

THE INFORMANT NEWSLETTER



PIERCE COUNTY - - - - - JAN/FEB 2022

Hello All 4-Her's and Volunteers,

Welcome to 2022! New year, new look, new faces and new chapter! This year we are looking forward to new opportunities, partnerships and programming. But, don't worry! As the saying goes, if it isn't broke don't fix it! Many of the programming and events that you know and love about Pierce County 4-H will not be changing! We would love to hear from you about what 4-H activities and events you are excited about this year AND what new 4-H activity ideas you have. Please fill out the 4-H activities and events comments form (pg. 7) if you have comments and email them to me, sky.holt@wisc.edu, or drop them off at the Extension Office.

Thank you,

Sky

January 2022

Jan. 5: WI-Flavored Science, 7pm, Zoom
Jan. 8: Swine Workshop, 10am-Noon, A Butchery Shoppe in Spring Valley
Jan. 12: WI-Flavored Science, 7pm, Zoom
Jan. 14: Genealogy Project Registration Due
Jan. 15: YQCA 9am, Ellsworth High School Cafetorium
Jan. 15: Livestock Rules Meeting, 10am, Ellsworth High School Cafetorium
Jan. 19: Wildlife & Woods Virtual Class (Wonderful Wetlands), 7-8pm, Zoom
Jan. 22: Sheep Workshop, 9am, Spring Valley High School Ag. Room
Jan. 22: Goat Workshop, 11am, Spring Valley High School Ag. Room
Jan. 22: Instructor Certification (Archery, Indoor Range) East Central Shawano, Time: TBD
Jan. 26: Genealogy Project Zoom, 6:30pm
Jan. 29: Leadership Day. 10am-2pm at the River Falls Public Library
Jan. 31: Leader Training. 6:30-8pm, Virtual via Zoom

**4-H
FAMILY
CALENDAR**

4-H FAMILY CALENDAR

February 2022

Feb. 5: Instructor Certification (Archery, Pistol/Air Pistol, Rifle/Air Rifle, indoor ranges) Located in Southeastern West Bend, WI. Time: TBD

Feb. 15: WI State Arts Teams Application Due

Feb. 15: COUNTY CLUB DUES DUE!!! \$3 PER

Feb. 16: Wildlife & Woods Virtual Class (Hot Desert), 7-8pm, Zoom

Feb. 21: YQCA, 6pm, Location is TBD

Feb. 21: Livestock Rules Meeting, 7pm, Location TBD

Feb. 23: Virtual Genealogy Workshop, 6:30pm, Zoom

March 2022

Mar. 6: New Market Beef Weigh-in, Noon-3pm, Pierce County Fair Grounds

Mar. 16: Wildlife & Woods (City Wildlife), 7-8pm, Zoom

Mar. 30: Virtual Genealogy Workshop, Time: TBD, Zoom

April 2022

Apr. 1&2: WHEP & Forestry Contest (Manual www.whep.org/)

Apr. 1&2: WHEP & Forestry 4-H Art Contest

Apr. 20: Wildlife & Woods (Great Lakes), 7-8pm, Zoom

Apr. 27: Virtual Genealogy Workshop, 6:30pm, Zoom

Apr. 30: Instructor Certifications (Archery, Rifle/Air Rifle, Shotgun) Located in Eastern Green Bay, WI. Time: TBD

May 2022

May 21: Instructor Certifications (Archery, Rifle/Air Rifle, Shotgun) Located in Western Eau Claire, WI. Time: TBD

May 21: The Pierce County Getaway Shoot, River Falls, WI

August 2022

Aug. 11-14: Future Fair Dates for 2022

September 2022

2021-2022 WI 4-H ANNUAL LEADER TRAINING!

Pierce County will be offering the opportunity for participants to join virtually.

If you do not have access to internet or know of someone with limited internet please reach out you/they are able to use the annex building, for your/their virtual needs. Please email Beth McIlquham at beth-mac321@gmail.com or call 715-273-6781 to register for the annex building. Mask required.

January 31, 2021: Learn Together, Lead Together: Equal Voices, Roles and Participation

Time: 6:30-8:00pm

Options: Participate virtually, registering using this link: <https://go.wisc.edu/vze9e3>



When you register, you will receive the zoom connection information and access to handouts and materials.

COVID-19 GUIDELINES

At County buildings/land: (example annex building and fair grounds buildings)

Indoors: -Must fill out a Pierce County 4-H Event/Meeting Form stating necessity of meeting/event (link below) - Masks required -Distance for 6 ft between non-family members

Outside: -Must be 6 ft between non-family members - Non-county building/land: (example school, church, or event center)

For all Extension programs, we ask that individuals who are not fully vaccinated, including all youth under 12, wear a proper-fitting mask indoors. If you feel a meeting/event is necessary for committees/groups to take up a matter in doors requiring timely action, limiting the total number of attendees and masks will be necessary. I have added a link to a google form for in person meetings/events, please fill out and submit this form if you feel you have a meeting that absolutely cannot be completed over outside or over zoom.

Pierce County 4-H Event/Meeting Form (google.com)

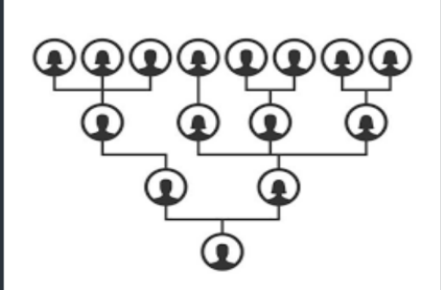
TIME CAPSULE TIME!

In partnership with the Fair Board, Pierce County 4-H Clubs and Committees has been asked to participate in a Time Capsule. If your club or committee would like to participate, please gather 4-6 2020-2021 4-H items no bigger than 12x24 inch that could be folded if need and placed into the time capsule (projects, pictures, posters, etc.) Please bring items to the Extension Office by January 14th.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-
EXTENSION & THE PIERCE COUNTY
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



**VIRTUAL
GENEALOGY
WORKSHOP**


Learn about your family tree!



