



MONROE COUNTY 4-H CLOVERLINK

THE NEWSLETTER FOR 4-H FAMILIES & FRIENDS

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

Phone: (608) 269-8722

Website: <https://monroe.extension.wisc.edu>

September 2025

SPARK YOUR FUTURE

Dear Monroe County 4-H Members and Families,

As we turn the page and welcome a brand-new 4-H year, it's the perfect moment to pause and reflect on what makes 4-H so special. At its heart, 4-H is about growth—not only in the projects we take on, but in the people we become. Each season, each project, and each milestone adds another layer to the circle of learning that shapes us long after our 4-H youth experiences.

The full circle of 4-H reminds us that learning is not a straight line, but an ongoing journey. Cloverbuds begin with wide-eyed curiosity, discovering new skills for the very first time. As members grow, they gain confidence, set goals, and take on new challenges—whether showing an animal, leading a project, or serving their community. We strive for our older youth to step into Junior Leadership roles, guiding their peers and mentoring younger members. And then, many return as alumni and volunteers, giving back the same support and encouragement that once inspired them. Each stage is connected, and each one plays an essential role in the larger story of 4-H.

What makes this circle so powerful is that the lessons learned are not confined to club meetings or fairgrounds. The patience developed while tending a garden, the creativity sparked by a project, the teamwork built during community service, the resilience shown when facing setbacks—all of these experiences prepare us for life's bigger challenges and opportunities. They are lessons that carry into classrooms, careers, families, and communities.

Looking ahead to this new year, we are especially excited to grow the ways we support our members in discovering their “sparks”—those passions, hobbies, and skills that can inspire a lifetime of joy and purpose. This year, we will be offering more unique opportunities that focus on college and career preparation, helping young people not only imagine their future but also build the confidence and skills to pursue it. Whether a member dreams of higher education, skilled trades, military service, entrepreneurship, or simply finding a fulfilling hobby, 4-H can be the launching pad.

As we begin this new year together, let us celebrate not just the projects and events ahead, but the lifelong impact of the 4-H experience. The circle continues each time a young person tries something new, each time a leader lends encouragement, and each time a community comes together to support our youth. In this way, 4-H is more than a program—it is a living, growing tradition of learning, leading, and giving back.

Here's to another year of curiosity, growth, and connection. May the full circle of 4-H inspire us all to keep learning, to keep teaching, and to keep carrying forward the lessons that truly last a lifetime.

With gratitude and excitement for the year ahead,

Jason & Vicky

Monroe County Extension Staff



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FRIENDLY REMINDERS

- Monthly 4-H Newsletter information is due on the **20th**.
- 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

Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

Tues., Sept. 2, 2025

Secretary & Treasurer's Books Due

WHERE: Extension Office

Thurs., Sept. 4, 2025

4HOnline Opens for 2025-2026 year

WHERE: <https://wi.4honline.com>

Mon., Sept. 8, 2025

Record Books Due

WHERE: Extension Office



Sat., Sept. 13, 2025

Jr. Leader Meeting & Activity, 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Cashton High School

OCTOBER

Wed., Oct. 1, 2025

Friend of 4-H, 4-H Alumni, Key Leadership and "I Dare You" nominations due, 4:30 p.m.

WHERE: Extension Office

Sun., Oct. 5—11, 2025

National 4-H Week



Jr. Leader's Meeting & Activity

On Saturday, September 13th,

the Jr. Leaders will be heading to the Vernon County Fair for a fun day on the rides and an evening of Demolition Derby! Meet at the Cashton H.S. at 10:30 a.m. for a meeting and we'll arrive by noon at the fairgrounds. Demo Derby starts at 7 p.m. and ends @ 9:30 p.m. Self-transportation to and from the Vernon County Fairgrounds is ideal, but there will be room to carpool if needed from Cashton. Use this link to sign up: <https://forms.gle/UkGmgysBxBLF9CmD6>

Farewell & Thanks



I am here to say farewell and thank you for another amazing summer, it is hard to believe that it is already September. As I go into my first teaching position I will be taking back all of the skills and knowledge that I have learned through this position and from all of you to use in my classroom this fall. Through this position I have applied so many skills that I have learned when I was a 4-H member myself. I can see how both the skills and the knowledge from being a 4-H member has helped me in choosing my career choice as a 2nd grade teacher. 4-H has provided me with so many amazing opportunities to grow and expand my experiences working with kids. Again, I would like to thank you all for an amazing summer filled with programs and trips! I would also like to thank the staff at the Extension office for having me back for another summer. I greatly appreciate the opportunity! I hope you all have a great rest of your summer and good luck at school!

