



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

MONROE COUNTY 4-H CLOVERLINK

THE NEWSLETTER FOR 4-H FAMILIES & FRIENDS

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April 2026

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

Dear 4-H Members, Families, and Volunteers,

It is with a full and grateful heart that this will be my final newsletter as the Monroe County 4-H Educator. As many of you know, I have accepted a new role as the first UW-Extension State Outdoor Specialist, where I will help lead outdoor learning opportunities, shooting sports, and ATV Safety programs. When I first saw this position, I immediately thought, "That's my dream job." And it truly is—but that doesn't make this goodbye any easier.

Thank you, everyone, for welcoming me into this community and allowing me to be a small part of your 4-H journey. To our Executive Board and Leaders Association—thank you for your unwavering dedication. To our club leaders and volunteers—thank you for being the steady foundation of 4-H. To our members—thank you for showing up, giving your best, trying new things, and embracing new experiences. And most of all, thank you, Vicky, for everything you have done and continue to do to keep this program strong behind the scenes.

Monroe County 4-H has never just been a job to me—it has been a community, a purpose, and a place filled with people who care deeply about growing something bigger than themselves. I am incredibly honored and grateful for this next chapter, but I will deeply miss the relationships, the laughter, the lessons, and the moments we've shared.

Change is one of life's certainties, even when we wish we could hold onto a moment just a little longer. While we can't always control change, we can choose how we meet it. We can lean into it, grow through it, and allow it to shape us into something even stronger. Some of the most meaningful opportunities in life come disguised as difficult challenges, which often include sad goodbyes.

As I write this, I am in Washington, D.C., attending the 4-H Ignite National Conference alongside more than 1,800

youth and hundreds of adult leaders from all 50 states and the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Standing in a space like this reminds me just how powerful 4-H truly is—a place where young people discover confidence, build lifelong skills, and realize they are capable of more than they ever imagined. Watching that growth happen in real time is something I will never take for granted, and it makes me wish every Monroe County member could experience Ignite.

4-Her's: If there is one thing I hope you carry with you from 4-H, it is this: BELIEVE IN YOURSELF. Even when it feels uncomfortable. Even when it feels uncertain—especially then. Recognize your potential. Surround yourself with people who lift you higher. Keep learning, keep growing, be kind, and say yes to the opportunities that challenge you to become more than you thought possible.

I believe in each of you more than you may ever realize, and I look forward to the day I see the incredible paths you choose to take on your own future adventures. The quote on the back of our new Junior Leaders' shirts says it best: "Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." ~Ralph Waldo Emerson

I will miss you all more than words can fully express—but this isn't goodbye forever. It's simply a new path, with the hope that our trails will intersect again, somewhere beyond this ridge.

Keep showing up. Keep growing. Keep saying yes. Because the world doesn't need you to be perfect, it needs you to be brave enough to lead the way.

Cheers to the next chapter and new adventures!

Jason



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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 vicky.kast@wisc.edu

Newsletters and information available online at: <https://monroe.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/>

Calendar of Events

APRIL

Wed., April 1, 2026

WWBP and Progress Days Scholarship applications due

Fri., April 3, 2026

Office Closed for Spring Holiday



Sun., April 4, 2026

HAPPY EASTER!

