

CLOVER CONNECTION

SEPTEMBER 2026



REGISTRATION OPENS NOVEMBER 16TH

Wisconsin 4-H Space Camp is an exciting hands-on experience where youth learn about astronaut life, NASA, and space exploration. Participants take part in the 3-day Pathfinder Program at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, where they engage in simulated space missions, operate space training simulators, build and launch model rockets, and stay in space-themed habitats.

Campers also explore the history and future of space travel through guided museum tours and put their knowledge to the test in a team quiz bowl. It's an immersive adventure that combines science, teamwork, and fun while giving youth a taste of what it's like to train as an astronaut.

Learn more by scanning the QR code or by following the link!

<https://go.wisc.edu/14791s>



November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 ~Leadership Workshop	6 Fall Forum, Stevens Point	7
8 ~Fall Forum	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 ~Applications due for State Ambassadors	16 ~ Ambassadors Meeting ~ 4-H Leaders Federation Meeting ~ Space Camp Registration Opens	17	18	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20	21
22 ~ Applications due for Beyond Wisconsin Trip	23 ~M.E. Workshop	24	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED National Congress	28
29 National Congress	30	December 1st				

NOVEMBER

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

6-8: Fall Forum, Stevens Point

15: Applications due for State Ambassadors

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

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

16: Registration Open for Space Camp

19: Office Closed for Northern PYD Meeting

22: Registration Due for Beyond Wisconsin Trip

23: M.E. Workshop, 6:30pm-8pm, First Presbyterian Church of St. Croix Falls, 719 Nevada St., St. Croix Falls.

25: Office Closed

26: Happy Thanksgiving, Office Closed

27: Office Closed

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

DECEMBER

01: Registration closes for National 4-H Conference

03: M.E. Workshop, 6:30-8pm at First Presbyterian Church of St. Croix Falls, 719 Nevada St., St. Croix Falls.

05: Beef Weigh-In, 8am-10am, Polk County Fairgrounds

12: Cloverbud Day Camp

13: Registration closes for Space Camp

15: M.E. Workshop, 6:30-8pm at First Presbyterian Church of St. Croix Falls, 719 Nevada St., St. Croix Falls.

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

23-25: Office Closed, Happy Holidays

31: Office Closed

**SAVE
THE DATE**

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS FOR
THE UPCOMING**

Cloverbud Day Camp!

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH
9AM-1PM**

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN FOR NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE 2027

The National 4-H Conference gathers youth and adults in Washington D.C. to enhance the 4-H Youth Development program. It serves as the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture's key youth development event, allowing participants to develop recommendations for the program. The National 4-H Headquarters shares these recommendations with relevant authorities to influence 4-H initiatives.

When: Friday – Thursday, Late March/Early April of Program Year

Submit an application with references to the State 4-H Office between October 15, 2026 – December 1, 2026.

Grades 10-12

For more
information,
please scan
the QR Code



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**

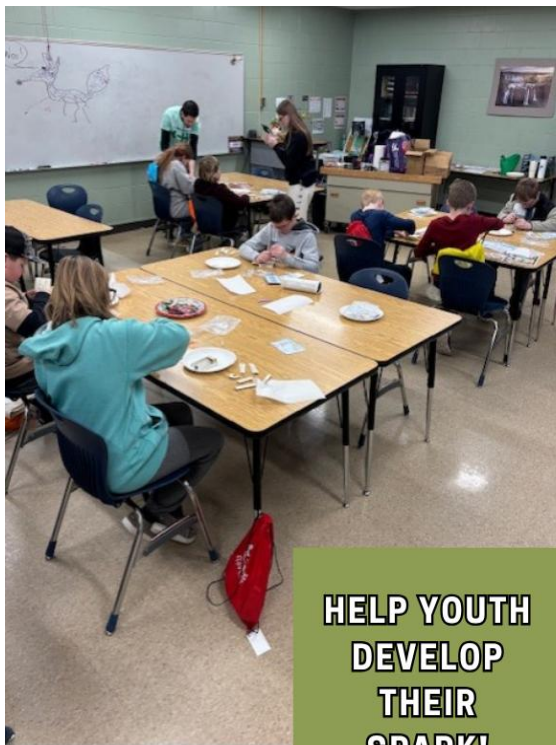
**POLK COUNTY
JUSTICE
CENTER**

**BALSAM LAKE,
WI**



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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**HELP YOUTH
DEVELOP
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/28s85g>



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!

