



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

# MONROE COUNTY 4-H CLOVERLINK

THE NEWSLETTER FOR 4-H FAMILIES & FRIENDS

Monroe County Extension Office, 206 South K St, Sparta, WI 54656

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## DEC 2024 / JAN 2025

### LOOKING FORWARD

#### Seasons Greetings, Monroe County Families,

As we approach Thanksgiving this week and the holiday season, we want to express our sincere gratitude to be part of this caring community filled with wonderful 4-H families. Synonyms for gratitude include being appreciative, hopeful, thankful, and thrilled; all of which reflect our excitement about our enrollment for the 2024-25 4-H year!

We are happy to share that our enrollment has increased by over twenty members this year, with many first-time participants! We warmly welcome all new families to our 4-H community and extend a heartfelt welcome back to our returning families. We are grateful to all the fellow families, volunteers, and leaders who support these members in exploring the various project and event opportunities.

This year, we are excited to share our two main goals for the 4-H program and how YOU can help us achieve them! Here are our 2024-25 4-H Goals:

1. Increase project opportunities countywide.
2. Enhance the 4-H presence in the community.

How Can Your Family Help Us Achieve Our Goals?

- Sign up and participate in countywide programming and provide us with feedback.
- Complete the Thriving Evaluation Survey for members ages 13-18.
- Be involved in your club's events!

**Countywide Opportunities:** If you plan to attend, please register as soon as possible. Organizing events requires significant time, effort, and resources, and we must have enough participants to proceed. If your child wants to attend an event but has a scheduling conflict, please let us know! Or, if there is a project opportunity that we are missing, please share your ideas! Upcoming events include the Wild Game Workshop, Junior Leader Holiday Lights, and Winter Project Day.

**Thriving Evaluation Survey:** The WI 4-H program is collecting feedback through the 4-H Thriving Survey from members aged 13 and older about their 4-H experiences. Your child's feedback is invaluable to us! The survey link was sent to your family email. If you can't find it, please check your junk email folder. The survey takes just 10-15 minutes to complete, and all responses will remain anonymous.

This feedback will help us understand the impact of our 4-H program and how we can continue to improve. Upon completion, youth will be entered into a drawing to win a \$25 gift card.

Thank you for being part of our 4-H community and we hope to see you at an upcoming event!

**Best of Holiday Wishes!**

*Jason & Vicki*

Monroe County Extension Staff



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#### FRIENDLY REMINDERS

- Monthly 4-H Newsletter information is due on the **20<sup>th</sup>**.
- Please keep your mailing and email addresses current in 4-H Online.
- If you plan to un-enroll from 4-H, please contact the office so we can remove you from the system.



**If your club or group has events you would like on this calendar, please email information to [jason.hornickel@wisc.edu](mailto:jason.hornickel@wisc.edu)**

## Calendar of Events

### DECEMBER

Sat., Dec. 7, 2024

**Wildlife Workshop, Noon-4:30**

**WHERE:** Barney Center

Sat., Dec. 7, 2024

**Jr. Leaders Holiday Lights, 5-7 pm, 7-9 pm**

**WHERE:** Evans Bosshard Park

Tues., & Wed., Dec. 24 & 25, 2024

**Happy Holidays! Office Closed**



Mon., Dec. 30, 2024

**Project Day, 12:30 registration, 1-4 pm**

**WHERE:** Leon Community Center

Mon., Dec. 30, 2024

**Club Leader Training, 4-5 pm**

**WHERE:** Leon Community Center

### JANUARY 2025

Wed., Jan. 1, 2025

**Happy New Year! Office Closed**



Tues., Jan. 14, 2025

**Jr. Livestock Meeting, 7 pm**

**WHERE:** Tomah High School Library

Sat., Jan. 18, 2025

**Jr. Leader's CC & Overnight, 9:30 am**

**WHERE:** Sparrow's Nest at the Abbey

Sat., Jan. 18, 2025

**Clover College, 11:30 am - 3:30 pm**

**WHERE:** Sparrow's Nest at the Abbey

Mon., Jan. 20, 2025

**4-H Leader's Assoc. Meeting, 7 pm**

**WHERE:** Cashton High School

## Club News

### Jolly Joiner's

On Oct 6th Jolly Joiner's had a meeting in the high school and middle school. The meeting started with leather crafts which included stamping and decorating little purses, coin bags and bookmarks. First off we started with old business: we went to the pumpkin patch to help at Becky's and Tuckers pumpkin patch on the 20th and chose rolls to help out at the patch to fundraise money for the club. There was no new business. The next 4h meeting is November 3rd and we will meet at the Cashton high school at 2 or 1 in the cafeteria.

