CLOVER CONNECTION

DECEMBER 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

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 ~Registration closes for National 4-H Conference	2	3 ~M.E. Workshop	4	5 ~ Beef Weigh In
6	7 National Cotton Candy Day 	8	9 National llama Day 	10	11	12 ~ Cloverbud Day Camp
13 ~Registration Closes for Space Camp	14	15 ~LEGO Challenge Opens ~Clover College Instructor Registration Due ~ M.E. Workshop	16	17 ~Club and Project Happenings are Due	18	19
20 ~Dessert and Discussion	21	22 National Cookie Exchange Day 	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24 OFFICE CLOSED 	25 OFFICE CLOSED 	26
27 National Fruitcake Day 	28	29	30 National Bacon Day 	31 OFFICE CLOSED 	1 OFFICE CLOSED 	

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: LEGO Challenge Opens
15: Clover College Instructor Registration DUE
15: M.E. Workshop, 6:30-8pm at First Presbyterian Church of St. Croix Falls, 719 Nevada St., St. Croix Falls.
17: Club and Project Happenings are due to kerry.hill2@wisc.edu
20: Dessert & Discussion, 2pm at the Polk County Justice Center
23-25: Office Closed, Happy Holidays
31: Office Closed

JANUARY 2027

01:HAPPY NEW YEAR! OFFICE CLOSED
01: Last day to register for Crocheting Workshop
07: Crocheting Workshop, 6-7:30pm, at the Polk County Justice Center
08: M.E. Forms are DUE
12: Robotics Kick-Off, 6:30-8pm, at First Presbyterian Church, 719 Nevada St. SCF
14: Last day to register for Embroidery Workshop
18: OFFICE CLOSED
18: LEGO Challenge Ends
21: Distance Learning Program: Horse Hair Bracelet, 6pm, Zoom
25: 4-H Ambassador Meeting, 6pm, Polk County Justice Center
25: 4-H Leaders Federation Meeting, 7pm, Polk County Justice Center
26: EV3 Robotics, 6:30-8pm, at First Presbyterian Church, 719 Nevada St. SCF
28: Embroidery Workshop, 6-7:30pm at First Presbyterian Church, 719 Nevada St. SCF
31: Sheep Kick-Off, 2-4pm, at the Polk County Justice Center

THERE'S STILL TIME TO APPLY!

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.

Grades 10-12

When: Fri. – Thur., Late March/Early April of Program Year

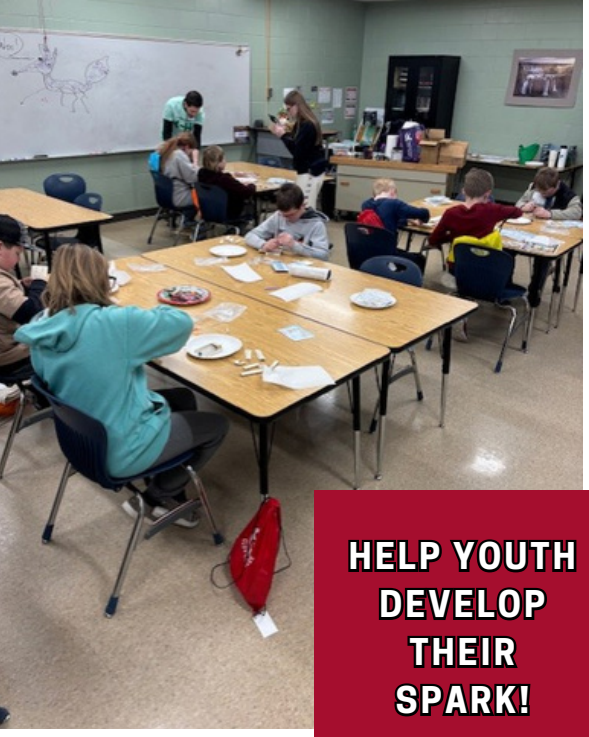
Submit an application with references to the State 4-H Office between October 15, 2026 – December 13, 2026.

For more information, please scan the QR Code

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!



HELP YOUTH DEVELOP THEIR SPARK!