Beyond Wisconsin: Exploring the Midwest Trip Experience

**February 11-15, 2027
St. Louis, MO**

This is an unforgettable Wisconsin 4-H travel experience designed for students in grades 6-8.

During President's Day weekend in February 2027, youth will travel by coach bus from Wisconsin to St. Louis, Missouri, for an adventure filled with fun, learning, and cultural exploration. They will visit science museums, art centers, and enjoy live music, while tasting local specialties like St. Louis-style barbecue.

The experience kicks off Thursday evening with an overnight stay at a camp facility in Illinois, where students will engage in teambuilding activities and build relationships with peers from across Wisconsin.

After a weekend of interactive STEM, art, music, and cultural experiences in St. Louis, youth will return home on Monday morning with lasting memories. This journey is more than travel; it's an opportunity to spark curiosity, build connections, and explore the Midwest in a new light.

Registration

Open from October 26, 2026 –
November 22, 2026 in 4-H Online

<https://go.wisc.edu/98gpjk>



4-H Member Evaluation (M.E) Workshops & Award Opportunities

Polk County 4-H youth in grades 6-12 are encouraged to attend a Member Evaluation (M.E.) writing workshop to learn how to complete their M.E. form and apply for financial assistance for educational experiences and leadership opportunities.

Workshop Dates

- November 23, 2026 | 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- December 3, 2026 | 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- December 15, 2026 | 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Please RSVP to Shirley Miller-Frey at smillerfrey@gmail.com

Unless arranged otherwise with a club, workshops will be held at First Presbyterian Church of St. Croix Falls, 719 Nevada St., St. Croix Falls.

Important Deadline: M.E. Forms and financial assistance requests are due to Lindsay by January 8, 2027.

Completing an M.E. form can open the door to numerous county, state, and national 4-H opportunities, including:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Key Award (County and State) | • State Ambassador Teams |
| • Space Camp | • National 4-H Congress |
| • Beyond Wisconsin | • Ignite by 4-H |
| • Summer Academy | • Citizenship Washington Focus |
| • American Spirit | • National 4-H Conference |

These experiences provide leadership development, educational enrichment, travel, and connections with 4-H members from across Wisconsin and the nation.

BEEF PROJECT 2027 WEIGH - IN

POLK COUNTY

 **Saturday,
December 5, 2026**

 **Time:
8:00 am - 10:00 am**

 **Polk County Fairgrounds
Scale House**

 **Route :**
Enter the side (West) gate from
Louisiana Ave. Once scaled, you
will exit the Fair Entry Gate.

Form two lines and follow the volunteers directions to the scale house.

Be sure to fill out the [Google Form](#) to register for weigh-in

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.

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

DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS

WINTER 2027

Registration opens November 1. Register early so you don't miss out!

- Cloverbuds: Wizarding World of 4-H: A Cloverbud Series
- Photography: "I signed up for the 4-H Photography Project... Now what?"
- The Whole Animal: Co & By-Products: From Farm to....Everything

Registration in 4-H Online is free. However, some programs will have a tiered pricing fee. Additional supplies may need to be purchased.

LEARN MORE

<https://go.wisc.edu/ms5og9>



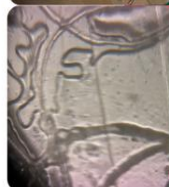
Distance Learning Program

The Whole Animal: Co & By-Products



Horse Hair Bracelet

Thurs, January 21st
6pm (Live Zoom)



Compare Fibers using a Foldscope

Thurs, February 11th
6pm (Live Zoom)



Make a Pie Crust

Thurs, February 25th
6pm (Live Zoom)

3 Live Zooms as part of curriculum

Discover co-products and by-products that come from animals!

