



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
EAU CLAIRE COUNTY



Eau Claire County 4-H Youth Development

2026-27 New Family Guide

Welcome to Eau Claire County 4-H!

Thank you for your interest in Eau Claire County 4-H. We're excited to welcome you to a program that helps young people learn new skills, make friends, build confidence, and grow as leaders through hands-on experiences.

This guide will help you get started with 4-H, including information about clubs, enrollment, events, and frequently asked questions. Every club has its own unique atmosphere and activities, so we encourage you to visit a few clubs to find the best fit for your family.

4-H is a positive youth development program that uses a learn-by-doing approach to help youth develop valuable life skills in a safe, supportive environment. Our program is made possible through the dedication of volunteers, families, and community partners.

The 4-H year begins in the fall and follows the school calendar. Youth may join 4-H at any time during the year, although enrollment deadlines may apply for participation in certain activities and events.

We hope this guide answers many of your questions. If you need additional assistance, please contact the Extension Office. We're here to help and look forward to having you as part of the Eau Claire County 4-H community!

Ready to join? Enroll your youth at wi.4honline.com to secure membership and access updates. Refer to our Enrollment Guide if needed and let us know if you require any accommodation.

Stay connected with Eau Claire County 4-H! Whether new or continuing a tradition, our staff and volunteers are here to guide you. To get in touch with our 4-H Staff please use our [staff directory](#)!

What is 4-H?

4-H is a hands-on youth development program that helps young people learn, grow, and lead. Through projects, clubs, community service, camps, and events, youth explore their interests while building confidence, responsibility, and life skills.

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Adapted from Chippewa County 4-H Educator, Jordan Blue. Modified by Amber Gilles.



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The four H's stand for **Head, Heart, Hands, and Health**, representing the values that guide the 4-H experience. Youth learn by doing, whether they're exploring science, art, photography, gardening, animals, leadership, public speaking, cooking, technology, or countless other project areas.

4-H is for all youth, regardless of background or previous experience. Members make new friends, discover their passions, serve their communities, and develop skills that will benefit them throughout their lives.

Who Can Join?

- **Cloverbuds (Grades K-2):** An introduction to 4-H through age-appropriate activities and exploration.
- **Explorers (Grade 3):** Youth can sample a variety of project areas before deciding where they would like to focus their interests.
- **4-H Members (Grades 3-13):** Members select projects, participate in club activities, develop leadership skills, and take part in countywide events and opportunities.

To see more information about membership policies visit the [Wisconsin 4-H Policies Page](#)

Membership Fees

The annual 4-H membership fee is \$10 per youth, with a \$40 family maximum. Some clubs may charge additional dues, and some projects may require supplies or equipment. All 4-H funds support youth development programs and opportunities. Financial assistance may be available. Contact the Extension Office with questions.

Enroll in 4-H

A youth's grade level in 4-H is determined as the grade the youth is in as of October 1 of that year.

- **5-year-old kindergarten – 2nd grade:** Members enroll in a Club, and in the Cloverbud project
- **3rd -13th grade:** Members enroll in a Club and can enroll in any project.
- **12th grade:** Members have the option to graduate from 4-H following high school graduation or one year after high school graduation.

Enrolling in 4HOnline as a NEW family

Family profile and member information should be entered by a parent/guardian unless the member enrolling is 18 years or older.

To enroll in Wisconsin 4-H Online, you need internet access, a valid e-mail address, and a web browser. You can enroll from a home computer/tablet/phone, or from a public access computer such as those

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available at your local library. If you cannot arrange for internet access, please call the Extension office, and we can help you set up an account.

Go to <http://wi.4honline.com>.

Please see the [4-H Online Family Enrollment Guide](#) for a step-by-step guide.

Returning 4-H Family

All current youth members and adult leaders must enroll annually. (Re-enrolling members and adults have existing profiles in 4HOnline; please do not create another profile). Contact the Extension office if you need assistance by calling 715-839-4712.

Use 4H Online Throughout the Year

Keep your login (family email address) and password handy so that you can log in to the program and update your records whenever you need to. You will have access to your online record throughout the year to update personal information, look up your family members' enrollment in clubs, projects and leadership roles, receive announcements about 4-H activities and more.

4-H Clubs and Project Groups

Steps to Join a 4-H Club:

1. Explore our [Club Information Guide](#) to find a club that sparks your interest. Check the club's meeting location and contact the leader to see if it's the right fit for your family.
2. Attend a club meeting or two to get a feel for the group and activities.
3. Ready to join? Enroll at wi.4honline.com and become an official Chippewa County 4-H member!

4-H Community Clubs

4-H Community Clubs are where youth and families connect, learn, and grow together. Clubs meet monthly and offer opportunities for hands-on learning, community service, leadership, and fun. Each club has its own unique personality, so families are encouraged to visit a few clubs to find the best fit. To learn more about our clubs please visit our [Club Information Guide](#).

What is a 4-H Project?

A 4-H project is an area of interest that youth choose to explore and learn about throughout the year. Projects allow members to develop new skills through hands-on learning and can include topics such as animals, photography, cooking, gardening, science, arts, leadership, and much more.

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Members in grades 3-13 may enroll in one or more projects based on their interests. New members are encouraged to start with just a few projects and add more as they gain experience.

4-H County Wide Projects Groups

Eau Claire County offers Single Project Groups where youth can dive deep into one specific interest. These clubs focus on particular topics, allowing youth to engage in hands-on learning and skill-building. Single Project Groups are a great option for those who want to concentrate their efforts on one area of passion, while still enjoying the supportive atmosphere of a 4-H group.