Fri., April 17, 2026

Tentative Jr. Leaders Meeting, 6 pm

WHERE: Extension Office

Wed., April 22, 2026

Earth Day



Sat., April 25, 2026

Fur, Fin & Feather Fun Show

WHERE: Barney Community Center, Sparta

MAY

Mon., May 1, 2026

Pop Tabs due by 4:30 pm in the Extension office

Fri., May 29, 2026

Jr. Leader's Overnight, tentative @ 6:30 pm

WHERE: Pineview Campground at Ft. McCoy

Sat., May 30, 2026

Clover Camp, 11:30 am—3:30 pm

WHERE: Pineview Campground at Ft. McCoy

2025 - 2026

District Responsibilities

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

**Family Celebration
Clean Food Stand After County Fair**

Northwest: Denim N' Dust; Dragonflies, Sparta Sprockets

Clean Food Stand Before Tractor Pull

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

Clean Food Stand After Tractor Pull

Southwest: Jolly Joiners; Leon Livewires

Clean Exhibit Hall Before County Fair

Club News

Jolly Joiners

The Jolly Joiners had their March Meeting on March 1st. The meeting was called to order at 2:18 p.m. In old business, there is no update on the 4H apparel yet, but they will be sent out when apparel comes in. Attention club members, the club will reimburse everyone for Action City, and members agreed that it was a very fun event. Congrats to the people from our club who went to the Festival of Arts for winning 1st on our table at the event! Our Community Appreciation Dinner will be held on April 18th, at 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Cashton High School. Be thinking about who you can invite to show appreciate from our club. The club activity of candy making is pushed to our May 30th meeting. There will be stations for this event- adult supervision is needed, so mark your calendars. Activity starts at 1 p.m., with our May meeting to follow.

In new business, we will vote on our grandparent activity at our next meeting. A reminder to keep an eye out for the pop tab competition in the Cloverlink. Families please ask Annette about the fair raffle tickets if you want some to sell. In the announcements, a reminder of the Clover Camp on May 30th- it is open to families now too. Happy Birthday to Kasen and Clement. The next meeting will be on April 12, at 1 p.m. We will be doing woodworking with our grandparent Kenny. The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

Submitted by Brooklyn Lundeen



Pop Tabs

We are collecting Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities. Your club collections of pop tabs need to be in the Extension office by 4:30 p.m. on May 1st. We will weigh each club's collection to find who has bragging rights for 2026!

The tabs are in support of Ronald McDonald House. RMH provides a place to stay when families have children hospitalized. Let's see which club can bring in the most pop tabs!



Project News & Information



Clover College

Come join us on Saturday, May 30th at Pineview Campground at Ft. McCoy from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Youth in Grades K-2 are invited to this special event. Cost is only \$10 per member. The Jr. Leaders will host the fun activities which will include STEM, crafts, food and outdoor games! Register at: <https://forms.gle/7ApK1Eh5zCK5X7YF8> by May 22nd. Enrollment is limited to 24 participants.

Scholarship Opportunities



> **Wisconsin Co. Mutual Ins. Corp. Scholarship** - Applications are **due May 15, 2026**. The \$2,500 scholarship is available to full-time students in the fall of 2026, attending either an accredited two-year or four-year college or university. Details and application are found at: [Wisconsin County Mutual Insurance Corporation Scholarship Program](https://www.wisconsinmutual.com/scholarship)

> **WI Towns Association** - Applications are **due May 22, 2026**. The \$1,000 scholarship is available to students who are graduating from a Wisconsin public or private high school and will be attending a Wisconsin public or private college or university in the fall of that year. Proof of enrollment in college is required. Details and application are found at: <https://www.wisctowns.com/resources/scholarship/>



Jr. Leaders Overnight 2 Nights!

That's right—TWO NIGHTS! Stay over on Friday, May 29 & Saturday, May 30th in the Pine View Campground at Ft. McCoy. Two destination trailers are rented for the Jr. Leaders.

Jr. Leaders will meet Friday night for a campfire and finalize plans for Saturday's activity.

All 4-H families are invited to attend and make it a fun filled weekend. Families should contact Ft. McCoy directly to reserve a campsite. The Jr. Leaders will be staying on the East side of the lake @ Site 127.

<- - ATTENTION - -> Monroe County Fair Swine Participants



NEW for 2026: Swine MUST be tagged with an 840 RFID tag that will be free and provided by the Fair. You can pick up tags at the Fair office in Tomah (608-372-2081), the Extension office in Sparta (608-269-8722), or with your FFA advisor. Please call ahead if you are coming to get tags to make sure there is enough available.

Jr. Leaders Meeting

Jr. Leaders will tentatively meet on Friday, April 17th at 6 p.m. at the Extension Office to go over plans for the overnight at Ft. McCoy and Clover College details. We'll need to get a head count on who plans on attending, what groceries we need and who will be picking up the supplies.



Monroe County Fair Meat Animal IDs DEADLINE



The IDs for sheep, swine and goat are due May 11, 2026. Use the online form to register: [2026 Monroe County Fair Animal ID Form](#)



Start thinking about ideas for your club's June dairy window!