JANUARY 26 | 6:30 PM
FEBRUARY 23 | 6:30 PM
MARCH 30 | TBD
APRIL 27 | 6:30 PM

Go to <https://forms.gle/EG6XpXndjGPtnqUu6>
to register for this awesome educational opportunity!

**Extension**
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



FUNDRAISE FOR PIERCE COUNTY 4-H BY SHOPPING ON AMAZON BY USING AMAZONSMILE!

Remember, if you want AmazonSmile to donate to Pierce County 4-H you can do it by searching "Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, Ellsworth, WI" you need to start each shopping session with the AmazonSmile turned ON in the Amazon Shopping app or on the website, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases.



THE ANNUAL VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

that is normally held in early December is postponed for this year but we hope to hold it next Spring! Watch your 2022 Newsletters for more information. Club Leaders will be sent the rules and registration once planning has started

Feb 15th, County Club Dues deadline-\$3 per

WI STATE FAIR YOUTH EXPO EXHIBITS

There have been many questions about the process for nominating and selecting exhibits for WI State Fair. Youth Expo is run by the WI State Fair. We understand participating in the Youth Expo has provided recognition and acknowledgement of outstanding 4-H project work statewide.

If you are interested in being part of a team of youth leaders, adult volunteers and staff to meet with WI State Fair Staff e-mail Amber at amber.rehberg@wisc.edu.

We believe ALL of these educational programs are valuable and make a difference in the lives of the participants and the WI 4-H Program. Unfortunately, our current situation does not allow us to offer some of them in 2022. As new state staff are hired, programs will be re-evaluated based on program direction, priorities, and staff capacity.

Many young people were selected to represent Wisconsin 4-H during COVID. We want to honor commitments and we need to be sensitive to specific program goals and objectives. As programs are planned, we will be clear with age and participation plans.



STATE ARTS TEAMS!

Applications are available for the 2022 Wisconsin 4-H State Teams! Do you love to sing, dance, act, write, speak, or draw? This may be for you!

Youth in grades 9-13 can apply to join the State Drama Company and State Arts Team for 2022. Teams help to lead WI 4-H & Youth Conference, perform at State Fair, help conduct the State Art Show, and much more! You can find out more information at the [State Arts Teams website](#).

Applications are open in 4HOnline and close on February 15, 2022. Review the application pages for full information on what is required to apply. We hope to have you join us on one of our State Teams!



4-H SCIENCE

WISCONSIN-FLAVORED SCIENCE AT "WEDNESDAY NITE AT THE LAB" BY ZOOM

4-H youth & adult volunteers: tune in to the "Wednesday Nite @ The Lab" Zoom at 7pm to learn from UW-Madison researchers.

- January 12 – John Berry from Chemistry shows us how to "Harness Energy from Ammonia"

See <https://science.wisc.edu/wednesday-nite-at-the-lab/>.

Zoom at go.wisc.edu/240r59.

JOIN OTHER PIERCE COUNTY 4-HERS FOR A FUN-FILLED LEADERSHIP DAY!

This event will occur on January 29 from 10 am to 2 pm at the River Falls Public Library. Youth in 7th grade and older are welcome as we dive into topics surrounding leadership and its importance in 4-H. Use this link to register: <https://forms.gle/GWNVG7a7eDpANFL59>

PIERCE COUNTY 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS NEWS

The 2022 Shooting Sports season has not been determined yet but we will be working on it soon! Please watch for more information to come via email in late January or early February.

Save the Date! The Pierce County Gateway Shoot is planned for May 21, 2022 at the River Falls Sportsmen's Club! This is a statewide shoot hosted by Pierce County 4-H Shooting Sports.

Interested in becoming a 4-H shooting sports instructor?

Here is the list of Instructor certification workshops coming up in 2022.

- ~**January 22**, East Central, Shawano, WI (Archery, indoor range)
- ~**February 5**, Southeastern, West Bend, WI (Archery, Pistol/Air Pistol, Rifle/Air Rifle, indoor ranges)
- ~**April 30**, Eastern, Green Bay, WI (Archery, Rifle/Air Rifle, Shotgun)
- ~**May 21**, Western, Eau Claire, WI (Archery, Rifle/Air Rifle, Shotgun)
- ~**September 17**, Central, Marshfield, WI (Archery, Coordinator, Pistol/Air Pistol, Rifle/Air Rifle, Shotgun)

For registration details, please visit this link: <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/projects/shooting-sports/leader-certification-training-workshops/>

Adults interested in becoming a 4-H Shooting Sports instructor must be approved 4-H leaders enrolled in 4-H Online. Certification workshop registration is only offered through your family 4-H Online account. If you have additional questions please feel free to reach out to us as well. We are best reached by email at: piercecounty4hshootingsports@gmail.com

PIERCE COUNTY 4-H/FFA LIVESTOCK NEWS

New Market Beef Weigh-in Date: Sunday, March 6, 2022 from NOON-3pm

The weigh in will be held in the scale house at the Pierce County Fairgrounds. We will use the same process that was emailed out for the original weigh in date. We will also email a reminder out closer to the date with complete weigh-in information. Please email the livestock committee if you have questions.

- All market steers & heifers **MUST** be weighed at this weigh in to be shown at the fair! This is a requirement per the fairbook.
- Market feeders & breeding stock animals do not need to be weighed in.
- Please remember that animals should halter broke.
- Please have a halter on your animals when you bring them to the weigh in.

Beef Superintendent Change:

We would like to welcome Katie Christenson as the new Pierce County Beef Superintendent. Katie is the Ag Teacher & FFA Advisor from Ellsworth High School. We are happy to have her join us. If you have questions for her feel free to give her a call. Her phone number is listed on the livestock rules that have been sent out to all livestock exhibitors. A big Thank You to Kurt & Nettie Nelson who have decided to step down after dedicating six years as beef superintendents. We appreciate all you have done!

YQCA & Rules Meetings

All livestock exhibitors planning to show beef, goats, sheep or swine at the 2022 Pierce County Fair are required to attend a rules meeting **AND** complete the annual YQCA training. There are two remaining dates available to attend a Rules meeting. Parents are not required but strongly encouraged to attend the rules meetings as well.

