION (M.E.) FORMS WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITIES

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Any 4-H youth in 7th grade and up who would like assistance and dedicated time to complete the M.E. form is encouraged to join. This form is essential for:

- Applying for financial support for a 4-H Trip Experience
- Being considered for the 4-H Key Award
- Applying for a 4-H Scholarship

WORKSHOPS:

* Tuesday, December 2nd at 7pm

* Sunday, December 14th at 2pm

* Tuesday, December 16th at 7pm

Workshops will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Saint Croix Falls (next to the fair grounds).

Leaders, if you are interested in hosting one of the M.E. workshop dates we can bring it to your location. Please reach out to Shirley, to reserve your workshop date to smillerfrey@gmail.com. Your venue should have Wi-Fi and a suitable work surface for the youth to engage in activities.

Please RSVP date and time to Shirley, at smillerfrey@gmail.com. Completed M.E. forms will be Due to Lindsay Spindler's office Friday, January 2nd to be considered for all 2026 Awards.



Get ready for a holly-jolly adventure at our upcoming holiday-themed Cloverbud Day Camp! Youth will dive into festive fun with crafts, STEM projects and more!

Space is limited, so please be RSVP by following the link below or scanning the QR code.



Saturday, December 13



<https://forms.gle/PHkKjqWUenCrqiGw9>

The fun will start at 9am and end at 1pm.
Located at Bone Lake Lutheran Church (1101 255th Ave, Luck)



WISCONSIN 4-H THRIVING SURVEY

Due: December 5

Parents/Guardians of youth ages 13–19:
Please keep an eye on your email for instructions and access to the upcoming survey



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

Design by: Jordan Blue, Chippewa County 4-H Program Educator

Want a chance to win a **\$25 gift card**? Complete the survey to enter!

CALLING ALL CREATIVE INSTRUCTORS & VOLUNTEERS!

Do you have a skill, craft, or project you'd love to share with youth? Join us for Clover College 2026 — a hands-on learning day where youth walk away with completed fair exhibits and new skills!

Workshop sessions are either 55 minutes long or 1 hour and 55 minutes long.



ALL Volunteers and Instructors will receive free lunch and we will cover all supply cost, either by purchasing for you, or by reimbursing you.

**OUR DATE FOR THE 2026 CLOVER COLLEGE
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28
ST. CROIX FALLS HIGH SCHOOL**



Are you interested in leading a workshop or volunteering? If so, please complete the form by following the link below.

<https://bit.ly/4oOeMZY>



Beef Weigh-In

**SATURDAY
DEC. 6TH
8AM-10AM**

Weigh-In will be held at the Polk County Fairgrounds in the Scale Building from 8-10AM. All animals must be pre-registered by visiting the Google Form:

<https://bit.ly/4i1evA6>



**If you have any questions please contact
Craig Scholz 612-751-3236**

WISCONSIN 4-H ARTS AMBASSADORS

Apply to participate in the 2025 Arts Ambassadors! This includes the applications for Art Team, Drama Company, and COMM Team. Applications are open to youth in grades 9-13 and adult volunteers. More information is available on our website:

<https://go.wisc.edu/ju3gfw>

Application Deadline

Applications are open
now until December
15th on 4-Honline

Textile Arts Workshops (Explorer & Up)

Macramé: Tuesday, January 27th from 6 - 7:30PM at the Balsam Lake Justice Center. Cost \$3. Please register participating youth Name, Age, Parent's Name, and Contact info. **by January 15th.**

Needle Felting: 2 Sessions(possibly a 3rd session if necessary)
Tuesdays, February 10th and 24th from 6 -7:30PM at First Presb. of SCF, 719 Nevada St. Cost \$10. Please register participating youth Name, Age, Parent's Name, and Contact info. **By January 30th for both sessions.**

Basic Embroidery: 2 Sessions. Learn & make 3 stitches and a design using those 3 stitches: **Tuesday, March 24th and April 7th from 6-7:30PM** at First Presb. of SCF, 719 Nevada St. Cost \$3. Please register participating youth Name, Age, Parent's Name, and Contact info. **by March 12th for both sessions.**

Sewing (Basics plus) Make a Tie Apron: 3 Sessions. Tuesdays, April 21st, April 28th, May 5th from 6-7:30PM at First Presb. of SCF, 719 Nevada St. Cost \$8. Please register participating youth Name, Age, Parent's Name, and Contact info. **by April 9th for all 3 sessions.**

Please send all registrations and questions to Shirley at smillerfrey@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATES STATE 4-H HORSE EVENTS

**HORSE EDUCATION DAYS
MAY 2 & 3, 2026**

**STATE HUNT AND DRESSAGE SHOW
JUNE 26, 27, & 28, 2026**

**STATE GYMKHANA SHOW
SEPTEMBER 12, 2026**

**STATE HORSE EXPO SHOW
SEPTEMBER 18, 19, & 20, 2026**



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ARE YOU READY TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION?