Submitted by Ethan Fanell

### Stepping Stones

The Stepping Stones 4-H club met at the Elroy Library basement at 2pm on November 10th for the November meeting. The meeting was called to order at 2:10 pm. We said pledges and Ava took roll call. The secretary report was given and accepted and the treasurer report was given and put on audit. The new officers were installed into office. Our new officers are President- Weston Rumppe, Vice President-Jackson Preuss, Secretary-Vivian Preuss, Treasure-Ava Larabee and Reporter- Hunter Weber. The club discussed enrollment and highly encouraged all to get signed up. The Club voted and agreed to make Christmas cards for the residence at Elroy Health services. The club discussed Our January fundraising event set for January 11th 2025. The club voted to put up a Christmas display at the Elroy Schultz Park. The club voted to spend \$50 on gifts for kids on the Giving tree at the Elroy & Kendall banks for Christmas gifts. It was voted to have our next meeting at Hustler Bowling alley on December 8th at 1 pm where we will have a meeting and then bowling for the kids. Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Hunter Weber



## 2024 - 2025

**Northeast:** Clovers & Cranberries; La Grange Tunnel-Lites; Valle Ville

**Clean Food Stand Before Tractor Pull**

**Northwest:** Denim N' Dust; Dragonflies

**Clean Food Stand After Tractor Pull**

## District Responsibilities

**Southeast:** Hill-N-Valley; Norwalk Clovers; Stepping Stones

**Clean Exhibit Hall Before County Fair**

**Southwest:** Jolly Joiners; Leon Livewires, Sparta Sprockets

**Family Celebration**

**Clean Food Stand After County Fair**



Group A

# Greeting Cards FOR SALE !

Our photography contest at the fair has brought us these fabulous photos that we turned into greeting cards. The cards are blank inside so they are perfect for any occasion. On the back of the card is the name of the 4-H member who took the picture. The cost is only \$15 for 10 cards and come in a box, ready to wrap and give away. You have a choice of the 10 cards in Group A or Group B.

Proceeds go towards the 4-H Photography Project.

Group B



## Cards will be sold at the following locations:

- > Extension Office, 206 S K St, Sparta
- > & Sew Much More, 101 Main St., Norwalk
- > Leon Town Hall, 8108 Jackrabbit, Ave, Sparta, *Bake Sale, Dec. 7th only, 8 am-Noon*
- > Citizens First Bank, 835 W Wisconsin St., Sparta

**These cards will make great presents for anyone!**

## WI 4-H Foundation Photography Contest

This contest challenges all 4-H members to explore their creativity! It's open to any current Wisconsin 4-H member, and the Foundation is awarding cash prizes. The contest will be held virtually, with photos of all entries submitted electronically. Entries are being accepted now through January 31, 2025. You can find the details here: <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/2024/11/04/wisconsin-4-h-foundation-kicks-off-photography-contest/>



## Project News & Information

### December Project Day



We are having another super fun project day on Monday, December 30, at the Leon Community Center. Cost is \$10 per member with registration at 12:30 p.m., and sessions will be from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Project areas will include foods, sewing, arts & crafts, woodworking and photography. Everyone who signs up will do every activity we have planned by rotating to each station. Snacks are planned, but make sure to eat a lunch before you arrive.

Please register by December 20: <https://forms.gle/UKSy4yfmFmiqgLVe9>



### Wild Game Workshop



Saturday, December 7th, 2024

Noon - 4:30 pm @ Barney Center

Register at <https://forms.gle/s6g5uk23AhtFZVcPA> by December 2nd

Do you enjoy the outdoors or interested in the outdoors? Join us for a day of learning, games, guest presenters, and a wild game feast! Parents are welcome as well!

- ⇒ Photo Contest! Print and bring your best game camera or photo you took of any wildlife to be judged and voted on. Limit two pictures per participant.
- ⇒ Game Feast Potluck! Prepare and bring your favorite wild game recipe to share.
- ⇒ Deer Hearts Needed! Please consider saving and donating your deer hearts for an optional deer heart dissection and biology lesson.