There are also only two more remaining opportunities to take the YQCA (Youth for Quality Care of Animals) training in person. However, it may also be completed online at yqca.org. Once you have completed the YQCA training, you may send an electronic copy of your certificate to the livestock committee at: piercecountylivestockcommittee@gmail.com.

Here are the remaining dates that have been scheduled: **Pre-registration is required & space is limited**

Saturday, January 15, 2022 @ Ellsworth High School Cafetorium

YQCA will begin @ 9am; Rules Mtg will begin @ 10am

Monday, February 21, 2022 @ Ellsworth High School Cafetorium

YQCA will begin @ 6pm; Rules Mtg will begin @ 7pm

* If you are required to take the YQCA for another species such as dairy, you only need to take it one time per year. You do not have to take it multiple times for multiple project areas.

You will need to sign up for both the rules meetings & the YQCA separately. If you have questions please contact the Livestock Committee by email at: piercecountylivestockcommittee@gmail.com

Upcoming Workshops

Don't forget all livestock exhibitors that plan to show beef, goats, sheep or swine are also required to attend at least one workshop for each species you plan to show at the 2022 Fair - this is in addition to the YQCA & Rules meetings. The YQCA & Rules meetings do not count towards the workshop requirement. Also please remember that you will need to fill out the WYL Educational form for the workshops you attend. It will be emailed out with workshop reminders and is also available on our website at: www.piercecountylivestock.weebly.com

Swine workshop: January 8, 2022: 10-noon @ A Butchery Shoppe in Spring Valley

- Youth will learn how a hog is broken down, how sausage & bacon are made & may even get to try a few samples!
- In the event that we would need to cancel for weather related reasons, a snow-date will be planned for January 22nd. Same time, same place!

Sheep & Goat Workshops: January 22, 2022: Sheep & Goat workshops @ - Spring Valley High School Ag Room

- Sheep Meeting @ 9am
- Goat Meeting @ 11am
- Both meetings will be on basic nutrition & selection for beginners with an emphasis on Market animals.
- RSVPs are strongly encouraged because of hands-on activities. Please RSVP to the livestock committee at piercecountylivestockcommittee@gmail.com or to Kaylee at: black-sheep21@outlook.com
- Questions about this workshop should be directed to Kaylee at the email address above.
- All other project questions should be directed to the livestock committee

[Fillable WYL Educational Form](#)



Youth Livestock Educational Event Verification Form*

This form is to be used for events, workshops, and online learning opportunities

Name _____ Age _____

Club/Organization _____

Name of Event/Workshop/Online _____

Location of the Event/Workshop/Online _____

Event/Online Date _____ Event Length (Hours) _____

Topics Covered _____

5 things I learned at this event.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Indicate **2 ways** how you will use this information in your project.

1. _____
2. _____

Parent Signature: _____
Printed name Signature

Email _____

If you have any papers such as a flyer, registration, and/or handouts, please staple material to back of form.

Mail or Email to: Check with your county office on how this should be received.

FOR PROJECT VOLUNTEER USE ONLY

____ Approved ____ Not Approved (If not approved, please explain why and mark date/how youth was notified)

*Adapted with permission from Sauk County UW Division of Extension



Pierce County 4-H Activities & Events Comments Form

What are the 3 main activities and events that are important to have each year, new or existing:

1. What is the activity:

Why is it important?

Who should be responsible for providing it?

2. What is the activity:

Why is it important?

Who should be responsible for providing it?

3. What is the activity:

Why is it important?

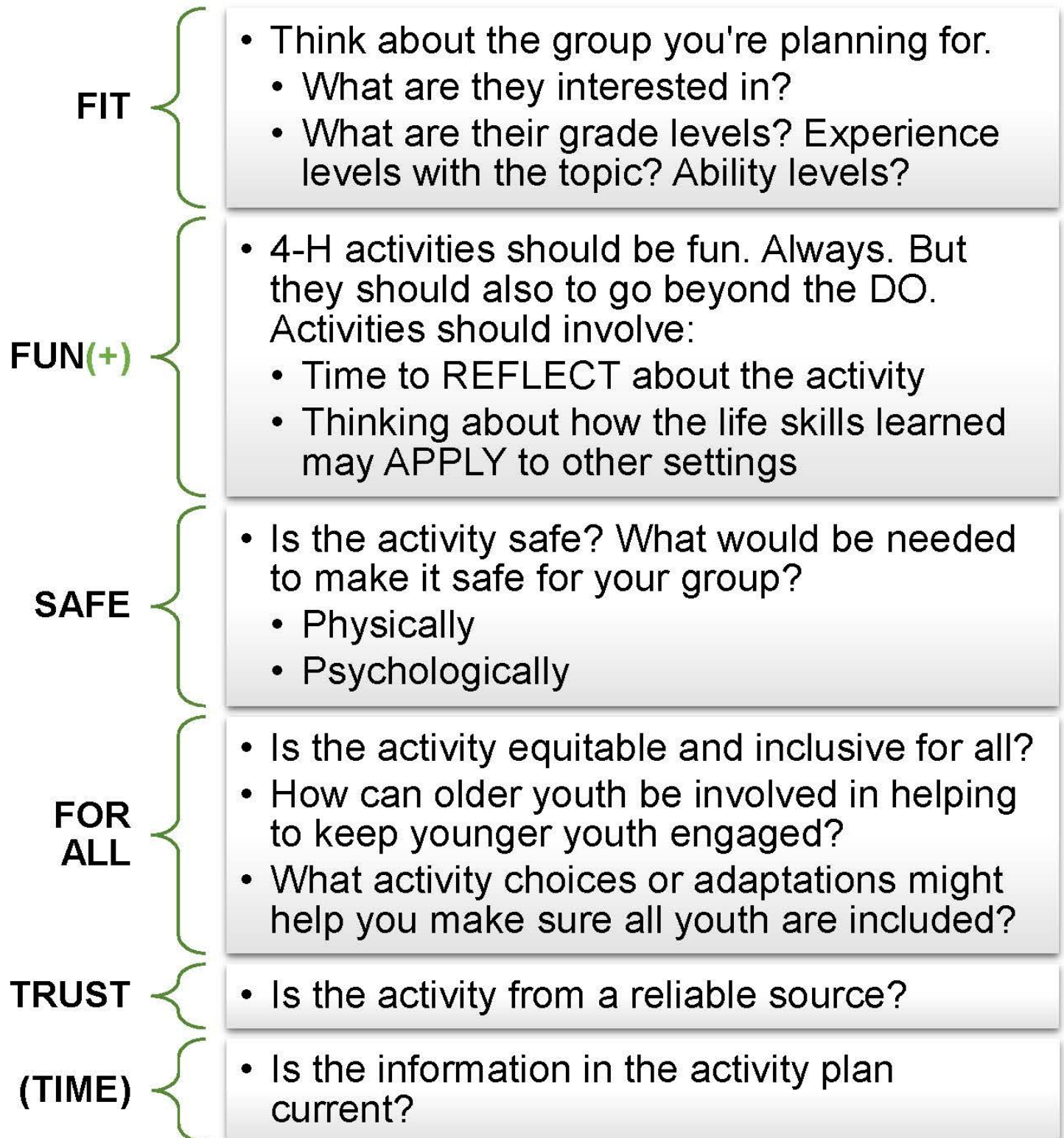
Who should be responsible for providing it?



