

CLOVER CONNECTION

SEPTEMBER 2026



2026 POLK COUNTY 4-H AWARDS BANQUET

A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS FOR POLK COUNTY 4-H!

**This year, we are replacing
our traditional Awards Night
with an Awards Banquet.**

Join us as we celebrate another
incredible year of 4-H at the
annual 4-H Awards Banquet!

Hosted by the 4-H Leaders Federation,
this special evening will recognize the
accomplishments and dedication of our
members and volunteers.

Attendees will enjoy a **FREE** Italian meal,
celebrate award recipients, and have
the chance to win raffle prizes. We invite
all 4-H families, members, and volunteers
to come together for an evening of
recognition, fun, and fellowship.

RSVP by October 1 at: <https://go.wisc.edu/rbyj24>



October

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 ~ Cat and Photography Project Meeting ~ Goat, Llama, Expl./Cloverbud, Shooting Sports, Envir. Sciences/Nature Space/Adv. Project Meeting Meeting	2	3	4 ~ Day 1 of National 4-H Week!
			Arts Camp at Upham Woods			
5	6 ~Beef, Poultry, Rabbits, and Youth Leadership/Citizenship Project Meeting	7	8 ~Horse Project Meeting ~ Swine Project Meeting	9	10	11
NATIONAL 4-H WEEK						
12	13	14	15 ~Aero./Models/Robotics/STEM/Computers, and Foods & Nutrition Project Meeting ~ Sheep, Dog, Plant & Soil Scien. and Woodworking Project Meeting	16	17 4-H Awards Banquet 	18
19	20 ~ Visual/Folk Arts, Home & Family, Communication/Expressive Arts Project Meeting ~ Dairy Project Meeting	21	22	23	24 ~ Cloverbud Day Camp!	25 ~ Dessert and Discussion
26	27	28	29	30	31	
OFFICE CLOSED FOR NAE4-HYDP CONFERENCE						

OCTOBER

01: Project Planning Meetings, Cat and Photography starting at 6:30pm

01: Project Planning Meetings, Goat, Llama, Exploring/Cloverbuds, Shooting Sports, Environmental Sciences/Nature Space/Adventures starting at 7pm

2-4: Arts Camp, Upham Woods, Wisconsin Dells

4-10: National 4-H Week

06: Project Planning Meetings, Beef, Poultry, Rabbits, and Youth Leadership/Citizenship starting at 7pm

08: Project Planning Meetings, Horse starting 6pm

08: Project Planning Meetings, Swine starting at 7pm

15: Project Planning Meetings, Aerospace/Models/Robotics/STEM/Computers and Food and Nutrition starting at 6:30

15: Project Planning Meetings, Sheep, Dogs, Plant and Soil Sciences, and Woodworking starting at 7pm

17: Awards Banquet, 5:30pm at Our Lady of the Lakes Church, 507 W. Main St. Balsam Lake

20: Project Planning Meetings, Visual Arts/Folk Arts, Home and Family, and Communication/Expressive Arts, and Dairy starting at 6:30

24: Cloverbud Day Camp, Joy Lutheran Church in Centuria from 9am-1pm

25: Dessert & Discussion, 2pm at the Polk County Justice Center

26-30: OFFICE CLOSED FOR NAE4-HYDP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**ALL are
Welcome at
the Project
Planning
Meetings**

NOVEMBER

05: 4-H Leadership Workshop, 6pm-8pm at the Polk County Justice Center

6-8: Fall Forum, Stevens Point

16: Ambassador Meeting, 6pm at the Polk County Justice Center

16: 4-H Leaders Federation Meeting, 7pm at the Polk County Justice Center

25: Office Closed

26: Happy Thanksgiving, Office Closed

27: Office Closed

27-Dec. 1: National Congress, Atlanta, GA

Help Make the 4-H Awards Banquet Raffle a Success!