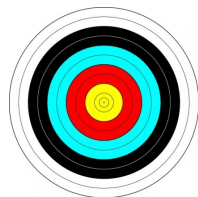
### Jr. Leader's Overnight

The overnight will be on Saturday, January 18th starting at 9:30 a.m. to prep for Clover College. Once again it will be at the Sparrow's Nest at the Abbey.

the Sparrow's Nest at the Abbey.

### Shooting Sports

We are starting to plan our next archery and air rifle session. Tentatively it will start in February at the Gold Recreation Building on the Monroe County Fairgrounds in Tomah. In January, a letter, safety and release forms will be sent to all members who signed up for these projects in 4HOnline.



### Clover College

Jan. 18, 2025

Hey Cloverbuds - are you ready to have some fun with the Jr. Leaders? Make sure you sign up for Clover College on January 18th from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. You will have a great time playing games, making cool stuff, eating lunch and hanging with your friends. Youth in Grades K-2 are invited to this special event, just for them. Cost is only \$10 per member. Please register by January 13: <https://forms.gle/SYN7ShyWTRADyVdx7>



# Monroe County 4-H Festival of Arts

March 15, 2025

Meadowview Middle School

PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US TO SHOWCASE YOUR TALENTS AND SKILLS

PURPOSE of the 4-H Festival of Arts is to provide the opportunity:

- For 4-H members and Cloverbuds to share their skills and talents with others.
- For 4-H members and Cloverbuds to further develop their skills in communicating through the arts with constructive feedback on their efforts.
- To share with the public the Arts and Communication Projects of the Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development program.
- To discover additional arts ideas from others in the area.
- To observe and support others as they perform or display their talents.

Area of entry include:

## • COMMUNICATION ARTS

- Memorized Selection
- Story Telling
- Play Reading
- Original Speech
- Prose Reading
- Poetry Reading

## • ARTS AND CRAFTS, PHOTOGRAPHY, MARKETING

- Registrations should be sent directly to Club Leader

## • DEMONSTRATION, ILLUSTRATED TALK, ACTION CENTER

- Individual
- Team

## • MUSIC

- Solo
- Duet
- Group

## • DRAMA

- Group Drama
- Group Play Reading
- Mini-Drama

Register for the Festival of Arts, using this link

<https://forms.gle/8Sba8oFSEaEBqr2N6>

Deadline is March 3, 2025



## GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ALL AREAS

1. Participants will introduce themselves to the judges before performing. Include your name, age or grade, name of 4-H club, title of performance. You may include an interesting fact, or something unique about your performance.
2. Throughout the program, participants and others will not leave or enter the auditorium while a group or individual is performing.
3. Please respect the time guidelines in each category.
4. Please respect the scheduled performance times. Groups are expected to perform at scheduled times.
5. All festival participants must be enrolled 4-H members.
6. All participants will be awarded a ribbon.
7. Merit winners will receive a merit ribbon. Merit awards will be based on quality of the performance/exhibit and age of participant. Only those who follow the guidelines will be eligible for merit awards.
8. When selecting material for presentations, please keep in mind that 4-H is a family organization. Presentations should be appropriate for audiences of all ages.
9. Performances will take place on the stage. Performers will use a microphone. The following will be available for use: piano, music stand, chair(s), sound system, demonstration table with mirror.

## COMMUNICATION ARTS



Description - The following categories must have 1 or 2 readers.

**Memorized Selection:** Prose, poetry or any other piece; must be memorized. No notes allowed.

**Prose-reading:** include stories, narratives, anything not written as a poem; should be presented as a reading. No props.

**Poetry-reading:** may be original poem or a selection written by someone else, either in verse form or open-ended; should be presented as a reading. No props.

**Original Speeches:** A speech written by the speaker on any subject, preferably one pertaining to his/her 4-H project work. Notes permitted.

**Storytelling:** Original or from a book, told as if to younger children. No poetry allowed. Presented without using a book or notes; costumes or props are encouraged, and facial expression and gestures are allowed.

**Play Reading:** 1 or 2 readers are to make their selection "come alive" without the use of costumes and props. Hand movements and facial expressions acceptable; movement around stage unacceptable. A play reading should be presented as a reading.

Time Guidelines - Maximum time for above categories: 5 minutes.

## DEMONSTRATIONS, ILLUSTRATED TALKS



Description - May be individual or in teams.

**Demonstrations and Illustrated Talks:** either teach someone how or show and tell how to do something.

- Consists of 4 parts - a) introduction, b) body, c) conclusion, and d) questions from audience.