Choosing the Right Activity

April 2020

When choosing an activity for an individual or a group of youth, volunteers are encouraged to consider the following:



FIT—Think about the group you're planning for.

- **What are they interested in?**—Connect to what sparks youths' interest. If you have a large group with wide interests, make sure you offer a variety of activities from one event to the next.
- **What are their grade levels? Experience levels with the topic? Ability levels?**—Asking these questions helps us meet the youth where they are. It helps to understand the characteristics of different ages of young people. However, we may need to ask youth to find out how much experience or skill they have with a topic.

FUN(+)—4-H activities should be fun. Always. In positive youth development, most activities also follow the Experiential Learning Model. This means the youth get to DO something in a hands-on way. Then, the volunteer supports learning by providing time to REFLECT about the activity and the chance to think about how the life skills learned may APPLY to other settings. This allows youth to build on what they learned creating a FUN+ situation, every time.

SAFE—Is the activity safe? What would be needed to make it safe for your group?

- **Physical safety** means different things at different ages. For youth in grades K-2, physical safety means the activity should be so safe that even if they don't follow the directions, they still won't be hurt. For older teens who need to be able to take bigger risks, physical safety means preparing them and minimizing the risks we know about.
- **Psychological safety** means that young people feel mentally and emotionally safe. In a positive youth development setting, this means feeling a sense of belonging and having positive interactions with others. All youth need to feel included in a meaningful way, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, sexual orientations, or ability.

FOR ALL—Is the activity equitable and inclusive for all? How can older youth be involved in helping to keep younger youth engaged? What activity choices or adaptations might help you make sure all youth are included?

These questions provide an opportunity to dig deeper into the FIT discussed above. FIT was for the group; FOR ALL is for individuals who may feel left out for one reason or another. Consider what may make an individual youth feel excluded—such as language, culture, ability, background or other factors—from the activity and think about what adaptations might be needed to make sure everyone can participate equitably.

TRUST—Fun, engaging activities are not hard to find on the Internet. A simple Google or Pinterest search turns up an overwhelming number of possibilities. However, most of these activities will not include the (+) discussed in FUN(+). Using Extension or University resources increases the likelihood of finding activities that have both the FUN and the (+).

(TIME)—Unfortunately, many activities exist that are old or out-of-date. When choosing an activity, take a moment to consider how the world has changed since the resource was created. Consider things like how technology or communication has changed, the words we use to talk to or about people, and other changes over the last few decades. What updates might need to make the resource current and timely?

Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H Wisconsin 4-H Forestry



Website <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/projects/outdoor-education/>

Email: wi4hwildlifeforestry@gmail.com

“TRACKS” - December 2021



Participation in wildlife & forestry activities are open to all Wisconsin 4-H club members. You can be enrolled in any 4-H project and participate in the activities.

Wildlife WHEP & Forestry 4-H Friends,

Astronomy is one of the oldest natural sciences. Humans have been using the stars and planets to navigate, establish calendars and understand natural phenomenon. One of the oldest and most recognizable constellations is the Big Dipper. The Big Dipper is a clipped version of the constellation Ursa Major the Greater Bear, with the Big Dipper stars outlining the Bear's tail and hindquarters. In the lore of the Mi'kmaq nation in northern Canada, the Big Dipper is a Celestial Bear, and the three stars of the handle are hunters chasing the Bear. In autumn, the hunters finally catch up with the Bear and it's said that the blood from the Bear colors the landscape. When the Celestial Bear is seen on the northern horizon in late fall and early winter evenings, it's a sign that the hibernation season is upon us. The Big Dipper moves about 4 minutes per day - arriving in its same spot one year later. How can you tell stars from planets and satellites? The planets follow about the same path as the sun. During the day, pay attention to where the sun travels across the sky. After dark, look along the same path for the planets. Planets reflect a steady light. With binoculars, a star is a point of light while a planet looks round. The best time to spot a satellite is about one hour after sunset. Since satellites don't have flashing lights like airplanes you will only see them when they are in sunlight. After sunset, it is dark on earth, but satellites are so high that the sun is still shining on them. Most satellites move from west to east.

2022 Wildlife & Woods Virtual Classes – Coming Soon! More Wildlife and Woods Virtual Sessions. Wildlife and Woods is Wisconsin 4-H's statewide natural sciences, wildlife, and forestry virtual event.

Outdoor enthusiasts get to connect with other 4-H youth grades 3-13 from around the state. Together, we explore the natural world with a special focus on wildlife, wildlife habitats, and forests. Participants learn about wild places across the United States following the 4-H Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP) and the 4-H Forestry Program. Each month focuses on a different habitat, some of its plants and critters. Materials are designed for all ages and knowledge levels, so everyone can benefit. Since the sessions are co-led by youth and adult leaders, the youth leadership opportunities are plentiful.