2027 CLOVER COLLEGE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

We are seeking Instructors and Youth Leaders to Host a Workshop for our 2027 Clover College!

Planning is underway for the 2027 4-H Clover College, and organizers are looking for adult and youth instructors to share their skills and talents with young people from across the area.

Clover College provides 4-H members with the opportunity to explore a variety of project areas through hands-on workshops while creating exhibits they can proudly take home and potentially enter at the county fair. Workshops may be offered as either a 55-minute session or a 1-hour and 55-minute session, allowing instructors flexibility in designing engaging learning experiences.

THE TENTATIVE DATE FOR CLOVER COLLEGE IS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2027, AND THE EVENT WILL BE HELD AT UW-EAU CLAIRE AT BARRON COUNTY, 1800 COLLEGE DRIVE, RICE LAKE.



We encourage both adult volunteers and youth leaders to consider teaching a workshop. Whether your expertise is in arts, crafts, food and nutrition, STEM, photography, woodworking, livestock, or another project area, your knowledge can help inspire the next generation of 4-H members.

All instructors and volunteers will receive a complimentary lunch. Workshop supplies may be purchased by the Clover College committee, or instructors may purchase supplies themselves and submit receipts for reimbursement.



THOSE INTERESTED IN TEACHING ARE ASKED TO REGISTER BY DECEMBER 15, 2026, SO WORKSHOPS CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE MEMBER REGISTRATION MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED IN JANUARY.

Clover College is a great opportunity to share your passion, develop leadership skills, and help make learning fun for local youth. Consider joining the instructor team and making a difference in the 4-H experience for young people in our community.

REGISTER NOW

https://go.wisc.edu/pq8qj4

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

- December 3, 2026, 6:30-8:00pm
- December 15, 2026 | 6:30-8:00pm

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)
- Space Camp
- Beyond Wisconsin
- Summer Academy
- American Spirit
- State Ambassador Teams
- National 4-H Congress
- Ignite by 4-H
- Citizenship Washington Focus
- National 4-H Conference

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

YQCA
YOUTH FOR THE QUALITY CARE OF ANIMALS

YQCA Courses will take place at the Polk County Justice Center

Sunday, January 31 at 12:30
Sunday, February 21 at 12:30
Sunday, March 7 at 12:30

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!

Register at yqcaprogram.org

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





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.

SAVE THE DATE

STATE 4-H DAIRY QUIZ BOWL

FEBRUARY 13, 2027

UW GREEN BAY
STEM INNOVATION BUILDING





Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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.



Calling all Cloverbuds

Join us for a fun-filled day of winter-themed learning, crafts, games, and exploration. Cloverbuds will discover how animals survive Wisconsin winters by learning about hibernation, migration, animal tracks, and winter birds.

Youth will create a miniature pinecone Christmas tree, make a bird feeder, build a cozy animal shelter, and enjoy exciting wildlife-themed games with friends.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH 9AM-1PM
JOURNEY CHURCH, 131 BROADWAY ST. E., AMERY

REGISTER NOW

https://go.wisc.edu/cou3jj

Textile Arts Workshops
(Explorer and Up)

Crocheting - Big-Eyed Bendable Worm
January 7, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Balsam Lake Justice Center
Cost: $3
Register by January 1

Embroidery - Knit Hat Design (2 sessions)
January 28 & February 4, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church, 719 Nevada St., SCF
Cost: $5
Register by January 14

Basic Weaving - 3" x 5" Two-Color Weaving
February 18, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church, 719 Nevada St., SCF
Cost: $7
Register by February 4

Needle Felting - 2D Project
March 4, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church, 719 Nevada St., SCF
Cost: $10
Register by February 16

Kinusaiga - Fabric-on-Foam Art
March 18, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church, 719 Nevada St., SCF
Cost: $5
Register by March 3

Sewing Basics Plus - Reversible Table Runner (3 sessions)
April 8, 15 & 22, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church, 719 Nevada St., SCF
Cost: $10
Register by March 25

For all workshops, include the youth's name and age, along with the parent/guardian's name and contact information when registering. Register with Shirley at smillerfrey@gmail.com

HELPFUL TOOLS & 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

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to the Wisconsin team of Jake Binversie, Noah Byl, Lucy Haase, and Agnes Haase for earning 3rd place overall at the 47th North American 4-H Invitational Dairy Quiz Bowl in Louisville, Kentucky! Agnes also placed 1st overall on the written test.