Bonita Hanley



Fair Wrap Up Reminders

- ♦ Remember to cash or deposit your fair checks as soon as possible.
- ♦ For those of you who have livestock checks, please distribute your pictures, get your picture delivery verification form signed and pick up your check at the Extension Office as soon as possible.
- ♦ If you were a top award winner in the exhibit hall or barn, it's a good idea to send a thank you to the sponsor of your award. Show them appreciation for their sponsorship and to encourage them to continue sponsoring at our fair in the years to come.

National 4-H Week is
Sun., October 5 - Sat., October 11, 2025
Start thinking about how your club wants to celebrate this special week.



Project News & Information

2026 4-H Enrollment

Enrollment for the 2025-2026 4-H year begins September 1st. The State will shut down the system on August 31st for updates and it should be back up and running on **SEPTEMBER 4TH**. This is a little longer than previous years because a bigger upgrade is happening. Your membership and profile information will roll over, but your projects will not. Below are instructions on how to log into the system.

1. Go to <https://wi.4honline.com>.
2. Enter your email address and password.
3. Click Sign-In.
4. You will be at the Family Member List Screen.
5. To re-enroll a Youth member, click on Enroll Now, then click member's Grade, and continue through the screens.
6. To re-enroll an Adult member, click on Enroll Now then click Select Volunteer Type to indicate how you are planning to participate. Continue through the screens.



For more detailed information on how to enroll go to: <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/start-here/4honline-for-families/> or call the office at 608-269-8722.



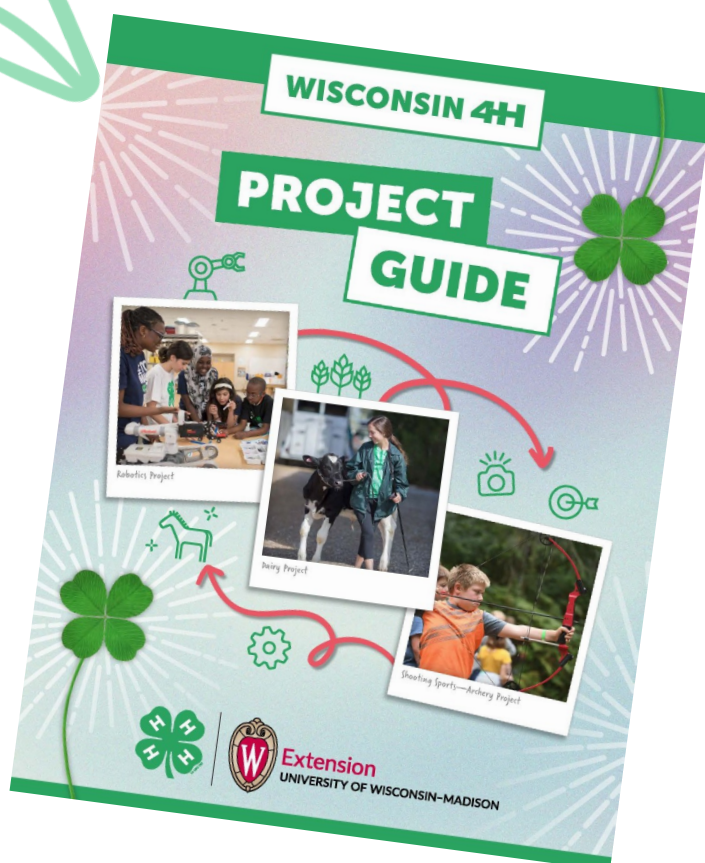
DEADLINE TO RE-ENROLL IS
NOVEMBER 15, 2025 !

NEW Project Guides!