As we prepare to celebrate another outstanding year of 4-H, we're looking forward to gathering with members, families, volunteers, and supporters at the 4-H Awards Banquet on October 17. One of the highlights of the evening will be our raffle, and we're inviting 4-H families and clubs to help make it a fun and exciting part of the event.

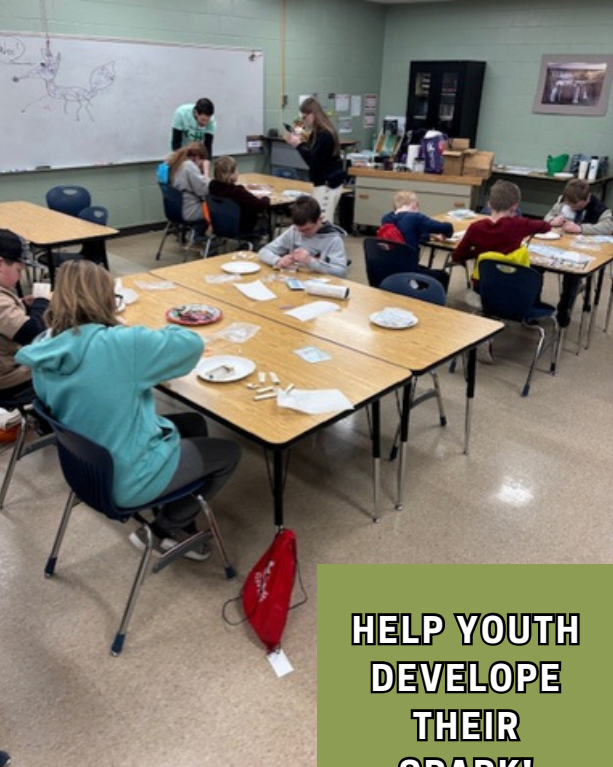
Families, clubs, and individual supporters are welcome to donate a raffle basket or prize item. Donations can range from themed gift baskets and gift cards to handmade crafts, outdoor items, games, baking packages, or other family-friendly prizes. Whether your donation is large or small, every contribution helps add to the excitement of the evening.

The raffle is a great way to showcase the creativity and generosity of our 4-H community while providing additional support for local 4-H programming and activities.

If you would like to donate a basket or prize, please watch for additional details about drop-off times and locations, or contact the Extension Office with questions.

Lindsay Spindler
lindsay.spindler@wisc.edu





**HELP YOUTH
DEVELOPE
THEIR
SPARK!**

SHARE YOUR SKILLS WITH YOUTH!

**Have a Hobby,
Talent, or Skill You'd
Love to Share?**

Our county 4-H program is looking for enthusiastic adult volunteers who would be willing to teach a one-time class or workshop for youth!

We know our volunteers have an incredible variety of talents and experiences. Whether you enjoy painting, woodworking, cooking, photography, sewing, gardening, crafting, fishing, robotics, public speaking, outdoor skills, or something completely unique, we'd love to help you share your knowledge with young people in our community.

We're exploring a series of hands-on learning events throughout the year where volunteers can lead a project, activity, or skill-building session for youth. These workshops will give members the opportunity to try new things, discover interests, and learn directly from caring adults who are passionate about their hobbies and skills.

What Could You Teach?

The possibilities are endless! Some examples include:

- Painting, drawing, or other art techniques
- Woodworking
- Cooking and baking
- Photography
- Gardening and plant care
- Fishing and outdoor recreation
- Small engines or mechanical skills
- STEM activities and technology projects
- Leadership and public speaking

What's Involved?

As a volunteer instructor, you would:

- Teach a one-time workshop or activity
- Share your knowledge and experience with youth
- Guide participants through a hands-on project or skill
- Help create a positive and welcoming learning environment

Our 4-H staff will work with you to help plan the event, coordinate registration, and provide support as needed

Why Volunteer?

By teaching a class, you'll help youth:

- Develop new skills and interests
- Build confidence through hands-on learning
- Explore potential hobbies and career pathways
- Connect with positive adult role models

Your expertise can make a lasting impact on a young person's life.