4-H County Wide Projects Groups

Horse & Pony Project

Kristen Myers | 715-577-0457 | daynecole@yahoo.com

Shooting Sports

Jon Dorn | 715-557-6605 | jon@dornconstructionllc.com

Darren Schlewitz | 715-456-6117 | schlaysows@wwt.net

Jessica Zeman | 715-205-3979 | jzeman@charter.net

Dog Project

Deb Motzing | 715-559-4492 | deb.motzing@gmail.com

Record Books

The record book is an individual report of the 4-Her's accomplishments in projects and activities during the previous year. It provides a way to reflect on what went well (or didn't) and how you might apply that learning in the future. Record books are submitted to club leaders in August. Some county-level awards require a completed record book.

Roles and Responsibilities

4-H is a partnership between youth, families, volunteers, and Extension staff. Everyone plays an important role in creating a positive and successful 4-H experience.

4-H Members

4-H members participate in club meetings, projects, events, and community service activities. Youth are encouraged to take an active role in their learning, try new things, set goals, and develop leadership skills.

Parents & Guardians

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Parents and guardians are key partners in the 4-H experience. Families are encouraged to support and encourage their youth's participation, stay informed by reading club and county communications, and help members manage project responsibilities and deadlines. Parents and guardians are also welcome to attend club meetings and events and are encouraged to volunteer in ways that match their interests, skills, and availability. Together, families, volunteers, and staff help create a positive and successful 4-H experience for all youth.

Club Leaders

Club Leaders are trained volunteers who guide and support local 4-H clubs. They help organize meetings, communicate with families, and create a safe and welcoming environment for youth.

Project Leaders

Project Leaders share their knowledge and interests with youth in a specific project area. They help members learn new skills through hands-on activities, workshops, and project meetings.

Youth Leaders

Older youth may serve as club officers or take on leadership roles within projects and county activities. These opportunities help members develop communication, teamwork, and leadership skills while serving as role models for younger members.

4-H Program Educator

The 4-H Program Educator provides leadership and support for the county 4-H program, volunteers, and families. The educator coordinates countywide programs, training, and resources and is available to answer questions throughout the year.

4-H Year at a Glance

September

- September 1 enrollment opens on 4-H Online.
- New 4-H members explore clubs and find a good fit.
- The awards committee reviews record books and nominates youth for awards.
- Annual Financial Review Due to the Extension Office September 1.

December

- County-wide Awards Banquet organized by Older Youth Council and Leaders

May

- Enroll in 4-H Online by May 1. Choose a club and 'project categories so you can show or exhibit at the EC County Fair.

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- Check out the Fair Book and decide on project entries

June

- June 1 EC County Fair entries open through the 2nd Friday in June
- 4-H Summer Camp (1st week out of school)

July

- Eau Claire County Fair

August

- Make record books to reflect on and process the 4-H year. Send your record book to the County for review after your club reviews them.

Events & Opportunities

There are many ways to stay involved in Eau Claire County 4-H throughout the year. Find upcoming events, activities, deadlines, and opportunities through:

- Eau Claire County 4-H Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EauClaireCounty4H/>
- Extension Eau Claire County Website: <https://eauclaire.extension.wisc.edu/> (under Events tab)
- The [Clover Leaves E-Newsletter](#): Your primary source for county 4-H news, reminders, and upcoming opportunities
- For statewide 4-H events, camps, leadership opportunities, and educational programs, visit the UW-Madison Extension 4-H website at: <https://extension.wisc.edu/>

Tip: Be sure your email address is up to date in 4HOnline so you don't miss important announcements and the Clover Leaves newsletter.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a 4-H club?

A 4-H club is your local 4-H community where youth participate in meetings, activities, service projects, and leadership opportunities throughout the year.

How often do clubs meet?

Most clubs meet once per month for 1-2 hours, although schedules vary by club.

Do I have to live in a rural area or own animals to be in 4-H?

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No. 4-H is for all youth and offers projects in areas such as arts, leadership, STEM, photography, cooking, gardening, and much more.

How many projects can my child take?

Members may enroll in multiple projects. New members are encouraged to start with one or two projects and add more as they gain experience.

Does my child have to complete projects independently?

4-H is a learn-by-doing program. Parents, leaders, and volunteers can guide and encourage youth, but members are expected to complete their own work whenever possible.

Do we have to participate in the county fair?

No. The fair is just one of many opportunities available through 4-H. Participation is encouraged but not required.

What is the Eau Claire County Fair?

The Eau Claire County Fair gives youth the opportunity to exhibit projects, participate in activities, showcase skills, and celebrate accomplishments with other 4-H members.

Can parents or guardians volunteer?

Absolutely! Parents and guardians are encouraged to volunteer in ways that fit their interests and availability. No previous 4-H experience is required.

What is the Clover Leaves newsletter?

The Clover Leaves is the county 4-H newsletter and is one of the best ways to stay informed about upcoming events, deadlines, and opportunities.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

Contact the Extension Eau Claire County Office or the 4-H Program Educator. We are happy to help!

Important Links & Resources

4HOnline Enroll in 4-H, update member information, and manage project enrollments.

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

Extension Eau Claire County 4-H County events, forms, newsletters, deadlines, and local program information.

<https://eauclaire.extension.wisc.edu>

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Eau Claire County 4-H Facebook Stay up to date on events, reminders, opportunities, and announcements.

<https://www.facebook.com/EauClaireCounty4H>

Wisconsin 4-H Statewide programs, camps, leadership opportunities, and project resources.

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu>

National 4-H Learn more about the 4-H program and its impact.

<https://4-h.org>

FairEntry Register exhibits for the Eau Claire County Fair.

<https://www.fairentry.com>

Eau Claire County Fair Fair schedules, information, and resources.

<https://www.eauclairecountyfair.com>

Meet Your 4-H Team

4-H Educator

Vacant

4-H Associate Educator

Cindi Syverson

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715-839-4712

Office Information

Address

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