It's that time of year again—time to pick projects for the new year. One of the reasons for the longer down time in 4HOnline is because the State reduced the project list from 230 projects to 91 projects! Don't worry, you still have all your favorite projects, and 28 new projects to pick from starting in 2025-2026. For instance, if you are looking for knitting or crocheting, you'll enroll in Fiber & Textile Arts. More examples are found on Page 10 of this newsletter.

We recommend taking some time to look at the new [project guide](#). If you're having trouble deciding what to choose, take a look at Page 8 & 9 to find your spark!

There are also three [quick videos](#) that give you a tour of the simple changes to the new 4-H Project Guide.



Project News & Information

Foods Revue Results

Congratulations to all who entered in the 2025 Foods Revue! Everyone did a great job with preparing their food and presentation. Special thanks to Carol Las who judged the contest this year.

From left to right, merit winners: Kennedy Schmitz, Leon Livewires; Hannah Frost, LaGrange Tunnel-Lites; Malachi Frost, LaGrange Tunnel-Lites; and Alexia Gaunky, Sparta Sprockets.

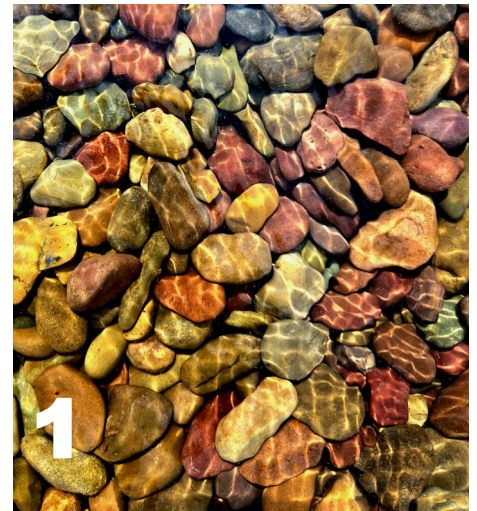


2025 Photo Contest Greeting Card RESULTS

Forty-two amazing photos were entered in the contest and had 170 people attending the fair vote for their favorite picture. We're currently working out the details for making the greeting cards.

CONGRATULATIONS to these members with the top 10 photos:

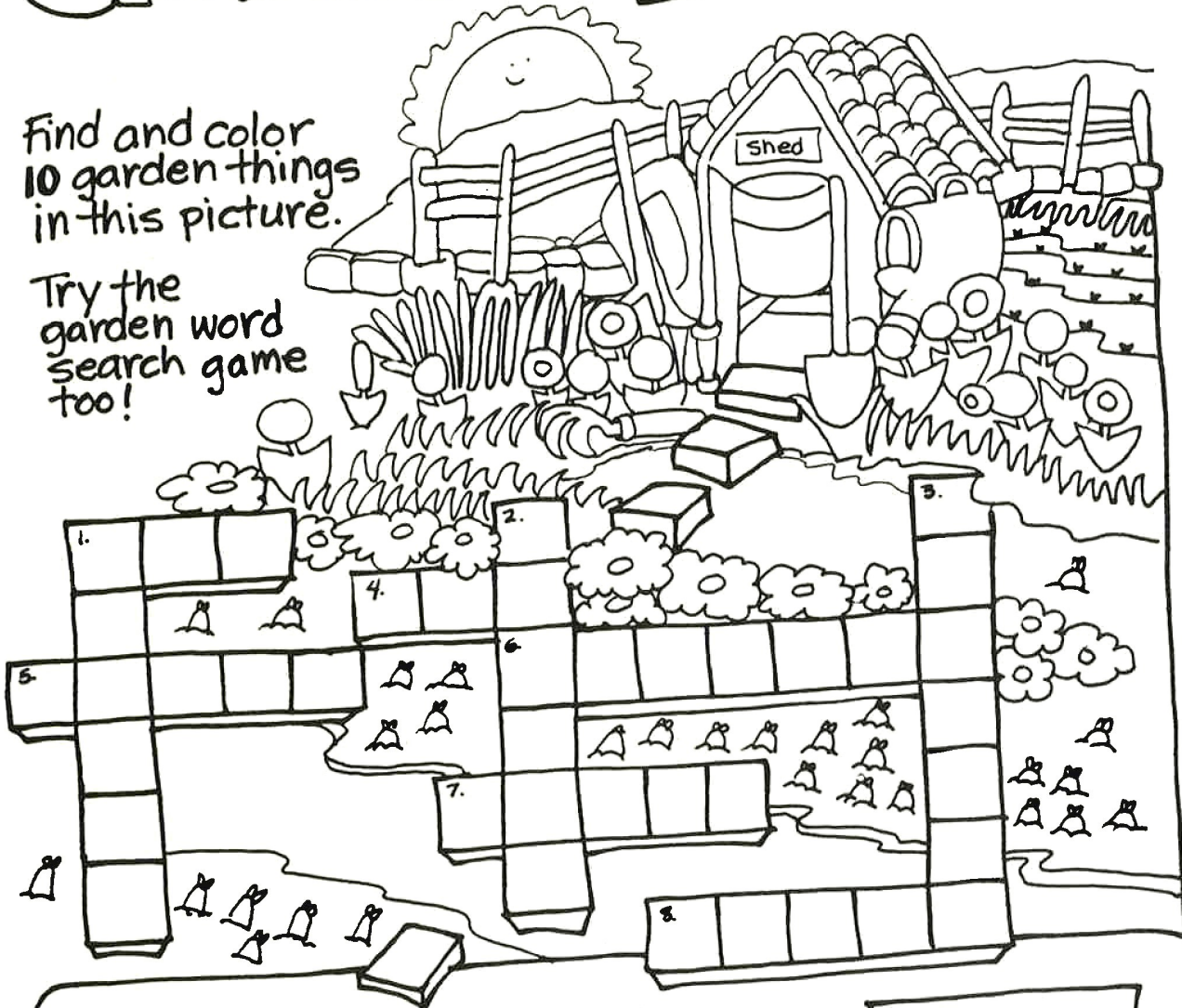
1. Mateya Kaduc, Leon Livewires, Texture & Patterns
2. Azaria Carpenter, Norwalk Clovers, Still Life
3. Mateya Kaduc, Leon Livewires, Landscape/Country Life
4. Zachia Carpenter, Norwalk Clovers, Still Life
5. Mateya Kaduc, Leon Livewires, Nature & Seasons
6. Nyla Dilley, Leon Livewires, Animals
7. Miranda Arndt, Norwalk Clovers, Nature & Seasons
8. Azaria Carpenter, Norwalk Clovers, Texture & Patterns
9. Azaria Carpenter, Norwalk Clovers, Animals
10. Azaria Carpenter, Norwalk Clovers, Landscape/Country Life



Garden Search

Find and color
10 garden things
in this picture.

Try the
garden word
search game
too!



Down

1. Many kinds of _____ grow in gardens.
2. The part of lettuce that we eat.
3. Many of these are garden pests.

Across

1. Bright green vegetable.
4. Garden tool.
5. Thirsty plants need plenty of _____.
6. Plants that live for only one growing season.
7. Plants start out as _____.
8. Gardens give us good _____ to eat.

Word Bank

hoe
pea
foods
seeds
insects
plants
water
annuals
leaves

Project News & Information

FRIEND OF 4-H AWARD

The Friend of 4-H Award is presented by the Leaders' Association to a person, group, or business who has shown outstanding support (time, money, supplies, etc.) to the Monroe County 4-H program. This award is not presented to current 4-H leaders.

Information about the Candidate:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Describe the contributions for which the nominee has been nominated on a separate sheet.

Signature of Nominator: _____

Return to the Monroe County Extension Office, 206 South K Street, Sparta, WI 54656 by **October 1, 2025.**



4-H ALUMNI AWARD

The 4-H Alumni Award is presented by the Leaders' Association to someone who was once an active 4-H member (Within the U.S.) They will be recognized for their current outstanding accomplishments and dedication to the Monroe County 4-H Program. This person can be a current 4-H Leader.

Information about the Candidate:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Describe the contributions for which the nominee has been nominated on a separate sheet.

Signature of Nominator: _____

Return to the Monroe County Extension Office, 206 South K Street, Sparta, WI 54656 by **October 1, 2025.**

Key Leadership & "I Dare You" Awards

These are the two most prestigious awards given in 4-H. Any adult can nominate a youth for these awards.