Connect the role of livestock producers to the larger food and product supply chain.

Registration: Nov. 1-15
Audience: Grades 3 and older
Cost for Kit: Tiered Pricing



Learn more and Register at:
<http://virtual.wi4h.org>

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DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM

PHOTOGRAPHY

I SIGNED UP FOR THE 4-H
PHOTOGRAPHY
PROJECT...NOW WHAT?

Unlock the secrets to mastering your camera and building a portfolio of work.

Audience: Intermediate/Beginner
(Grades 3 and up)

Register: November 1-15th!

Session Dates:
February 8, March 1, and March 15
from 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Learn more and
Register at:
<http://virtual.wi4h.org>



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Distance Learning Program

WIZARDING WORLD OF 4-H CLOVERBUD SERIES

Session Dates:
Tuesdays in February
from 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Audience:
Grades K-2

Register:
November 1-15!



HOLD ON TO YOUR HATS AND BROOMSTICKS,
WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A WHIRLWIND OF FUN WITH
THESE HANDS-ON AT HOME VIRTUAL SESSIONS.

Cost: Tiered Pricing, limited to 100 participants

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT:
[HTTP://VIRTUAL.WI4H.ORG](http://VIRTUAL.WI4H.ORG)



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Club News

Bone Lake Beavers



Members of the Bone Lake Beavers recently participated in a roadside trash pickup to help keep their community clean. After, families and members enjoyed a fun hayride together, celebrating a successful day of service and fall fun.



Beaver Brook Badgers

Members of the Beaver Brook Badgers 4-H Club recently volunteered through Interfaith Caregivers, helping with yardwork for a local family in need. Their hard work and willingness to serve made a positive impact while demonstrating the 4-H values of citizenship, service, and compassion.

Beaver Brook Badgers



Deronda Diplomats



Members of the Deronda Diplomats 4-H Club recently spent time serving their community in a variety of ways. Younger members helped set up tables for a local church dinner, while older members participated in a roadside cleanup.

Deronda Diplomats



Shooting Stars

Members of the Shooting Stars 4-H Club have been busy this fall, electing club officers, enjoying a hayride, participating in roadside ditch cleanup, and promoting 4-H within the community. Through these activities, members developed leadership skills, gave back through service, and shared the many opportunities 4-H has to offer.



Shooting Stars

The Shooting Stars 4-H Club has been busy creating a LEGO-themed raffle basket and planning activities for the year ahead. Members have enjoyed working together, sharing ideas, and preparing for another fun-filled year of 4-H.





Club & Project News

Northern Lights



Members of the Northern Lights 4-H Club have had an active and exciting start to the year! In September, members helped keep the community clean by participating in a roadside cleanup. They also learned about the Sheep Project from Morgan Anderson, including the opportunity to meet and hold baby lambs.



At another meeting, members made their own personal pizzas and created posters to help promote 4-H. In October, Oliver and Willie B. led a fun activity where members made Rice Krispie treat monsters and proudly showed off their creative creations. Through service projects, hands-on learning, and fun activities, Northern Lights members have enjoyed a great start to the 4-H year.



Little Butternut



Members of the Little Butternut 4-H Club recently participated in their annual fall trash pickup on October 4. Working together, club members helped clean up local roadsides and make their community a cleaner, more beautiful place. The project was a great opportunity for members to demonstrate service, teamwork, and pride in their community.

Dog Project



Amelia and Maddie recently represented the Polk County 4-H Dog Project at the Regional Agility and Rally Competition with their dogs.