- Visuals such as maps, charts, posters, graphs, pictures, slides or models can be used to explain what you're saying.

**Action Center (informal):** a show and tell with an emphasis on showing.

- Presenter(s) carry on conversation with passersby (no seated audience)
- People watching take part by - a) watching and listening, b) talking with demonstrator, c) trying things with senses, d) judging things, e) asking questions
- Handouts may be used (instructions, directions, recipes)
- Posters or pictures can be used to show key steps or to show a close-up view.

Time Guidelines: 15 minute maximum for demonstrations; b) 15-30 minutes for action center.

## MUSIC: SOLO, DUET and GROUP

Description

- Define Group - 3 or more members.
- Categories include instrumental, vocal, dance or novelty (e.g. variety, lip sync).
- Lip sync will be judged separately from dance, vocal, etc.
- If media accompaniments are used, only instrumental accompaniment media are permitted. Vocal media will be allowed for lip sync or dance numbers only.
- No open flames, hay, straw, cornstalks, shavings or sawdust may be used.
- No directing is permitted from the audience or in front of the stage.



Time Guidelines - The maximum performance time limit is 12 minutes. Clock starts at beginning of performance. No minimum time limit.

## GROUP DRAMA

Description - Groups must consist of three or more members.

- One Act Play, commercial or original drama.
- No open flames, hay, straw, cornstalks, shavings or sawdust may be used.
- No directing is permitted from the audience or in front of the stage.



Time Guidelines - The maximum performance time limit is 30 minutes: opening curtain to final curtain. No minimum time limits.

## GROUP MINI-DRAMA

Description - Groups must consist of three or more members.

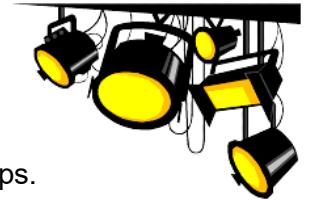
- Produced with minimal props (no special lighting, hay, straw, candles or open flames) and costumes, they may be performed in a classroom. Examples include skits, puppetry, or creative dramatics.

Time Guidelines - A maximum time limit of 15 minutes, including set-up and take down.

## GROUP PLAY READING

Description - Groups must consist of three or more members.

- Readers are to make their selection “come alive” without the use of costumes and props.
- Hand movements and facial expressions are acceptable. Movement around the performance area is not acceptable.
- Presented without a microphone or artificial devices.
- Scripts are to be used.



Time Guidelines - Maximum time limit of 12 minutes.

## ARTS & CRAFTS



Description - Youth may bring a maximum of 4 items to display and discuss.

- Entry Labeling - All Art & Craft items must have a 3” x 5” index card listing: name, club, grade, date completed, and title. Attach cards securely on the front of the exhibit in such a way that it is easily read and minimizes distracting from or covering the appearance of the article.
- Please call Club Leader to reserve space for exhibits. Club Leaders are responsible to reserve space for the entire club.
- Any article that has been made after April 1 of the previous year will be accepted.
- All articles will be judged by face-to-face judging. Items will be released after the awards program. Exhibitors are responsible for the removal of their exhibits.
- Evaluation - Articles will be evaluated on quality of exhibit, age of participant and answers to interview questions. Evaluation criteria include: 1) originality / creativity, 2) neatness, 3) artistic merit, and 4) appropriate finishing.

If a youth is unable to make it to the Festival of Arts they will be required to write a statement answering the 5 or 6 questions listed in the Face to Face Judging Guidelines and attach it to the exhibit.

### MARKETING

- Entry Labeling - All Marketing items must have a 3" x 5" index card listing: name, club, grade, date completed, and title. Also, describe how the marketing item is used. Writing must be legible or deduction to placing may occur. Attach cards securely on the front of the exhibit in such a way that it is easily read and minimizes distracting from or covering the appearance of the article.
- Description - All items submitted will be displayed together. Any item is acceptable that can be used for promotion of 4-H. All entries must have at least one green clover with the four H's. Examples would include posters, placemats, tabletop design, sweatshirts, etc. that promote 4-H visually.