Join us as an Adult Advisor or Young Adult Leader at Summer Academy! Help youth grow, learn, and lead—all while having fun. Apply today!

WHO DO WE NEED?

Adult Advisors: Provide mentorship, supervision, and logistical support.

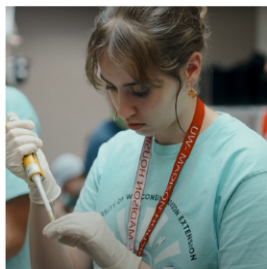
Young Adult Leaders: Serve as role models, lead activities, and support youth engagement.

WHY VOLUNTEER?

- Make a lasting impact on youth.
- Build leadership and mentoring skills.
- Be part of a fun, educational summer experience.

WHAT'S INVOLVED?

- June 14-18, 2026 at the beautiful University of Wisconsin–Madison campus
- Training provided, both virtual and in person to help you prepare for your role
- Lodging, meals, and transportation covered



APPLICATION PROCESS

Online form - for all statewide educational experiences

Deadline: February 28, 2026 (for Summer Academy specific applicants)

Please Email lindsay.spindler@wisc.edu for any questions

SPACE CAMP

APRIL 23–27, 2026

REGISTER NOW–DEC. 15

Space Camp is a camp where you learn and experience a ton of different aspects about life as a astronaut, working at NASA, and exploring places beyond Earth! Participants will experience the Pathfinder Program. This program is a 3 day experience where youth participate in a variety of activities like:

- A simulated space mission with roles at mission control, ISS, space shuttle, and moon surface.
- Building and launching their own model rocket.
- On-site meals and sleeping arrangements to mimic real space training.
- Guided museum tours on space exploration and astronaut life
- AND SO MUCH MORE!

Who Can Apply and How Much?

Open to youth in 6th-8th grade, or maximum age of 15 at the time of the program.

The total cost of Space Camp is approximately \$1300

LEARN MORE
ABOUT SPACE
CAMP!

<https://go.wisc.edu/07b45j>



2026 WISCONSIN 4-H STATE AMBASSADORS

WANT TO MEET 4-H MEMBERS FROM ACROSS WISCONSIN AND EXPLORE YOUR SPARKS?

Apply to join the Wisconsin 4-H Ambassador Teams for Arts, Ag, and Leadership! Applications open soon in 4-H Online and are due December 15, 2025.

The 4-H Leadership Ambassadors will advocate for Wisconsin 4-H, build leadership skills, and support statewide events like Summer Academy and Fall Forum.

Arts Ambassadors include 3 Teams:

- Drama Company – Create and perform a stage show for Summer Academy and lead workshops.
- Arts Team – Produce collaborative art, host the State 4-H Art Show, and teach seminars.
- COMM Team – Share the 4-H story through video, photography, and writing.

In 2026, the WI 4-H Ag Ambassador Team will launch, inviting youth and adult members to contribute ideas and shape statewide programs. Team members will develop leadership skills, connect with peers across the state, and engage in teaching opportunities.

Open to youth currently in grades 9-12. The cost will be \$500 and scholarships are available as part of the application process. Applications will be opening soon in 4-H Online, and will be due December 15, 2025.

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE!

Looking for funds to assist with these experiences? Contact Lindsay Spindler, lindsay.spindler@wisc.edu

Registration will be available soon for our **NEW Winter Academy**. The Winter Academy is open to grades 8-10 and is an opportunity for youth to gain experience in problem solving strategies and to prepare for successful career pathways.

Completion of the 2026 Winter Academy grants a coupon code for the 2026 Summer Academy! Keep an eye out for more registration details and program information on our website:

<https://go.wisc.edu/7ba2xl>



Scan For
More Info!