Interested?

If you would be willing to teach a workshop or would like to learn more, please contact Lindsay Spindler, lindsay.spindler@wisc.edu AND please come to the committee meeting night for your specific project. We would be happy to help you plan out your workshop.



Lead the Way

4-H Leadership Workshop

Master Club Meetings

- Organization of a meeting
- Parliamentary Procedure
- Officer Roles

Meet Everyone's Needs

Discover new tips and tricks to help make meetings accessible for everyone

Create a Welcoming Space

Adults and youth work together to make sure ALL members of our 4-H community feel welcome and included in our spaces

Open to:
• Youth Club Officers
• Club Leaders
• Youth Leaders



FREE Dinner will be provided, as well as great prizes for your club!

Registration due by October 30. Either scan the QR code or visit: <https://go.wisc.edu/4858v3>



Join us on Thursday, November 5, 6 PM - 8PM | Polk County Justice Center, Balsam Lake

LEAD THE WAY

4-H LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Youth club officers, youth leaders, and club leaders are invited to attend a Leadership Workshop focused on creating welcoming and successful club meetings. Participants will learn more about officer roles, meeting planning, and effective leadership strategies.

A free dinner will be provided at 6p.m., followed by the workshop at 6:30 p.m. Attendees will also receive fun swag to take back to their clubs. Pre-registration is required by October 30.

Writing improvements: Shortened the article while keeping the key details, highlighted the benefits of attending, and maintained a friendly newsletter-style tone.

HELPFUL TOOLS AND RESOURCES

2026/2027 4-H Project Guide

<https://go.wisc.edu/7q2t99>



Leaders Fed. Financial Assistance Policy

<https://go.wisc.edu/30s73k>



Statewide Events and Opportunities

<https://go.wisc.edu/fnf99k>



Volunteer Resources

<https://go.wisc.edu/28s85q>



WI 4-H Policies

<https://go.wisc.edu/6zxa82>



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!



POLK COUNTY 4-H DESSERT & DISCUSSIONS

- Network with other club leaders
- Get new ideas to improve your club community
- Ask questions and get advice from your peers
- Learn about exciting new programs available to your club members

SUNDAYS AT
2:00 PM:

OCTOBER 25
DECEMBER 20
FEBRUARY 28
APRIL 25

POLK COUNTY
JUSTICE
CENTER

BALSAM LAKE,
WI



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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



Celebrate National 4-H Week!

Oct. 4 - 10, 2026

CELEBRATE NATIONAL 4-H WEEK WITH A CLUB DISPLAY!

National 4-H Week takes place during the first full week of October, and this year's theme, "Beyond Ready," gives clubs a creative opportunity to showcase 4-H in their communities and schools. Clubs are encouraged to create a display promoting 4-H in a local business window, library, school, or other community venue.

Displays can creatively highlight the 4-H program by incorporating the "Beyond Ready" theme, sharing member experiences, or featuring 4-H projects and activities. This is a great way to increase awareness of 4-H and celebrate the positive impact it has on young people and communities.

To encourage participation, incentives will once again be offered to clubs that submit a photo of their display to lindsay.spindler@wisc.edu by October 15. We look forward to seeing the creative ways your club promotes 4-H!

Cloverbuds are Invited to a:

CLOVERBUD Daycamp

9AM
24 OCT Joy Lutheran Church
501 WI-35 Centuria

Join us for a fun-filled Halloween themed day camp designed just for Cloverbuds! Participants will enjoy crafts, games, and hands-on activities in a friendly, not-too-spooky atmosphere.

RSVP at:
go.wisc.edu/9te2q5



WISCONSIN STATE AMBASSADORS APPLICATIONS OPENING OCTOBER 1ST!

Interested in meeting 4-H members from throughout Wisconsin and exploring your unique Sparks through exciting statewide opportunities? Apply to join the Wisconsin 4-H Ambassador Teams for Arts, Ag, Leadership, and new this year - Outdoors!

