



**Marinette County
4-H Newsletter
March, 2026**

Extension Marinette County
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Dear 4-H Families:

As the snow melts and the days grow longer, it's time to shift gears from winter hibernation to full-on action! Spring is the perfect time to dive into your 4-H projects, explore new interests, and start planning for an incredible season ahead. Whether you're gearing up for fair projects, looking forward to hands-on workshops, or dreaming about summer adventures, we've got something for everyone!

Keep an eye out for upcoming project workshops that can help you build new skills and connect with fellow 4-H'ers!

Upcoming 4-H Adventures You Won't Want to Miss!

- Summer Camp – Get ready for outdoor fun, leadership development, and lifelong memories at 4-H camp! Our counselors are working hard to create the best experience for your campers! Registration details coming soon!
- County and Statewide Workshops – Learn something new, meet new friends, and grow your 4-H experience through hands-on activities. Check out the newsletter for more details!

As we welcome spring, let's embrace all the opportunities 4-H has to offer. Stay engaged, ask questions, and most importantly— have fun! Get ready to grow with 4-H this season!

Your Marinette County 4-H Team,
Sarah and Nancy

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DO NOT REMOVE POSTER. PLEASE TAKE A PICTURE OR SCAN QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE.

UTL'S FREE MOVIE FAN NIGHT

MARINER THEATRE
2000 Ella Court, Marinette, WI
Movie Hotline 715-732-9364
marinertheater.com

WE INVITE YOU TO ENJOY ANY MOVIES PLAYING THESE DAYS AT MARINER THEATRE FOR FREE!!!

FEATURE MOVIES WE ARE EXPECTING:
AVATAR: FIRE & ASH on 1/24/26 & A MYSTERY MOVIE IN MARCH!
CONFIRMED MOVIES AND SHOWTIMES FOR THESE DAYS WILL BE POSTED THE THURSDAY PRIOR TO THE EVENT
ARRIVE EARLY TO MAKE SURE YOU GET TO SEE THESE MOVIES FOR FREE. MOVIE SELECTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE FROM MOVIE COMPANIES.
ADMISSION IS FREE, CONCESSIONS ARE NOT.
MARINER THEATRE OPENS 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE FIRST MOVIE SHOWTIME.

OLD SCHOOL TRADING CO.
SPOTLIGHT SPONSOR:

MYSTERY MOVIE MARCH

FOLLOW MARINER THEATRE & UNDER THE LIGHTS ENTERTAINMENT TO SEE WHAT THE FEATURE MOVIE WILL BE AND WHAT DATE IT WILL BE ON!

BECOME A SPONSOR!
Starting at just \$75!!!

AVATAR: FIRE AND ASH
JAN. 24TH

FREE MOVIE—MARCH 28

The 4-H Leaders Association is sponsoring the March movie at the Mariner, in Marinette, on **March 28**, and includes \$5.00 towards concessions for members and leaders. Scan the QR code the Thursday before the movie for more information.

Are we just keeping them busy, or building leaders?



Rung 8: Youth initiated with adult support. Equal partnership.

Rung 7: Youth initiated, directed, led. Minimal adult input.



Rung 6: Shared decision making. Youth choice, adult led activity.

Rung 5: Youth consultation. Adults consider youth ideas.

Rung 4: Youth assigned into participatory roles. Adult led.



Rung 3: Tokenism. Youth have minimal input into activity.

Rung 2: Decoration. Youth have no input in adult led activity.

Rung 1: Manipulation. Youth do not understand purpose.

A. Sparks, K. Griebenow, 2024. Adapted from: Hart, R. (1992). Children's participation from tokenism to citizenship. Florence, Italy: UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre

School clubs, sports, and internships are fun for kids and adults, but they are also powerful engines for learning other life and leadership skills. When young people are given a meaningful role in their activities, they learn **conflict resolution, communication, and responsibility**.

How much “say” do youth have in your programs? **Hart’s Ladder of Participation** (see graphic) is a quick way to assess this:

Noticing when on the bottom rungs (Non-Participation):

- **Manipulation & Decoration:** Using youth as “props” for adult ideas without giving them understanding or influence.
- **Tokenism:** Asking for opinions but ignoring them when making decisions.

Aim for the higher rungs (Increasing Degrees of Participation):

- **Informed:** Youth are assigned tasks but fully understand the purpose.
- **Shared Decisions:** Whether the project is started by adults or kids, the decision-making power is shared.
- **Youth-Directed:** Young people initiate projects and lead the way, with adults acting as supportive mentors.

The Takeaway: Not every activity needs to be at the top rung—safety and maturity always come first. However, simply offering a few more choices can make a difference. It creates deeper learning for the kids and actually lightens the decision-making load for the adults!

Want to move up the ladder? If you’d like to brainstorm how to apply this to your organization, contact Sarah at Marinette County Extension. **Email:** sarah.ferdon@wisc.edu **Phone:** 715-732-7516 *Thanks to Outagamie County Extension’s Alicia Schroeder-Haag for the Hart’s Ladder explanation & edits from Google Gemini.

SAVE THE DATE!

Clover Connect

Idea sharing zooms for 4-H volunteers and older youth

Hands to Larger Service: Community Service Ideas

Sunday, Feb 22 @ 7 p.m.
Monday, Feb 23 @ 12 Noon

Making 4-H Meetings Fun: Bringing Laughter & Learning to 4-H Meetings

Sunday, Mar 22 @ 7 p.m.
Monday, Mar 23 @ 12 Noon



For More Info:



CLOVER CONNECT

Remaining session:

Making 4-H Meetings Fun: Bringing Laughter and Learning to 4-H Meetings

Sunday, Mar 22 at 7 p.m. & Monday, Mar 23 at Noon (same content will be repeated)

Register by visiting <https://go.wisc.edu/pbm474>. This session will be recorded, and resources will be shared with those who sign up!