The **Key Award** is open to members in grades 10 - 13. Youth who have done outstanding things in the realm of leadership and project work should be considered for this award. This is for members who have demonstrated consistent growth in their 4-H involvement, developed and applied their leadership skills and actively participated in the functions of their 4-H club and community.

The **"I Dare You" Award** is 4-H members, who demonstrate personal integrity, lead well-rounded lives and possess a willingness to assume responsibility. Those nominated for this award should be "emerging" leaders - those youth who have the qualities and the abilities to lead, but who may not yet recognize or act on their leadership potential. This award is designed to be given to a member in grades 8 - 10 and can only be received once during their 4-H career.

Nomination Form below.



Key Leadership & "I Dare You" Award Nomination Form

Year: _____



The Key Award provides special recognition to 4-H members who have demonstrated consistent growth in their 4-H Program, who have developed their leadership abilities and who have actively served their club and community.

4-H Members must be entering their junior year of high school the year they are nominated. This form must be completed by a non-related 4-H Leader. Return this form to the Monroe County 4-H Office, 206 South K Street, Sparta, WI 54656, by October 1, 2025.

4-H Member Name _____ Nominated for Key Leadership OR "I Dare You"

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Club _____ Birthdate _____ Years in 4-H _____

Name of Parent or Guardian _____

Nominated Member Phone Number _____

Name of Nominating 4-H Leader _____

Phone Number of Nominating 4-H Leader _____

Please list 3 names and phone numbers of individuals who have been instrumental in the youth's leadership development. (These individuals may be contacted to help present the award.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Find Your 4-H SPARK Project Area

START HERE!

Follow the arrows to explore your project options with 4-H.



Do you enjoy creating delicious food, decorating your room, or working with younger children?

What do you like to do indoors?

Do you love spending time outside?

Do you enjoy working with animals?

YES

YES

NO

YES

YES

NO



You may want to explore **AG & ANIMAL SCIENCE**

Youth in **Ag & Animal Science** enjoy things like raising healthy animals for fun or food, riding horses, caring for pets, or teaching their dog tricks.



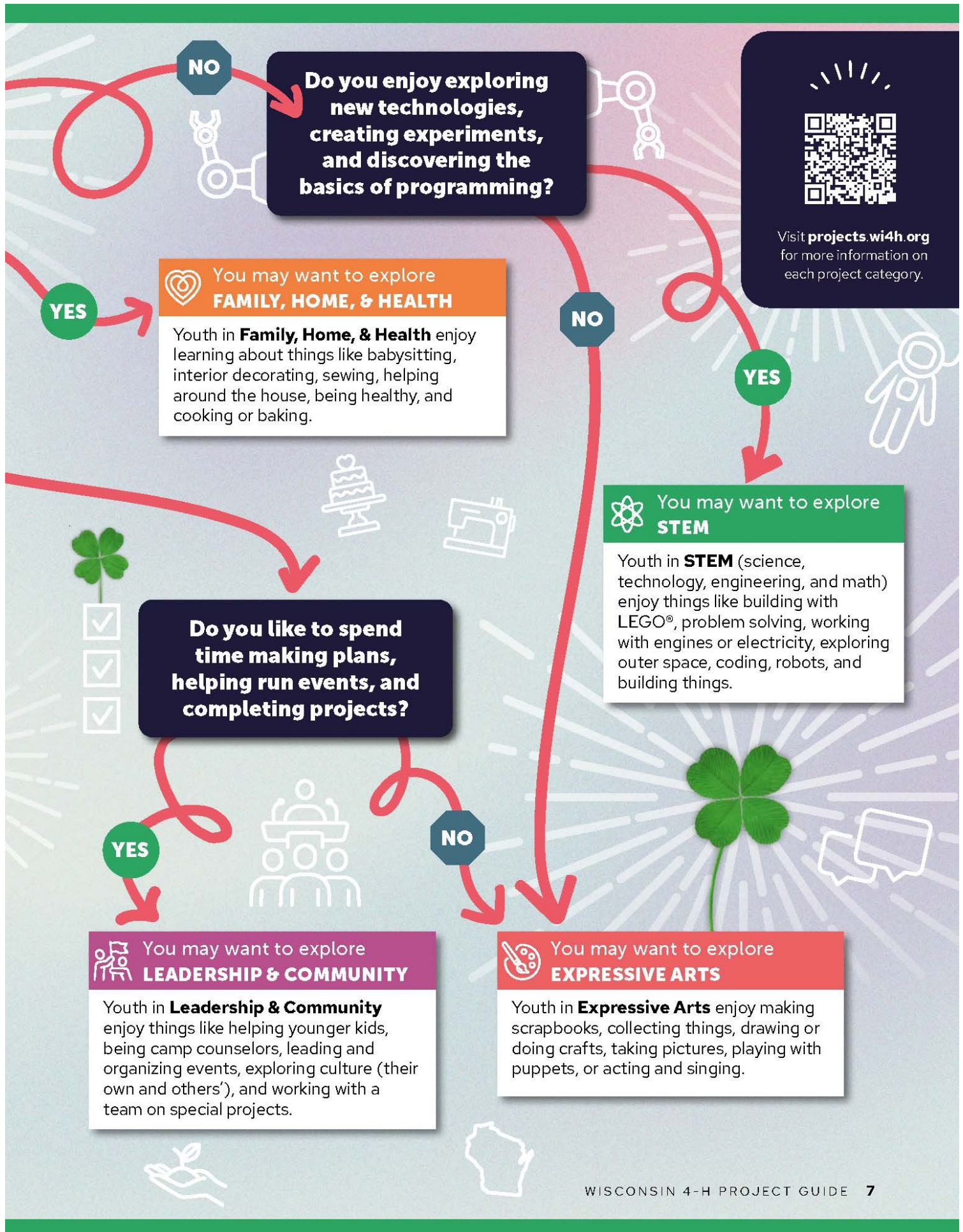
You may want to explore **ENVIRONMENTAL/ OUTDOOR EDUCATION**