The team represented Wisconsin with pride, competing against youth from 14 states while gaining valuable experience and making lasting memories.



A special thank you to coaches Patti Hurtgen and Gwen Dado for their dedication and support. Congratulations to all participants on a great contest!







Upcoming State Events!

Be sure to mark these upcoming statewide events in your calendar.

ArtBEAT!

- March 12th-14th
- Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center, Wisconsin Dells
- 4-H Members in grades 3-5
- Cost: $160 for Youth Members, $75 for Adult Volunteers

Registration will open in 4-HOnline from Jan. 11th-Feb. 7th.

Youth participants will rotate through a variety of hands-on sessions held at various sites throughout camp, including outdoors (be sure to dress accordingly).

MORE INFO » **https://go.wisc.edu/y8zpgp**

Summer Academy

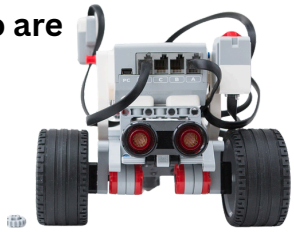
- June 13-17, 2027
- UW-Madison
- 4-H Members in grades 8-11
- Cost $150 per youth

Registration will open in 4-HOnline from March 8th- April 25th

Join us at the UW-Madison Campus for an exciting, hands-on experience at Summer Academy. This Positive Youth Development program helps youth explore career and hobby pathways in various fields like agriculture, STEM, leadership, arts, and more. You'll also have the chance to build friendships and networks with people from across Wisconsin.

MORE INFO » **https://go.wisc.edu/iuui1u**

2027 4-H Robotics Project Workshops



Do you enjoy building, programming, and problem-solving? Youth ages 9-19 who are interested in robotics are invited to participate in the 2027 4-H Robotics Project Workshops. These hands-on sessions are designed to help members develop robotics skills and prepare for the Pre-Fair Run Off.

Participants can choose from several robotics project options:

- **Sphero Balls – Learn programming through a variety of challenges and increasingly advanced activities.**
- **EV3 Robots – Build a robot from a kit and program it to complete challenges.**
- **Junk Box Robotics – Design and build a robot using recycled and everyday materials while incorporating programming concepts.**

Workshop Schedule

- **JANUARY 12 – KICKOFF/ORIENTATION (ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST ATTEND), 6:30-8:00 P.M.**
- **January 26 – EV3 Robotics, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**
- **February 9 – EV3 Robotics, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**
- **February 23 – EV3 Robotics, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**
- **March 9 – EV3 Robotics, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**
- **March 30 – Sphero & EV3, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**
- **April 20 – Sphero & EV3, 6:30-8:00 p.m.**
- **May 15 – Sphero & EV3, 4:00-5:30 p.m.**
- **June 26 – Sphero & EV3, 4:00-5:30 p.m.**
- **Pre-Fair Run Off (Tentative) – July 17, 12:30 p.m. until completion.**



Registration

Registration is limited and will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis due to the number of available robotics kits. Questions and registrations should be directed to Shirley Miller Frey at smillerfrey@gmail.com.

Name of Youth:
Age of Youth:
Youth Wants To Work With (Please X the Line):

Shero Balls:
EV3 Robots:
Both:
“Junk Box Robots”:

4-H Club:
Is Youth Registered in the Robotics Project?
Does Youth want to Show Robotics at the Polk County Fair?
Name of Parent
Contact Phone Number for Parent:
Email Address for Parent:

Workshop Location

All workshops and the Pre-Fair Run Off will be held at First Presbyterian Church, 719 Nevada Street, St. Croix Falls.

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







Club News

Pleasant Lake & Forest View



Members of the Pleasant Lake and Forest View 4-H Clubs recently came together for a fun and educational sewing project day. Eight 4-H youth participated in the hands-on workshop, where they learned the basics of sewing while creating their own small bags.