Youth leaders can research about wildlife, trees, management concepts and management practices; prepare slides; lead activities; present topics from slides; record videos; or read announcements. Youth leaders also meet virtually the week before for prep and practice. Being a part of this team is great preparation for WHEP and Forestry competitions. For more information or to join the Wildlife & Woods Leader Team, contact: Shannon Stege: wi4hwildlifeforestry@gmail.com

To register for the virtual sessions, watch your e-mail for a message from 4-H online. The registration link will also be in the January TRACKS Newsletter. Mark your 2022 calendars for the third Wednesdays, 7- 8 pm. Jan 19 - Wonderful Wetlands; Feb 16 - Hot Desert; Mar 16 - City Wildlife; Apr 20 - Great Lakes

WHEP & Forestry Contest – April 1st & 2nd, 2022. It's time to start preparing for the upcoming contest. Most of the contest questions come out of the following manuals. The “Wildlife Management Concepts & Terms” is the best place to start learning the wildlife basics. The National WHEP (Wildlife Habitat Education Program) Manual www.whep.org/ and the National Forestry Manual www.4hforestryinvitation.org/ are nationally accredited resources. It's also available at <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/projects/outdoor-education/> or email us anytime. Please email us and we will let you know which animals will be covered in the contest.

Wildlife WHEP & Forestry 4-H Art Contest – April 1st & 2nd, 2022. It's time to start taking pictures and getting ideas for entries in the upcoming contest. There are 18 categories & 4 groups: K-5-2nd grade, 3-6th grade, 7-9th grade, & 10-13th grade.

Do you need wildlife & forestry activities to do in your county? Wildlife WHEP WI 4-H & Wisconsin 4-H Forestry committee members and youth leaders can do age specific hands-on activities in your county. We'll train your youth and adult leaders at the same time. Parents, youth, and adult leaders are encouraged to participate to find out how easy it is to lead these hands-on activities. Contact us anytime and reserve your program dates.

We have topic suggestions for you on the “Backyard & Back 40” Wildlife & Forestry Activities – Just let us know and we'll email you: Wildlife/Forestry Activities - Anytime or Anywhere, along with Wildlife WHEP and Forestry Class Topics. There are topics for every interest and age group in the listings and we have more topics if needed. 1.) Raising Beetles to control Invasive Purple Loosestrife, 2.) Building Bat Houses, 3.) Improving Habitat for Pollinators, 4.) Building Butterfly/Rain Gardens & Project Milkweed, 5.) Improving Habitat for Migrating Land Birds & Bird Watching, 6.) Improving Upland Bird Habitats, 7.) Water & Riparian Areas Improvements, 8.) Forestry Fundamentals & Management Practices, 9.) Trees for Wildlife, Recreation, & A Renewable Resource, 10.) Maps, Topography, Compass, & GPS, 11.) Viewing Wildlife & Camera Hunting, 12.) And more.

Kerri, “TRACKS” Editor

Special Thanks are extended to the following for making the “Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H” & “Wisconsin 4-H Forestry” programs possible: Northern Kettle Moraine Chapter of Whitetails Unlimited, Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H & Forestry – Washington County; Safari Club International (SCI) Wisconsin Chapter; Wisconsin Chapter of National Wild Turkey Federation; Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H & Wisconsin 4-H Forestry Friends & State Committee Members. Wildlife WHEP Wisconsin 4-H & Wisconsin 4-H Forestry Advisor: Carlea Liermann, Calumet Co. 4-H Program Educator



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Pierce County



The Citizenship Washington Focus trip experiences living history at Mount Vernon.



Delegates learning together about Community Service in Oregon.

Guide to Creating an Application and Cover Letter for 4-H Award Trips and the World Beyond!

WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO RETURN TO THE EXTENSION OFFICE BY FEBRUARY 22nd

- ◆ A 4-H Award Trip Preference Form.
- ◆ A Cover Letter.
- ◆ One letter of recommendation from any adult except a relative.
- ◆ A refundable \$50 trip application fee

LOOK AT THE OPPORTUNITIES WHICH AWAIT YOU!

Now that you have recently completed a 4-H club year, I hope that you are planning to return for an exciting new 4-H year filled with many opportunities, especially for our older 4-H youth.

A variety of opportunities exist for Pierce County 4-H older youth. These opportunities are shared with you in hopes that you will consider getting involved.

Each year, the Pierce County 4-H Leaders' Council recommends youth for a variety of award trips available only to our 6th -12th graders. To be considered for any one of the trip and award possibilities, you **MUST** complete the Trip Preference form, Cover Letter, and acquire **ONE** adult recommendation **by February 22nd**. This is used for FIVE (7th & 8th grade Adventure), Space Camp, Wisconsin 4-H & Youth Conference, American Spirit, Citizenship Washington Focus, National Congress, and nominations for any other national trips. After a 4-H record book is completed and the 4-H Cover Letter is accepted in to the Extension Office, continuing nominees will be invited to Interviews for the trip and award recommendation process. Bring your Record Book to the Interview if chosen. Interviews will be held on

Remember...you will not know how far you could have gone or what you could have received until you try. Good Luck!!

We are looking for interested older youth to be considered for something special!

Don't miss out on opportunities which await you!!



Trip delegates at Olympic National Park in Washington

NOTE: If you have questions regarding what is expected or how to complete the application, please call the Extension Pierce County Office (715-273-6781) or email Sky Holt (sky.holt@wisc.edu). We will be happy to set up a time to help you with your application!

