



UW-MADISON EXTENSION



Iowa County 4-H Clover Connection

September 2025

September 2025

1 - Iowa County Fair

14- Escape Room, HHS Building

26 - Junior Leaders Applications Due

22 - Leaders Association Meeting, 6pm

October 2025

5 - Junior Leaders Banquet, HHS Building

5-11 National 4-H Week

31 - Fall Forum

November 2025

1 - 4-H Re-enrollment for All DUE in 4-H Online

1 - Annual Club Charter Renewal Due Online

3- Record Books & Awards Due to County

3 - Awards and Scholarships Applications Due to the Extension Office (via google docs)

17- Leaders Association Meeting, 6pm

December 2025

7 - Iowa County 4-H Awards Day

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Contact Us

UW Extension- Iowa County
303 W. Chapel St. Suite 1200
Dodgeville, WI 53533
608-930-9850
dan.brandt@wisc.edu
Open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday
iowa.extension.wisc.edu

4-H Leaders

Upcoming Meeting:

Mon. Sept. 22nd

6PM HHS Building

Dodgeville

4-H Leaders

Upcoming Meeting:

Mon. Nov. 17th

6PM HHS Building

Dodgeville

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

Please make requests for reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to educational programs as early as possible preceding the scheduled program, service, or activity. For communicative accommodations in languages other than English, please contact oaic@extension.wisc.edu. For communicative accommodations based on a disability, please contact Heather Lipinski Stelljes at: heather.stelljes@wisc.edu for the public.

NEW Enrollment Deadline

4-H ENROLLMENT DEADLINE

ALL ENROLLMENTS
NOW DUE
NOVEMBER 1ST

Starting this year, November 1st is the statewide enrollment deadline for ALL 4-H youth and volunteers in Wisconsin. Be sure to log in and sign up before then to join all the fun.

Why Enroll in 4-H?

- ☀ Build leadership, communication, and teamwork skills
- 🔧 Explore your interests through hands-on projects in STEM, arts, agriculture, and more
- 🎪 Participate in fun events, camps, and fairs
- 👫 Make new friends and connect with your community
- 🕒 Discover your spark and grow your confidence
- 🎓 Gain experiences that help with college and job readiness
- 💚 Be part of Wisconsin's largest youth development program!



18 USC 707



Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the date of the program or activity for which it is needed. Please do so as early as possible prior to the program or activity so that proper arrangements can be made.

Requests are kept confidential.

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Iowa County 4-H Junior Leaders

IOWA COUNTY 4-H



Become an Iowa County 4-H Junior Leader

This new program is open to all 7th–12th grade 4-H youth and is designed to be more youth-led and self-directed. Members will have the opportunity to elect their own officers and will work together to determine the activities and events they'd like to support and participate in throughout the year.

18 USC 707

The Iowa County 4-H Junior Leaders Association aims to:

Apply by Friday, Sept. 19th



- ✓ Encourage teamwork and collaboration
- ✓ Cultivate leadership skills
- ✓ Foster civic engagement
- ✓ Serve as mentors and role models
- ✓ Support 4-H program growth
- ✓ Enhance youth representation

Scan the QR Code or go to the following google forms link to apply:

<https://forms.gle/mXSNkA3u8gP5vUbQ6>



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Extension Office

UPDATE

As some of you may already know, Tom Harman, our office assistant, has accepted a new position with Iowa County and will no longer be working in the Iowa County Extension Office.

Please Note: Our Office Door is Now Locked During the Day

If you need to drop something off or stop by, please arrange a time in advance and let the appropriate staff member know. There may not always be someone in the Extension Office during the day. Thank you for your understanding!

The county will NOT be filling this position, please direct all inquiries directly to Dan at 608-930-9850 or dan.brandt@wisc.edu.

While we know the extra help has been valuable in past summers, we are committed to continuing our programming and events with enthusiasm and dedication. We appreciate your understanding and support as we adjust to this change. As always, your involvement is what makes our work possible, and we are grateful for everything you do to support youth and families in Iowa County.

4-H Art & Craft Fair

Iowa County 4-H ART & CRAFT SHOW

Iowa County 4-H will be hosting an Art and Craft Show at the Iowa County Fairgrounds.
10'x10' spaces available.

900 Fair St.
Mineral Point, WI 53565

Book &
Register Here



<https://forms.gle/Lhz2emFmx7Qm8YbQ9>

Saturday,
Oct. 25th

9 am
to
2 pm

For more information contact Dan Brandt at
dan.brandt@wisc.edu or 608-930-9850

4-H Awards Day



IOWA COUNTY
2025 **4-H**
Awards Day


SUNDAY
DECEMBER *7th*
AT HHS BUILDING, DODGEVILLE, WI
1:00PM

The Events
AWARD CEREMONY
PROJECT AWARDS
RECORD BOOK WINNERS
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS
KEY AWARD WINNERS

TICKET
FREE
Per Person

4-H Sign Making Class



In August, youth gathered for a hands-on Sign Making Class where they had the opportunity to design and create their own decorative signs. Participants learned how to work with stencils, paint, and embellishments to express their creativity and personalize their projects. This fun and engaging workshop not only allowed youth to develop artistic skills but also encouraged them to explore their individuality and share their creativity with others. The event fostered a positive, collaborative environment where participants supported one another and took pride in their finished signs.