Participants gained experience with important sewing skills, including threading sewing machines, operating the machines safely, and stitching their projects together.

Pleasant Lake & Forest View

Everyone did an excellent job, and it was exciting to see the creativity and pride displayed in each finished project. The day was filled with learning, teamwork, and fun, making it a successful experience for all involved.



Indian Creek

Members of the Indian Creek 4-H Club recently gathered for a club meeting filled with laughter, teamwork, and friendly competition as they participated in a variety of Minute-to-Win-It games.



Indian Creek

The fast-paced activities challenged members to complete fun tasks within 60 seconds, encouraging problem-solving, cooperation, and quick thinking. Youth enjoyed cheering each other on and testing their skills while building friendships and having fun together.





The games provided a great opportunity for members to strengthen teamwork and communication skills in an engaging and supportive environment. The evening was a success, and everyone enjoyed the chance to connect and make lasting memories with fellow 4-H members.

Cushing



The Cushing 4-H Club had an exciting November meeting filled with service, learning, and fun. Members organized a food drive and participated in a club rush, where they showcased projects they had completed throughout the year.





Club & Project News

Cushing

Before the meeting, Foods Project members baked pumpkin and banana muffins for the club snack. Cloverbuds explored STEM by building tall structures with toothpicks and candy pumpkins and testing homemade catapults. The meeting was a great opportunity for members to learn new skills, share their accomplishments, and enjoy hands-on activities together.







Cloverbud Day Camp

Cloverbud members enjoyed a fun-filled Halloween-themed Day Camp in October, packed with hands-on learning and seasonal activities. Youth created their own playdough, designed seed mosaics, and made bat puppets and edible magic wands using chocolate-covered pretzels.









Cloverbud Day Camp

Participants also prepared "graveyard dirt" treats with pudding, crushed cookies, and gummy worms, while learning about the apple life cycle through an interactive activity. The day provided opportunities for creativity, exploration, and learning in a festive Halloween setting.



National Dairy Judging Compitition

Darby Trent represented Wisconsin as a member of the Wisconsin 4-H All-Star Dairy Judging Team at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Kentucky. Competing alongside three other youth from across the state, the team earned an impressive 4th-place overall finish in the national competition.



National Dairy Judging Compitition

The event provided team members with the opportunity to showcase their dairy judging skills, represent Wisconsin on a national stage, and gain valuable experience competing against top youth from across North America. Congratulations to Darby and the entire team on this outstanding achievement!









4-H News

2026 FALL FORUM
NOVEMBER 6TH- 8TH

This year, four Polk County 4-H youth represented our county at Fall Forum, Wisconsin 4-H's premier statewide leadership and training conference.. Held annually, Fall Forum brings together youth and adult leaders from across the state to connect, learn, share ideas, and celebrate the impact of 4-H.



Our delegates made the most of the experience by attending educational sessions, building leadership skills, networking with 4-H members from other counties, and participating in statewide discussions about the future of 4-H.



In addition, our youth stepped into leadership roles by presenting workshops and sharing their knowledge with other conference participants. A huge congratulations goes out to Alison Emerson and Josephine Kuhl on their successful workshop "Mission Mozzarella".

If you are looking for opportunities to grow your leadership skills, meet new friends from across Wisconsin, and bring fresh ideas back to your club and community, consider attending Fall Forum next year. Youth in grades 7-13 and adult volunteers are encouraged to participate in this exciting statewide event that focuses on youth-adult partnerships, leadership development, and creating welcoming spaces for all young people.

Thank you to those youth who took time out of their busy schedules to attend. We hope even more youth and adult volunteers will join us at next year's Fall Forum experience!