AWARD TRIPS FOR PIERCE COUNTY 4-H OLDER YOUTH

Trip	Description	Dates & Cost to Delegates
Space Camp Grades 6-8	4-H Missions in Space is a fun filled extended weekend in April at the U.S. Rocket and Space Center in Huntsville, Alabama Maximum age is 15 by time of program to participate. Counselors may be in 9th-10th grade.	NOT AVAILABLE IN 2022
FIVE – 7th & 8th Grade Adventure Trip (Finding Interesting Varieties in Everyone) Grades 7-8	FIVE diversity trip delegates enjoy learning about multiculturalism (appreciating different cultures) in a diverse location closer to home. This Midwest regional trip introduces current school year 7 th and 8 th graders to concepts of diversity, regional culture, acceptance, and tolerance of other individuals. Full value of this educational experience is approximately \$500.00	NOT AVAILABLE IN 2022
WI State 4-H Youth Conference (MAY BE VIRTUAL OR FACE TO FACE) Grades 7-10	4-H members and other older youth from around the state learn about the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus and take part in seminars to learn more about themselves, future careers, and government. Full value of this educational experience is approximately \$400. (400 total youth selected statewide)	HELD IN LATE JUNE – MAY BE VIRTUAL OR IN-PERSON Adult Advisors will pay 40% of the cost of this trip.
American Spirit EASTERN US Grades 8-10	The American Spirit Trip is a bus travel experience to Amish Country in Pennsylvania, New York City, Plymouth Rock, Boston and Niagara Falls.	Tentative: June 3-12, 10-19 or 17-26 Adult Advisors will pay 40% of the cost of this trip.
Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) Washington DC Grades 10-12	Participate in seminars on citizenship, leadership, government, and civic responsibility. Delegates tour historic sites and meet with Senators and Members of the House of Representatives; and conduct a simulated legislative session. Full value of this educational experience is approximately \$1550.00. Minimum age is 15 by the time of the program to participate. (90 total youth selected statewide)	June 4-12 or July 2-10 Adult Advisors will pay 40% of the cost of this trip.
National 4-H Conference Washington DC (may require an additional application and statewide selection process) Grades 10-12	Final selection made by State 4-H Office. Must be currently in tenth grade or above, enrolled in 4-H, and have completed at least four years of club work. Eight to 10 total Wisconsin 4-H youth are selected to attend this working conference held at the National 4-H Center in Washington, D.C. Each participant selects an issue and works with other youth from across the country to develop plans to help direct future 4-H programming. One day is spent on Capitol Hill meeting with legislators and touring. Full value of this educational experience is approximately \$1550.00. Maximum age 18 by January 1, 2022 to participate.	March 20-24 2022 Adult Advisors will pay 50% of the cost of this trip.
National 4-H Congress Atlanta, GA (MAY BE VIRTUAL OR FACE TO FACE) Grades 10-12	Must be currently in tenth grade or above, enrolled in 4-H, and have completed at least four years of club work. Delegates participate in self-development seminars, tours and a service project, while exchanging ideas with youth from across the country. Full value of this educational experience is approximately \$1300. Maximum age 18 by January 1, 2022 to participate.	Nov. 24-29 2022 Adult Advisors will pay 50% of the cost of this trip.

Unless noted, all Application Materials are due February 22nd to the Extension Office.

Pierce County 4-H Leaders' Council Award Trip Policy

4-H Trip Application Process/Requirements

Materials Due to Extension Office by February 22nd *unless otherwise noted*

Cover Letter

One Adult Recommendation

Trip Preference Form

Refundable \$50 application fee made out to: PIERCE COUNTY 4-H

Trip interviews will be conducted in the months of late February and/or early March.

Bring your completed 4-H Record Book along to the interview.

Candidates will be notified by April 16th of Award Trip selections.

Award Trip candidates who cannot attend Trip Interviews must notify the 4-H Program Educator by February 26th and receive an approved excuse. With an approved excuse, the member is responsible for arranging for the interview to be conducted with the 4-H Youth Development Agent prior to the scheduled interview date.

Not necessarily all members who apply for a trip with a Cover Letter will be awarded an interview or a 4-H Award Trip. Cover Letters and Record Books are subject to standards of completion. The Cover Letter and Record Book should represent a 4-H member's best work.

Award Trip Payment:

The Pierce County 4-H Leaders' Council will pay a portion of a 4-H member's fee and/or expenses for one award trip per year, for each trip during their 4-H career. (Must meet requirements specific to each trip in addition to those county requirements listed above). **A refundable \$50 application fee is required made out to: "PIERCE COUNTY 4-H", with your award trip cover letter and recommendation.**

The Extension Office will send a commitment form to selected participants following final interview selections. The commitment form with the member's signature and his/her parent's signature along with the specified deposit must be turned in by the posted date. The remaining balance must be paid by the dates set by the Extension Office. The payments could be several small increments or one large sum closer to the date of travel. In any case, the entire amount of the delegate's fees must be paid no later than two weeks prior to the trip.

If the member defaults on the trip, after turning in the commitment form, and chooses not to attend, the member is responsible for the entire cost of the trip. If the Leaders' Council has paid a scholarship portion of the trip and the member defaults on the trip, after turning in the commitment form, and chooses not to attend, the member is responsible to pay that portion back to the Leaders' Council.

If a member defaults on a trip due to an emergency, for example: death in family, critical illness, divorce, or any other reasonable cause, the Leaders Council has the right to allow default of the trip and require that no repayment be made.

If a member needs a disciplined plan in making payments, a payment plan may be set up with the 4-H Program Educator in conjunction with the 4-H Adult Advisors Council on an individual case-by-case basis. The payment plan can be kept private.



Service Learning trip to Alaska.

NOTE: If you have questions regarding what is expected or how to complete the application, please call the Extension Pierce County Office (715-273-6781) or email Sky Holt (sky.holt@wisc.edu). We will be happy to set up a time to help you with your application!

Pierce County 4-H Award Trip *Self-Evaluation* Checklist

NOTE: This checklist is not required for application, but can be very helpful. It is simply for you, as the member, to self-evaluate your Cover Letter with the hopes you may discover your own strengths and weaknesses before your application is reviewed by the selection committee.

Name _____ Club _____

Please check the box if you agree with the statement. Then, complete the statement at the bottom of the reverse page with specific reasons and details.