Awards and Scholarships

Google Form Application Link:
<https://forms.gle/tCWNwpamCZhis9Fs5>



Key Award and Scholarships
(Due Monday, Nov. 3rd, 2025)

For more information and a
rubric please visit our county
website.

2025 4-H Volunteer Awards

Updated google forms for all
Volunteer Award Nominations
(Due Monday, Nov. 3rd, 2025)

Volunteer Nomination Form – 10 years and
Under

Google Form Application Link:

<https://forms.gle/HxXSF84B3nFacNS6A>



Volunteer Nomination Form – Over 10 Years
Google Form Application Link:

<https://forms.gle/uqf5VX29U8uDR7tM7>





2025 4-H Volunteer News

Starting this year:

- * One training video to watch (done through 4-H Online)
- * Background Check every two years (separate email from HireRight)

NOTE: This training and background check needs to be completed by Nov. 1st.

If you are in need of a paper copy please contact Dan.

Volunteer 

4-H Escape Room



You're Invited



4-H Junior Leaders



Escape Room



The Leadership Challenge

Unlock your skills - Solve Puzzles - Have fun



Solve riddles
& puzzles



Work as a
team



Unlock the
Leadership Box



Celebrate with
snacks & prizes!

Date: Sunday, Sept. 14th

Time: 6PM

Location: HHS Building, Dodgeville, WI

FREE to attend! Open to ALL

4-H Youth Grades 7-12

Please Pre-register by Friday, Sept. 12 by emailing

Dan at dan.brandt@wisc.edu

GROWING YOU, GROWING YOUTH

How Do I Get Parents and Caregivers More Involved?

Take a moment to think about the parents and caregivers who are part of your 4-H clubs or project groups. Are they engaged and active, or quiet and detached?

Having actively engaged parents and caregivers helps not only to lighten your load but also brings diversity to the club experience. They bring a variety of knowledge and abilities!

So how can we go about securing the assistance and involvement of this crucial group? First, we have to think about communication. General announcements are not invitations. Announcements are great for letting everyone know that help is needed, but you will need to move towards direct asks or invitations. You will have better success by specifically asking individuals if they can assist with specific roles on a specific day and time. Here is an example:

Announcement: "Our club is marching in the parade this weekend. Who will be there?"

Invitation: "Susan, can you and your son hold the club sign during the parade on Saturday from 9:00-9:45?"

It is also important to survey new parents and caregivers about their abilities and capacity to help out. There is a great printable survey to keep on hand for new attendees that will help you to identify this. It is also a great idea to have a conversation that 4-H is typically a family event meant for everyone.

Link to the printable survey:

<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/ncrvd/files/2024/08/2.1-4-H-Parent-and-Caregiver-Interest-Survey-2024.pdf>

Link to parent welcome video that you can also play at the beginning of the year:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4C_3ULlwtQo



Policy Spotlight



Is your club or project considering doing an activity that involves swimming? Lifeguards are a must! Head to our main policy page, and scroll until you hit the swimming tab!

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/resources/wisconsin-4-h-policies/4-h-project-and-activity-policies/>



Where in Iowa County?



Can you guess where in Iowa County this photo was taken? If you have a guess email Dan at: dan.brandt@wisc.edu to submit your answer and look in next month's issue to learn the location.

Last months answer: Hyde's Mill, Ridgeway, WI

4-H At Home

Fall

SCIENCE IN THE SEASONS:

THE LIFE OF A PUMPKIN

WHY DO PUMPKINS ROT?

You've carved a beautiful pumpkin, set it outside, and now it's starting to fall apart, smell, and get gross! So what is happening? It's called decomposition, or breaking down and falling apart. All fruits and vegetables do this. First, your pumpkin will get soft and change color. It will smell different and maybe grow mold. There also might be some insects that move in, and finally it will return to the soil.



YOU WILL NEED:

- a carved pumpkin or fruit
- notebook
- pen
- camera (optional)

LET'S EXPERIMENT

Grab your carved pumpkin or an apple, for example, and place it outside. With a helper, write down some notes. What do you see? Visit your fruit or vegetable each day with your notebook to capture changes as it decomposes. How does it smell? What does the mold look like? Can you look closer with a magnifying glass? What sorts of insects are on your fruit or vegetable?

Feel free to take daily pictures and compare.



LIFE LESSON: Did you notice that your pumpkin helped a lot of other things while it broke down? It provided food and shelter. Can you think of ways to provide food to others? Could you organize a food drive, and donate it to a local pantry? How about working a shift at a pantry, too?



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