NEW WINTER ACADEMY
VIRTUAL

Grades 8-10

- January 21, 2026
- January 28, 2026
- February 4, 2026

Free to attend!

Completion of the Winter Academy program will earn participants a 30% coupon code off registration for Summer Academy in the same year!

Positive Youth Development Institute
DIVISION OF EXTENSION
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

The Beaver Brook Badgers 4-H Club gathered 161 pounds of food donations for the Amery Area Food Pantry and raked leaves in collaboration with Interfaith Caregivers.

BEAVER BROOK BADGERS



LUCKY HORSESHOE

The Lucky Horseshoe 4-H club created a tie blanket for the Salvation Army, along with Christmas gifts for those they sang carols to.



Pleasant Lake

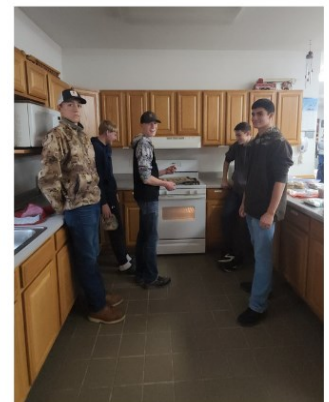
The Pleasant Lake 4-H Club hosted several enjoyable events! Members had a blast ice skating, participated in a sewing workshop to learn basic skills while creating their own heat packs, and discovered how to bake cupcakes from scratch—frosting included!

While waiting for the cupcakes to cool, they also savored some delicious monkey bread!

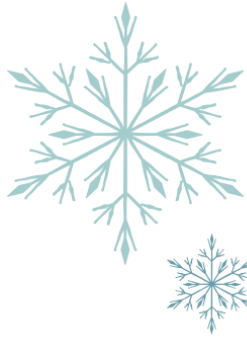


JOLLY MILLTOWN

The Jolly Milltown 4-H Club dedicated their efforts to bake cookies to donate at the Milltown Community Club's annual Santa Day, on Dec. 13 from 2-4 PM. The youth prepared 12 dozen cookies, both baked and beautifully decorated. During their time together, they also created heartfelt cards for veterans in the community, which will be delivered to local nursing homes.