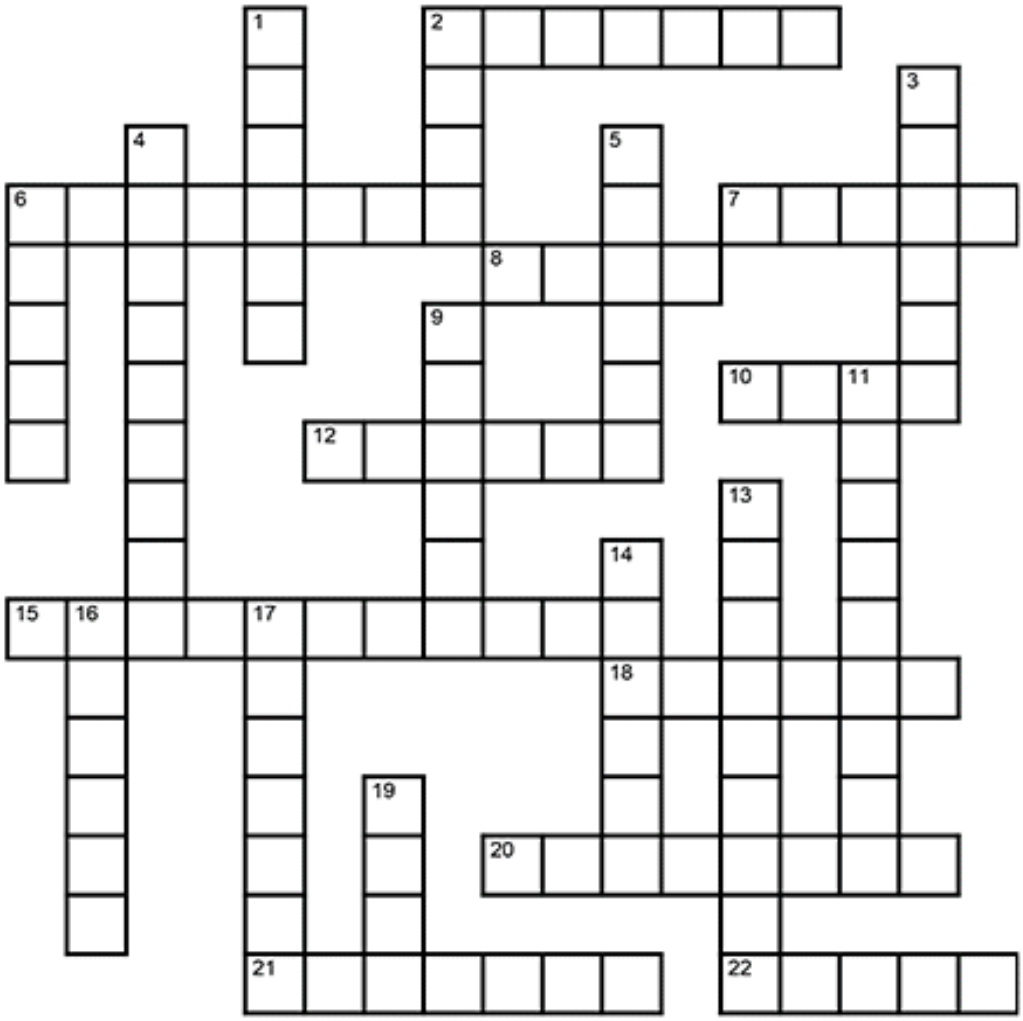
Winter Crossword

Across

2. Knitted top.
6. Snowstorm with winds.
7. Month that winter ends in.
8. When the air moves.
10. A sudden blast of wind.
12. Shake from the cold.
15. Tells you how cold it is outside.
18. Rather cold.
20. Month that winter starts in.
21. He might have a carrot for a nose.
22. Keeps you neck warm.

Down

1. Turned into ice.
2. It goes downhill fast.
3. A short coat.
4. What bears do in the winter.
5. Opposite of summer.
6. Shoes for snowy days.
9. Frozen trickle of water.
11. Ice crystal.
13. December 25th.
14. Area around the North Pole.
16. Used to warm a room.
17. Winter hand warmers.
19. Temperature (in Celsius) at which water freezes.





Arctic, Blizzard, Boots, Chilly, Christmas, December, Frozen, Gust, Heater, Hibernate, Icicle, Jacket, March, Mittens, Scarf, Shiver, Sled, Snowflake, Snowman, Sweater, Thermometer, Wind, Winter, Zero

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2026

DECEMBER

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UW-MADISON EXTENSION

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