Wisconsin 4-H Arts Ambassadors includes three teams, each focused on a different area of the arts.

- 4-H Drama Company collaborates throughout the spring and summer to create and perform an original stage production featuring acting, singing, and dance at Summer Academy.
- 4-H Arts Team creates artwork representing Wisconsin 4-H, helps organize the State 4-H Art Show, and develops leadership and artistic skills while teaching seminars and supporting statewide events.
- Photo Fanatics (new in 2027) helps members build photography and videography skills through hands-on learning while documenting local and statewide 4-H events.

Wisconsin 4-H Ag Ambassadors serve as agriculture advocates and leaders within the 4-H program. Team members build leadership skills, explore agriculture opportunities, connect with youth from across the state, and share their 4-H stories with others. Ambassadors help lead agriculture sessions at Summer Academy and Fall Forum, support the Wisconsin 4-H Meat Products Auction, and play an important role in shaping future opportunities for the program.

New for 2027, Wisconsin 4-H Outdoor Ambassadors are youth leaders who promote outdoor skills, safety, and conservation through hands-on experiences. Members explore opportunities in shooting sports, ATV safety, and outdoor education while helping shape the future of 4-H outdoor programming and inspiring the next generation of outdoor leaders.

Applications will be opening October 1 in 4-H Online, and will close on November 15, 2026. For more information on the Ambassador groups, visit https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/statewide-events-and-opportunities/#state_ambassadors

Project Meetings

Polk County Justice Center

Balsam Lake

October 1, 6:30 PM

- Cat
- Photography

October 1, 7:00 PM

- Goat
- Llama
- Exploring/Cloverbuds
- Shooting Sports
- Environmental Sciences/Nature Space/Adventures

October 6, 7:00 PM

- Beef
- Poultry
- Rabbits
- Youth Leadership/Citizenship

October 8, 6:00 PM

- Horse

October 8, 7:00 PM

- Swine

October 15, 6:30 PM

- Aerospace/Models/Robotics/STEM/Computers
- Foods & Nutrition

October 15, 7:00 PM

- Sheep
- Dog
- Plant & Soil Sciences
- Woodworking

October 20, 6:30 PM

- Visual Arts/Folk Arts
- Home and Family
- Communication/Expressive Arts

October 20, 6:30 PM

- Dairy

Everyone is invited to attend these meetings! Help us plan workshop opportunities by providing your input. We would love to hear from you what you want to learn and do throughout the 2026-2027 4-H year!



2026-2027 AMBASSADOR & LEADER FEDERATION MEETINGS

6:00 4-H Ambassadors

7:00 Polk County 4-H Leader Federation

MON

9/21/26

4-H Building

Polk County Fairgrounds
St. Croix Falls

MON

11/16/26

Community Room

Polk County Justice Center
Balsam Lake

MON

1/25/27

Community Room

Polk County Justice Center
Balsam Lake

MON

3/22/27

Community Room

Polk County Justice Center
Balsam Lake

MON

5/17/27

4-H Building

Polk County Fairgrounds
St. Croix Falls

MON

7/12/27

4-H Building

Polk County Fairgrounds
St. Croix Falls

Leader Federation
ONLY this date.

Club News

Bone Lake Beavers

The Bone Lake Beavers 4-H Club recently gathered to celebrate another successful year with an end-of-the-year picnic filled with food, fun, and fellowship.



The evening also featured friendly games of softball and kickball, giving youth and volunteers an opportunity to enjoy some outdoor recreation and teamwork. The event was a great way to wrap up the 4-H year, celebrate friendships, and look forward to the opportunities ahead.



Forest View

Members of the Forestview 4-H Club got creative at their September meeting by making friendship bracelets. Youth enjoyed selecting colors and designs while creating bracelets to share with friends and fellow club members.





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CLOVER CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER

2026

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