Cover Letter

- My Cover Letter is in business letter format with the correct spacing and punctuation.
- My Cover Letter refers to my 4-H Record Book, but does not repeat it.
- My Cover Letter explains my qualifications for being selected for a trip or award.
- My Cover Letter is typed, not handwritten.
- I have described my leadership and commitment to goals in my Cover Letter.
- I go more “in-depth” about my knowledge and skills highlighted in my 4-H Record Book in my Cover Letter.
- My Cover Letter is 1-2 pages long.
- My Cover Letter is arranged in a logical format.
- I used “I” in my Cover letter.

Adult Recommendation

- I provided the adult recommendation form and a pre-addressed envelope to an adult that is not my relative that can speak to my qualifications to receive a trip or award at least two weeks before the form is due.
- I provided the adult with pertinent information about the 4-H Cover Letter and Record Book process.

Overall

- I have completed every component of the Cover Letter thoroughly.
- I was concise, but I also included specific details.
- Unless instructed otherwise, I wrote in paragraphs with complete sentences.
- I feel it is reflective and thoughtful.
- It is representative of my most significant 4-H experiences to date.
- I took time to complete my Cover Letter with care.
- It is an example of my best written communication skills.
- It includes evidence of accomplishments, leadership, improvement, reflection, and learning.
- I know my Cover Letter has few spelling or grammar errors because not only have I proofread it, but so has another trusted adult.

I think the strengths of my Cover Letter are:

My Cover Letter can improve in these ways:

TIPS FOR CREATING YOUR COVER LETTER

Use a computer. You can save your work and make revisions as necessary. This is especially helpful for future use. The cover letter and envelope should not be handwritten.

Plan ahead. Go through each part of the cover letter before typing. Use your old record books to help you. Put your thoughts together. Translate your skills into action oriented, concise, descriptions. As much as possible, think of your 4-H experience as a job. What do you do? What skills have you developed as a result of participation in 4-H? How have you personally changed as a result of your 4-H experience?

Layout, design, and formatting. Your cover letter should be easy to read and understand. Choose an appropriate font and font size. Use the same 1-2 fonts throughout your document. As a general rule, a 1" margin is used at the top, bottom and on both sides of your page. Use action words and be short, concise and to the point. Logical arrangement is very important in a cover letter!

Editing. Your documents should be free of spelling and grammar errors. Use spelling and grammar check and follow that up by having at least two adults proofread your cover letter. Do not use contractions, abbreviations, or 4-H jargon.

Individualize it. This is YOUR cover letter; add your own personality to it. This provides you the opportunity to express emotion, which is evident in a good cover letter. In addition, this is a great way to tailor your cover letter for this particular application.

Put it ALL down. Don't be modest or shy about your accomplishments and experiences. A cover letter is your chance to highlight your unique skills and qualities. Assume your reader does not know you; provide as complete a description of accomplishments as possible. Remember, accomplishments are about what you have learned, how you have grown, what skills you have developed and what you have experienced, not about awards or ribbons. The accomplishments you discuss in your cover letter should refer to your 4-H Record Book, not repeat it. In addition, the cover letter should explain your accomplishments and experiences in a story-like format that works with the information provided in your 4-H Record Book. This allows you to go in-depth about important knowledge and skills and relate them to the expectations of the "employer" and provide a sample of your written communication skills.

Ask for help if you need it. If you haven't ever gone through this process, you may have questions. Don't hesitate to ask! The 4-H & Youth Development Educator is more than willing to help. Call him at 715-273-6781 or email him at francis.ginther@wisc.edu.

MAIN PARTS OF A 4-H AWARDS TRIP COVER LETTER

DATE	Date you are mailing letter
ADDRESS	Inside address (Address of the individual receiving letter).
SALUTATION	Greeting to individual receiving letter, followed by a colon
PARAGRAPH 1	What are you sending and why are you sending it? Include by outlining your objective (i.e., Receive a trip or award).
PARAGRAPHS 2 & 3	This is the "why me?" paragraph. Explain in no more than two paragraphs why you are uniquely qualified to represent Pierce County 4-H. Ask yourself what distinguishes you from other applicants. Give specific examples to help explain your statements.
FINAL PARAGRAPH	Thank the Committee for considering your application and request an interview.
CLOSING	Sincerely" is the most appropriate closing, followed by a comma Signature in black pen; should be legible
NAME	Typed name that matches signature

SAMPLE COVER LETTER

January 22, 2021

Pierce County 4-H Leaders' Association
432 W. Main St Box 69
Ellsworth, WI 54011

Dear 4-H Leaders' Council:

It is my pleasure to submit my trip preference form, trip promotional requirement form, and adult recommendation in consideration as a delegate for the Citizenship Washington Focus Trip. My leadership experiences and my dedication to personal development make me a first-rate choice to represent Pierce County 4-H.

I believe my seven years of 4-H experience has prepared me well for representing the Pierce County 4-H program. Not only am I an active member in my 4-H club, but I have demonstrated that I am a sound leader on the county level by accepting several leadership roles like that of the Pierce County 4-H Older Members Reporter and a 4-H Summer Camp Counselor. In these roles, I developed new goal-setting strategies, strengthened my planning and organizing skills, and gained new perspective about myself and others, all of which have made me both a better leader and well-rounded citizen.

Additionally, serving as a 4-H & Youth Conference delegate last year is just one illustration of my commitment to learning in 4-H. While at Conference, I challenged myself by registering for a seminar that would cultivate my viewpoint on diversity issues and, then, following the conference I presented new knowledge with my fellow youth leaders. As a result, my fellow youth leaders and I decided to help plan a diversity seminar for the Youth Engaged in Learning about Leadership (YELL) Conference this year and many of the participants responded that they, too, learned a lot from our seminar.

In closing, I hope to be a Pierce County delegate to Citizenship Washington Focus to learn more about 4-H and to meet diverse people. My previous experience representing Pierce County, as well as my enthusiasm and my eagerness to share what I learn with others makes me a great candidate for this award trip. Thank you for considering my application. Please call me at 555-111-7777 or email me at chris.clover@net.net to schedule an interview. I look forward to discussing my qualifications and my 4-H Record Book with you in person.