Youth in this project area enjoy things like riding ATVs and snowmobiles, learning about insects, hiking, adventure sports, and protecting the environment.



You may want to explore **PLANT & SOIL SCIENCE**

Youth in **Plant & Soil Science** enjoy things like growing vegetables or flowers, growing crops, learning about soil, or creating a fairy garden.



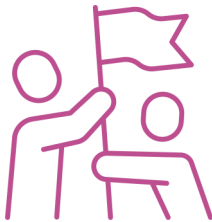
Project Listings at a Glance

Find the project areas within each of the seven project groupings on the next few pages. The examples listed will show you what types of project-based learning you might participate in when you sign up for a particular project area.



 Expressive Arts	
Project area	Examples of project-based learning within project area
Art Appreciation	Celebrating art, art in your future
Computer Graphic Design	
Creative Writing	
Fiber & Textile Arts	Macrame, rug hooking, tie dyeing, wearable art, creative/cross stitchery, needlepoint, weaving, string/wire art, handmade dolls, knitting, crocheting, wool spinning, weaving
Folk Arts & Crafts	Basketry, beadwork, calligraphy, candle making, decorative boxes, decoupage, fuzzy posters, liquid embroidery, rock art, soap making, soap carving, wood art, wood burning, leathercraft, blacksmithing
Performing Arts	Clowning, dance, juggling, music, theater arts, puppetry
Photography	
Self-Determined–Expressive Arts	
Upcycling	Trash and Treasure
Videography	
Visual Arts	Block printing, ceramics, collages, drawing and painting, glasswork, jewelry making, metal enameling, mosaics, ornaments, paper art, plastercraft, posters, print making, pottery, rubber stamping, scrapbooking, Sculpey clay, stencil painting

 Leadership and Community	
Project area	Examples of project-based learning within project area
Civic Engagement	Citizenship
Cloverbud	
Cloverbud Youth Leader	
Communications	Demonstrations, sign language, speaking, Books on the Move
Community Service	Service learning
Exploring	
Global & Cultural Education	Latino cultural arts, international
History & Heritage	
Intergenerational	
Leadership	Youth leadership
Self-Determined–Leadership & Community	
Workforce Readiness	