Name / Surname: _____ Date: _____

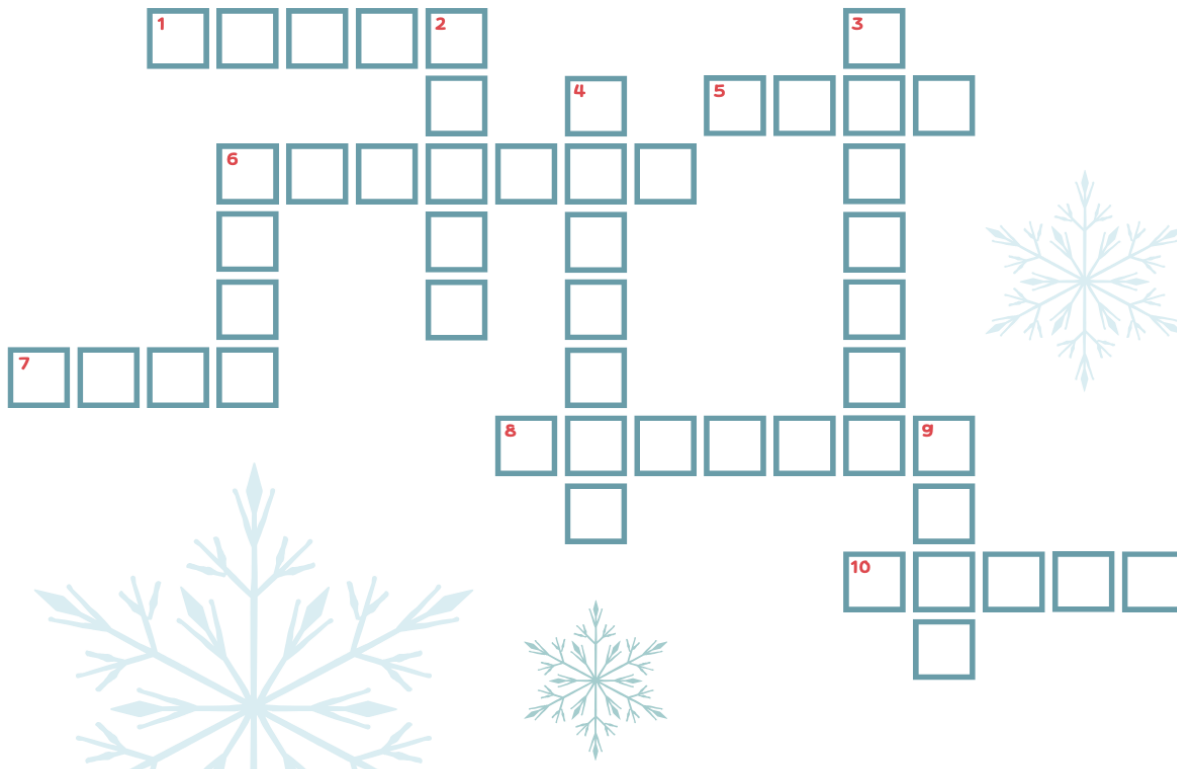


WINTER

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Read the clues below and fill in the grid.



ACROSS

1. Shoes for snowy or rainy days.
5. A type of tree that stays green.
6. Warm clothing for the upper body.
7. The opposite of warm.
8. Warm gloves for hands.
10. Related to very cold regions.

DOWN

2. Cloth worn around the neck.
3. A figure made by stacking snowballs.
4. A black-and-white bird that can't fly.
6. A small vehicle for sliding on snow.
9. Frozen water that falls from the sky.

Across
1: Boots
2: Pine
3: Sweater
4: Cold
5: Mitten
6: Polar
7: Cold
8: Mitten
9: Snow
10: Polar

Down
1: Boots
2: Pine
3: Sweater
4: Cold
5: Mitten
6: Polar
7: Cold
8: Mitten
9: Snow
10: Polar

4-H Robotics Project Workshops Registration for 2026: youth interested in Robotics who are Explorers (9 years old) to 19, this is your chance to sign up to work with Sphero Ball programing and EV3 Robot construction and programing. These workshops are intended to get a Robotics youth and their project ready for the Pre-Fair Run Off.

To *Register please complete the following and email By Thursday, January 22nd* to Shirley @ smillerfrey@gmail.com. Registration is first come first serve and limited due to the number of kits we have. Dates and times for the workshops are listed below: **Youth Must be at** the first Kickoff/Orientation meeting **January 29rd at 6:30 – 8 pm** (kits will be assign to youth this evening) and youth choosing to work with the EV3 Robots should plan to attend **at least 6 of the 8 dates** of workshops to be able to complete their project. All workshops and the Pre-Fair Run Off will be held at First Presbyterian Church of SCF at 719 Nevada St., SCF.

Name of youth: _____

Age of youth: _____

Youth wants to work with (please x the line):

Sphero Balls: _____ (this is all about programing at different and new challenge levels)

EV3 Robots: _____ (this is building a Bot from a kit and program to meet challenges)

Both: _____

“Junk Box Robotics”: _____ (Build from “whatever” your materials and programing)

4-H Club youth is a member: _____

Is youth registered in the Robotics project? ____ Yes ____ No

Does youth want to show Robotics at the Polk Co. Fair? Yes _____ No _____

Name of Parent: _____

Contact phone number for parent: _____

Email address for parent: _____

Work Shop dates: **January 29rd, Thursday 6:30 to 8 pm** = Kick off/Orientation (*All must attend*), **February 12th & 26th, Thursday 6:30 to 8 pm**= EV3 (only), **March 26th, Thursday 6:30 to 8 pm** = EV3 (*only*), **April 16th, Thursday 6:30 to 8 pm** = EV3(*only*) **April 30th, Thursday 6:30 to 8 pm** = *Sphero & EV3*, **May 9th, Saturday 1:00 to 3 pm** = *Sphero & EV3*,, **June 20th, & 27th, Saturday 1 to 3 pm** = *Sphero & EV3**. Our Pre-Fair Run Off is tentatively scheduled for July 11th, Saturday 12:30 until 5 or when done.

In these workshops youth will have a chance to work at various levels of complexities in Robotics with guidance if needed. Youth will have an opportunity to work with Sphero balls and learn to program them to run/light/sound in various complexities of courses. They will also have a chance to build EV3 Robots and learn to program them to use various sensors and run various challenges. Any questions, please email Shirley at smillerfrey@gmail.com.

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December Newsletter

CLOVER CONNECTION



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

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