Sincerely,

Chris Clover

NOTE: If you have questions regarding what is expected or how to complete the application, please call the Extension Pierce County Office (715-273-6781) or email Sky Holt (sky.holt@wisc.edu). We will be happy to set up a time to help you with your application!

4-H Award Trip Preference Form

Name: _____ Age: _____

Club: _____ Grade entering this fall: _____

IMPORTANT NOTE: Give careful consideration to the award trips you apply for. When it is time to register for the trip, you will be informed and may be held financially liable for part of the cost if you cancel after payments are due.

Please check the appropriate boxes – PUT AT LEAST ONE CHECK FOR EVERY TRIP.

Trips (all grade levels are as of time of registration for the trip):	I have received this award in the past	I would like to apply this year.	I don't want to apply this year.
WI State 4-H Youth Conference (MAY BE VIRTUAL OR FACE TO FACE) Madison, WI Grades 7-10			
American Spirit Grades 8-10			
Citizenship - Washington Focus CWF VIRTUAL Washington DC Grades 10-12			
National 4-H Conference VIRTUAL Washington DC Grades 10-12			
National 4-H Congress (MAY BE VIRTUAL OR FACE TO FACE) Madison, WI Grades 10-12			

Comments:

PIERCE COUNTY 4-H ADULT RECOMMENDATION

The following applicant _____ is applying to represent the Pierce County 4-H program on an out-of-county trip and/or to be selected as a 4-H Award recipient. You have been identified as a person who could speak to their qualifications for these trips and awards. It is the responsibility of the youth leader to see that you receive this recommendation at least 1 week prior to the due date along with a pre-addressed envelope. Recommendations are confidential and will not be returned to the 4-H youth leader. A recommendation from a family member will not be accepted.

Please complete the following recommendation and return as directed below.

1) Today's Date Completed: _____ Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Do you feel this member would be a good representative of Pierce County 4-H if selected as a delegate on a 4-H trip? ____ Yes ____ No

How long have you known this 4-H member? _____

In what capacity do you know this member? _____

2)

Evaluate the Member	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	N/A
Involvement in 4-H at Club level					
Involvement in 4-H at County level					
Involvement in School & Community					
Works to the best of their ability					
Dependability					
Communication					
Leadership Skills					
Ethics					
Solving Problems					
Independence and Maturity Level					

3) Comments:

Signature of Adult Recommending 4-H Youth Leader:

Recommendations should be sent directly to:

Extension Pierce County Office
4-H Trip and Award Recommendation
432 West Main St. BOX 69
Ellsworth, WI 54011

DEADLINE DATE: February 22, 2022

WISCONSIN 4-H NEWS

December 16, 2021

UW-Madison Division of Extension



Seasons Greetings! No matter if or how you celebrate the season, December can be a time to gather and reflect. Often 4-H events slow down this month so families can focus closer to home. Wisconsin 4-H wishes you warmth and wonder this season and wishes for the New Year!

We look forward to a bright and beautiful 2022 with you!

Articles in this issue include:

- STEM Events – In Person or from a Distance
- Educational Resources from “The Learning Store”
- Tell Us about Your Plarn Mats Experience!
- Animal Sciences Education Series announced for 2022
- Wisconsin 4-H International – Summer 2022 Programs Suspended
- Wisconsin 4-H Staff Honored with Regional & National Awards
- Welcome Jessica Jens Back to Wisconsin 4-H

[See all the latest State 4-H News here.](#)



STEM News



STEM Events – In Person or from a Distance

Learn about UW-Madison Science Expeditions, field trips at the biotechnology center, and the Wednesday Nite @ The Lab series! These STEM events provide a great variety of science opportunities for youth and adult volunteers across the state!

[Read More](#)

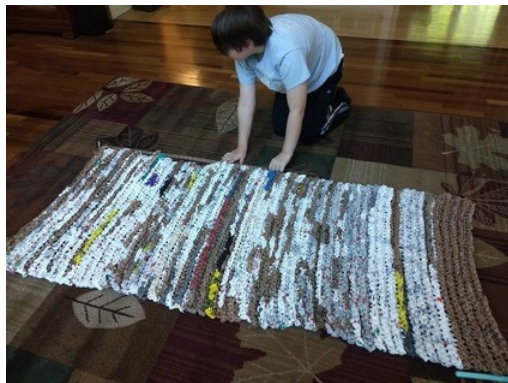
Tools You Can Use

Educational Resources Available through “The Learning Store”

Looking for high-quality resources to help you plan project meetings? Consider adding The Learning Store as one of the tools in your resource toolbox. The Learning Store is an online platform that includes research-based materials on a variety of topics including materials for 4-H & Youth. Read to learn more.



[Get the Resources](#)



Tell Us about Your Plarn Mats Experience!

Did you help with a plarn mats project this year? Maybe you collected bags or cut loops, made plarn or crocheted mats. However you helped, we want to hear from you.

[Tell Us about Your Experience](#)

Agriculture & Animal Science

Animal Sciences Education Series Announced for 2022

These sessions will provide awareness and knowledge of animal agriculture in these challenge areas with details on careers and how this area connects with your animal project. There will be a case study to further develop discussion skills with their local project leader, agriculture, and or science teacher on the discussion topic. Younger youth can gain more insight through a take-home activity discussed with parents and or project leaders.



[Learn More](#)

Announcements



Wisconsin 4-H International – Summer 2022 Programs Suspended

Our International Programs have unfortunately been suspended for 2022 - continue reading to see the full announcement regarding this decision.

[Continue Reading](#)

Wisconsin 4-H Staff Honored with Regional & National Awards

Several Wisconsin 4-H Staff were recently recognized at the National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals Conference for their outstanding programs and service to our organization. Read on to learn more about the award recipients; you may recognize some of the staff or their programs!



[See the Recipients](#)



Welcome Jessica Jens Back to Wisconsin 4-H

Jessica Jens will be coming back to our state team as the Wisconsin 4-H Associate Program Director on January 16.

[Learn about Jessica](#)

Questions? Email 4h@extension.wisc.edu.