Dog Project



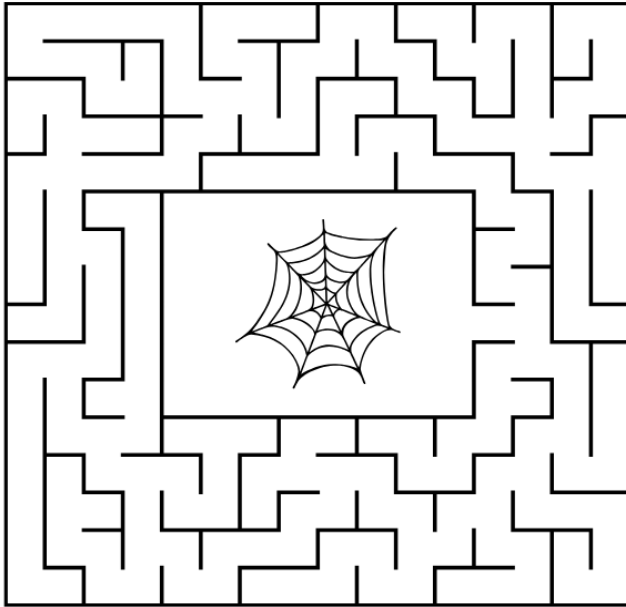
The girls had a great time showcasing the skills and dedication they have developed through the 4-H Dog Project. Congratulations to Amelia and Maddie on their hard work, accomplishments, and excellent representation of Polk County 4-H!



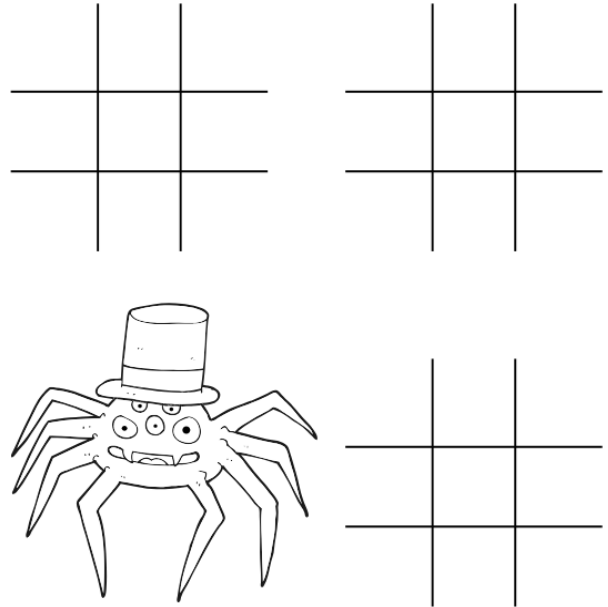
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Spooky Activities

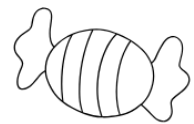
Help the spider find his web:



Best of 3 noughts & crosses with a friend:



Circle the correct spelling:



gost

witch

pumkin

candy

ghost

which

pumpkin

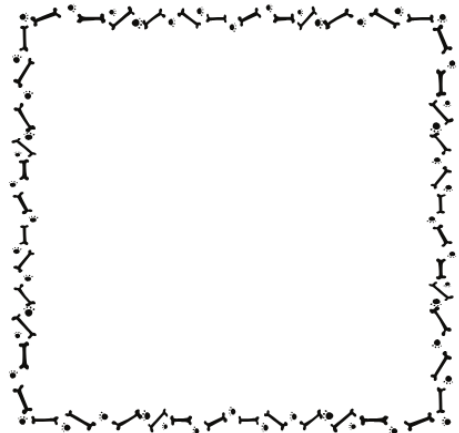
kandie

Find the following words:

candy
witch
boo
spooky
pumpkin
haunted
treat
ghost
trick
monster
scary
costume

S P M I N T A E R T B
C U X O F H I E R O S
A M T C N F U N O Y U
R P I R A S D T A W E
Y K E N S N T L S I M
B I C U K H D E O T U
T N T N C E R Y R C T
S E O D I R S A I H S
O B N F R M I L Y O O
H A U N T E D T O R C
G C H I L Y K O O P S

Draw your own scary monster:



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UW-MADISON EXTENSION



November

2026

CLOVER CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

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