Family, Home, and Health

Project area	Examples of project-based learning within project area
Candy Making	
Child Development	
Consumer Savvy	
Entrepreneurship	
Food Decorating	Cake decorating
Food Preservation	
Foods & Nutrition	Microwave, cooking, baking, breads
Health	
Home Environment	Decorative wreaths, interior design
Personal Finance	
Self-Determined—Family, Home, & Health	
Sewing	Clothing, quilting, regalia making, stuffed animals
Sports & Fitness	Softball, bowling, fun and fitness



Agriculture and Animal Science

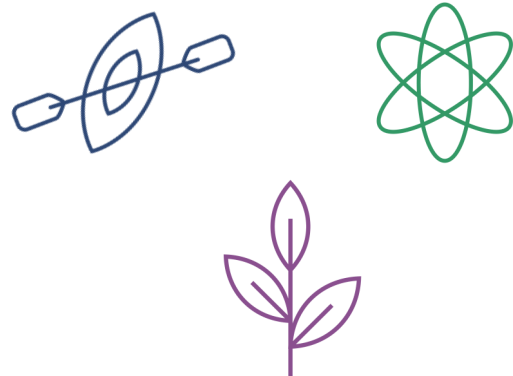
Project area	Examples of project-based learning within project area
Beef	Beef feeder, beef meat animal products (map)
Cats	
Cavies	
Dairy	
Dogs	Dog obedience
Exotic Animals	Ostrich, emu, zebras, zedonk
Goats	Meat goat, dairy goat, pygmy goat
Horse	Horseless horse
Llamas/Alpacas	
Pocket Pets	Cage birds, reptiles, tropical fish, hamsters, gerbils, chinchilla
Poultry	Poultry bantams, poultry game birds (quail, pheasant), poultry market, poultry pigeons, poultry turkeys, poultry waterfowl
Rabbits	Rabbit hopping, rabbits market
Self-Determined—Animal Sciences	
Sheep	Sheep meat animal products (map)
Swine	Swine meat animal products (map)
Veterinary Science	




Plant and Soil Science

Project area	Examples of project-based learning within project area
Crops	Corn, soybeans, small grains (wheat, oats, barley, and rye)
Horticulture & Gardening	Herbs, vegetables, fruits, flowers, hydro/aquaponics
Indoor Plants	House plants
Landscaping & Design	Home grounds
Plant Crafts	Flower arranging, flower crafts
Self-Determined—Plant & Soil Sciences	
Soil Science	

<div>  Environmental/ Outdoor Education </div>	
Project area	Examples of project-based learning within project area
Astronomy	Weather and climate, exploring your environment, water science, aquatic science, water, recycling
Birds	
Conservation	
Entomology (Insects)	Bees
Geology	Rockhound
Maple Syrup	
Outdoor Recreation	Adventures, backpacking and hiking, bicycling, camping, canoeing, fishing, rock climbing, winter travel, cross country skiing, downhill skiing
Safety	Off-highway vehicles, tractor certification, snowmobiling
Self-Determined–Environmental/Outdoor Education	
Shooting Sports–Air Pistol	
Shooting Sports–Air Rifle	
Shooting Sports–Archery	
Shooting Sports–Gun Safety	
Shooting Sports–Muzzleloading	
Shooting Sports–Pistol	
Shooting Sports–Rifle	
Shooting Sports–Shotgun	
Taxidermy	
Wildflowers	
Wildlife & Habitat	Wildlife, hunting, forestry



<div>  Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) </div>	
Project area	Examples of project-based learning within project area
Aerospace	Model rocketry, flying
Coding & Computer Science	Computers
Energy & Electricity	Wind energy, home energy, electricity, solar power
GPS & Mapping	Geocaching, geospatial
LEGO®	
Mechanical Sciences	Automotive, tractors, small engines, maintenance and repair
Model Building	Model cars, model railroad, remote controlled cars, scale model, model rocketry, radio-controlled plane
Robotics	
Self-Determined–STEM	
Welding	
Woodworking	

Looking for
project resources?

Visit **projects.wi4h.org** for more information.



Looking for
learning opportunities?

Visit **opportunities.wi4h.org** for statewide events and opportunities.