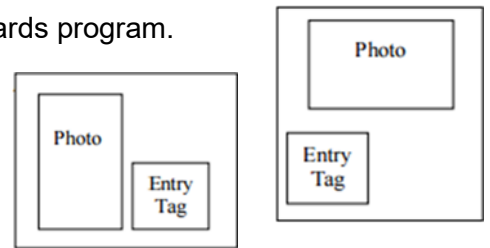


If a youth is unable to make it to the Festival of Arts they will be required to write a statement answering the 5 or 6 questions listed in the Face to Face Judging Guidelines and attach it to the exhibit.

### PHOTOGRAPHY



- Entry Labeling - All photographs must have a 3" x 5" index card listing: name, club, grade, category, and title of photo. Writing must be legible or deduction to placing may occur. Attach cards securely on the front of the exhibit in such a way that it is easily read and minimizes distracting from or covering the photo.
- Description - All photos must be 4 x 6 or 5 x 7 only.
- All photos must be mounted on an 8 x 9 or a 9 x 8 tag board ONLY. Vertical photos will be mounted on the left side, leaving room for the entry tag, and horizontal photos will be mounted on the top. See diagram.
- Photos may be color or black & white, standard or digital, and any appropriate subject.
- Categories include: Animals, People, Still Life, Scenes, Flowers & Plants
- Quotas / Entry Requirements - Limit of two (2) photos per category per exhibitor, with a limit of eight (8) total entries.
- All photos will be judged face-to-face. Items will be released after the awards program. Exhibitors are responsible for the removal of their exhibits.



### Family Celebration

THANK YOU to all the families, members, and volunteers who made the Family Celebration a success! Be sure to check out February's newsletter where we will share some photos that were taken that day.

**SAVE THESE DATES!!**

> **Jr. Livestock Meeting**, Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 7 p.m. in the Tomah H.S. Library

> **4-H Leader's Assoc. Meeting**, Monday, January 20, 2025 at 7 p.m., in the Cashton H.S.

> **Upham Woods Summer Camp**, Wednesday, July 30, 2025 to Friday, August 1, 2025 in Wisconsin Dells.



**The UW-Extension Staff wishes everyone a Happy Holiday season, and a healthy, New Year!**



How many can you find in your neighborhood!

# Christmas Lights & Decorations Scavenger Hunt

- Santa
- Snowman
- Gingerbread Man
- The Grinch
- A Set of Reindeer



- Mickey Mouse
- Star
- Colored Lights
- Elf
- Train



- Rudolph
- Snowflakes
- Penguins
- Candles
- Nutcracker



- Minion
- Nativity
- Snow Globe
- Wreath
- Dancing Lights



- Candy Cane
- Icicles
- Angel
- Snoopy
- Christmas Tree



## Wisconsin State & National Educational Experiences



If you are interested in a state or national program, but costs are preventing you from applying, there are limited county scholarships available for youth. Application Link:

<https://forms.gle/qQ1uwvhQsLgPMPxz9>

### 4-H ArtBEAT! - March 14-16, 2025

This is an introductory program for Wisconsin 4-H expressive arts and was created for 4-H members in grades 3-5, their parents and leaders. ArtBEAT provides an opportunity for youth and their parents to experience different art forms in a camping environment at the Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center in Wisconsin Dells.



Registration is through 4HOnline and will open in early December. Capacity is limited for this experience. The cost is \$120.00. For more details including scholarship information please go to <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/art-beat/>

### American Spirit - June 20-29, 2025

Experience history & heritage by immersing in a 10-day bus journey to the East Coast and Canada with youth-led content throughout the experience. The program is open to youth in grades 8-10. Registration will open in November and will be done through 4HOnline. The cost is @ \$2,900. For more details and scholarship information go to <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/american-spirit-east/>.



### Citizen Washington Focus (CWF) - June or July 2025

This is the premier week long 4-H citizenship and leadership experience. Participants learn about the roles of Senators and Representatives in the United States' government and how these parts work together to form an effective Congress while in Washington D.C. This trip is open to 4-H members in Grades 10-12.



Registration is through 4HOnline and will open from December 1-31, 2024. Capacity is limited for this experience. The cost is @ \$2,500. For more details including scholarship information please go to <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/citizenship-washington-focus/>

### Space Camp - May 1-5, 2025

Space Camp is a great opportunity for youth in Grades 6-8 to explore aeronautics and space science, careers in space, and the history of space exploration, all at Space Camp in Huntsville, AL.

Registration is through 4HOnline and will open from November 15-December 15, 2024. Capacity is limited for this experience. The cost is @ \$1,300. For more details please go to <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/space-camp/>