Project News & Information



Summer camp at Upham Woods is scheduled for Wednesday, July 29 to Friday, July 31st in Wisconsin Dells. Youth in grades 3-8 are invited to participate. Camp registration opened on March 16th and spots are limited. Participants should register here: https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8vKqAKV5fqfjUP4 The cost will be \$125 per 4-H camper (thanks to the 4-H Leader's Association support), and \$180 per Community Member. **Payments must be made in full by June 1st, 2026.** After June 1st, there will be no refunds for cancellations. Transportation will be provided with La Crosse County.

Any 4-H member in 9th Grade and up are eligible to be Camp Counselors at no cost and can earn great leadership experience. Applications open now until May 1st: <https://go.wisc.edu/p664kf>

Adults can be chaperones and get one youth fee waived! Applications open now until May 1st: <https://go.wisc.edu/av5axg>

Additional 25% scholarships are available through the Monroe County 4-H Leaders Association, and can be applied for at any time by filling out an application at this link: <https://forms.gle/HnxMykLa1uSY7yoSA>

Community Service Projects

Feed My Starving Children

FMSC invites everyone to join in a meaningful, community-wide effort as they prepare for the 8th Tomah Area MobilePack event on Friday, August 14 and Saturday, August 15, 2026. These life-saving meals go to families and children in more than 100 countries.

Volunteers work in teams of 10 within packaging "cells", with each cell producing an average of 4,000 meals during a two-hour session. Tasks include measuring ingredients, packing meals, and preparing boxes for shipment.

If you're interested in learning more, or want to donate money to buy supplies, please contact Daniel Crego at 608-797-2749.



Sparta Area Cancer Support

SACS wants to extend a sincere THANK YOU and APPRECIATES all 4-H members who participated in last year's event setting up the paper bag luminaries.

They hope they can count on us again this year! The event is Friday, August 7, 2025 at the Bosshard-Evans Park. Set up will happen that morning at 10 a.m. Sign up at: <https://forms.gle/WMYXzf2drdeQ4XeF8>



Project News & Information

Festival of Arts Results

We had a nice turn out for the Festival of Arts with a lot of arts & crafts, photos, and live performances. **CONGRATS** to everyone who received merit awards!

ARTS & CRAFTS

Dawsyn Campbell, Valle Ville, Sea Art w/Cardboard, Paper
 Azaria Carpenter, Norwalk Clovers, Painting
 Azaria Carpenter, Norwalk Clovers, Wood Pen
 Zachiah Carpenter, Norwalk Clovers, Fly Swatter
 Ethan Fanell, Jolly Joiners, 3D Earth Painting
 Mirabella Fanell, Jolly Joiners, Camp Painting
 Clement Klein, Jolly Joiners, Mountains
 Aubrey Schaldach, Jolly Joiners, Saw Painting
 Aubrey Schaldach, Jolly Joiners, Sunset Painting
 Audrey Wells, Leon Livewires, Wooden "moo", "cluck" "baa"



SPEAKING

Audrey Wells, Leon Livewires, Poetry Reading, Best Friends
 Nathan Wells, Leon Livewires, Prose Reading, Famous Bull Stories



PHOTOGRAPHY

Azaria Carpenter, Close up of Yellow Lily
 Zachiah Carpenter, Norwalk Clovers, Ring on Bible
 Audrey Wells, Leon Livewires, Yellowstone Scene



MARKETING

Karlee Bailey, Valle Ville, Jr. Leader Poster Promo
 Azaria Carpenter, Norwalk Clovers, Jr. Leader Poster Promo

CLUB DISPLAY

Jolly Joiners—1st Place
 Norwalk Clovers—2nd Place
 Valle Ville—3rd Place

Youth Pillowcase Workshop

Quilt Corner is offering two youth sewing workshops on Tuesday, April 7th from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. or 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Limit 6 youth per session. This is a hands-on pillowcase workshop specifically designed for youth ages 10-17 who want to try something new or learn a lifelong skill while creating something totally unique. Cost is \$5 and you can register through the quiltcorner.net website.

As an added bonus, you can enter your pillowcase in the Butterfest Quilt Show. Youth are encouraged to enter any type of fiber art in the show, it doesn't have to be a quilt.

Contact Nancy Close for more information at 608-343-4342.



New Opportunity - Join the Fun This Summer!

We're thrilled to launch a brand-new fundraising effort in downtown Sparta this summer! Come be part of the action as we showcase and sell beautiful photography cards, plat books and other unique non-food items.

Find us right on the sidewalk in front of Second Season, Saturdays, June 13th and July 11th. This is a great way to connect with the community, support a great cause, and enjoy a lively summer atmosphere downtown!

Interested in helping out? We'd love to have you! Reach out to Elizabeth Carpenter, Photography Project Leader, at carpenter.elizabeth@outlook.com.





MONROE COUNTY 4-H



**Saturday,
April 25th, 2026**

**BARNEY CENTER
1000 E. Montgomery
Sparta, WI**



FUR FIN & FEATHER *Fun Show*

APRIL 25TH, 2026



RABBIT AGILITY DEMONSTRATION

- DOORS OPEN at 8 AM
- JUDGING BEGINS at 9 AM
- Raffle Table
- Photography & Poster Contest



ENTRY FEE: \$10 PER EXHIBITOR (UNLIMITED ENTRIES!)

DEADLINE TO ENTER: APRIL 12TH

ENTRIES ACCEPTED UNTIL APRIL 15TH WITH A \$10 LATE FEE

Concessions provided by
Dragonfiles 4-H Club



REGISTER ONLINE NOW:

<https://www.jotform.com/assign/2605692060997928160062/260587192816062>



Wisconsin Educational Experiences

4H ARTS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

The Wisconsin 4-H Photography Contest is Back!

Calling all 4-H photographers in grades 3-13! The 2026 contests gives you another chance to practice your skills and share the world as you see it. Did we mention **cash prizes**? We can't wait to see your great work! [Registration](#) is open **March 1—April 1 through 4HOnline**.



New Arts & Science Opportunity for Grades 3-5

Now 4-H'ers and other youth can spend a full day exploring a fascinating combination of chemistry, environmental science, theater, music and visual arts. On **April 25 in Wausau** and **May 16 in Milwaukee**, youth from around the state can enjoy hands-on activities that spark curiosity, creativity and problem solving skills. [Registration](#) opens in late February. Only \$10 per youth participant, youth must attend with an adult. No cost for adult attendees.



Summer Academy 2026 expands Career & College Readiness opportunities


This year, Wisconsin 4-H's top Career & College Readiness experience has new possibilities including **Exploratory, Core and Advanced Tracks** to meet every youth in grades 8-11 where they're at to get Beyond Ready for life and work! Program is held on the UW-Madison Campus on June 14-18, 2026. [Registration](#) is open **March 6—April 26**.


WI 4-H AREA ANIMAL SCIENCE DAYS

Save the Date

GRANT COUNTY JUNE 19TH

CLARK COUNTY JUNE 30TH





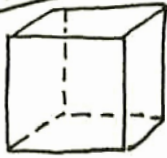
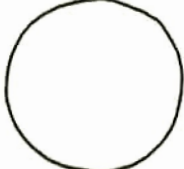
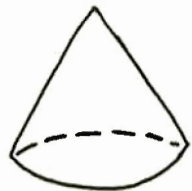
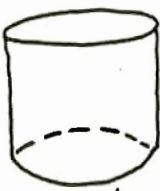
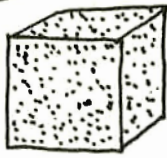
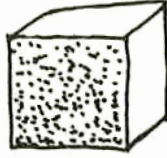
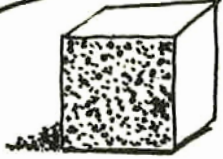


For a complete list and detailed descriptions of State and National 4-H Events, please visit: [Statewide Events and Opportunities—Wisconsin 4-H](#)

SKETCHING SKILLS

Five things that make up a drawing are shown below.
(shape, tone, shading, cast shadow and texture)

Practice each skill on the shapes in each column.

<p>shape</p>  <p>cube</p>	 <p>ball</p>	 <p>cone</p>	 <p>cylinder</p>
<p>Tone</p> 			
<p>shading</p> 			
<p>cast shadow</p> 			
<p>Texture</p> 