Zoom connection information will be shared closer to session date.

REGISTRATION OPEN

4-H Camp MAROCOSHA

Welcome to the Jungle!

JUNE 22 - 26, 2026

CAMP BIRD, CRIVITZ, WI
Open to youth in grades 3 - 7

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/MarOcoSha4H2026>

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law.

4-H CLUB GRANT

Mutual of Wausau Insurance Corporation extends its grant program to support 4-H Clubs. With a commitment to fostering growth and opportunities, any 4-H Club located within the Mutual of Wausau coverage area is eligible. Empowering the next generation of innovators, this program aims to fuel the success of 4-H Clubs across our communities. Deadline is April 1st. <https://mutualofwausau.com/about/community-involvement/>

Wildlife & Woods

EXPLORATIONS VIRTUAL SERIES

FREE SERIES: FOR YOUTH GRADES K-5
7:00PM-7:45PM

JAN. 28, 2026
FEB. 25, 2026
MAR. 25, 2026
APRIL 29, 2026
MAY 20, 2026

Register via 4Honline
wi.4honline.com

Wildlife & Woods

CAREERS & COMPETITION VIRTUAL SERIES

FREE SERIES: FOR YOUTH GRADES 6-13
7:00PM-7:45PM

JAN. 26, 2026
FEB. 23, 2026
MAR. 23, 2026
APRIL 27, 2026
MAY 18, 2026

Register via 4Honline
wi.4honline.com

Wildlife & Woods Explorations are suggested for grades K-5 through elementary school youth and their families. The sessions will be interactive and will include wildlife, forestry, wildlife art and more. Register here: <https://26wildlifeexplorations.4honline.com/> **Wildlife & Woods Careers & Competitions Series** are suggested for middle school through high school youth and their families. The sessions will be interactive and will include guest speakers talking about careers, information about wildlife and forestry competitions and resources available to learn more. Register here: <https://26wildlifecareers.4honline.com/>

4H ARTS PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

WI 4-H 2026 PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Any active 4-H member, grade 3-13, can enter. The contest will open March 1 and will close on April 1 at 11:59 pm. The contest will run through 4-H online. Contest guidelines and how to upload your photo will be available through the 4-H online portal. Categories are: What 4-H Means To Me; People; Animals/Wildlife; Action/Movement; and, Nature/Landscape. Photos can be submitted in color or black and white and each photo can only be entered in one category. They must be taken in the last 12 months and be the work of the member.

Each photo entry will cost \$3. The top photo in each category will be printed, mounted and displayed at the State 4-H office, be a part of the 4-H State Art show at Summer Academy, shared on the WI 4-H social media sites, and available for display at other statewide events. Top overall photos from the entire contest will receive \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place, and \$50 for third place.

For more information about copyright and photo releases including other information, visit <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/projects/expressive-arts/wisconsin-4-h-2026-photography-contest/> Questions?? Reach out to Jay Johnson at 920-449-0519 or jay.johnson2@wisc.edu

EXCITING COUNTY FAIR OPPORTUNITY

The Marinette County Fair Board has put together an exciting opportunity for the county youth to pair with a senior. This partnership will be to create a project with a resident at the Renaissance by Rennes. Each project created will be entered in the Youth and Adult Class at the Fair this year. **This project will also count towards the mandatory volunteer hours that are required for the livestock auction. This will also count for community service.** There are three planned dates: March 19 at 4:00 pm; April 2 at 4:00 pm; and April 21 at 4:00 pm. If you have kids that are interested, please contact Rachel Dura at 715-587-1787. Please have numbers to her by March 5th. They need to know so there are adequate supplies available.



STEAM GAZE

STEAM GAZE is a full-day, hands-on learning experience for curious and creative youth in grades 3–5, where art and science come together through interactive workshops led by educators and mentors.

Participants will explore a variety of STEAM topics, including chemistry, environmental science, theater, music, and visual arts, while engaging in activities designed to spark curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving skills. Youth will be supported throughout the day by professional staff and older 4-H youth leaders. STEAM GAZE is open to both 4-H members and non-4-H youth.

DATE: April 25, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m, Marathon County Extension Office, Wausau, WI.

COST: \$10 per youth participant. Low-cost registration helps ensure this opportunity is accessible to all families.

Youth must attend with an adult (parent, club leader, teacher, Extension staff, etc.). There is no cost for adult attendees.

REGISTRATION INFO: A link for registration is posted [here](#).





SUMMER ACADEMY

UW-Madison: June 14-18. This Positive Youth Development program helps youth explore career and hobby pathways in various fields like agriculture, STEM, leadership, arts, and more. You'll also have the chance to build friendships and networks with people from across Wisconsin. For youth in grades 8-11.

A variety of track-based activities, seminars, campus tours, performances, and hands-on experiences. Summer Academy will be held at the UW-Madison Campus, where youth and adult chaperones will stay at Dejope Residence hall. Youth will be participating in a wide variety of track-based activities and seminars. They will be able to visit different locations on Campus and in Madison. They will also have the opportunity to hear from speakers, watch a performance from the 4-H Drama Company, and participate in a variety of fun hands-on activities!

Registration Information: March 6 – April 26, 2026 through 4HOnline. Fee: \$150 per youth covers lodging, meals, transportation, activities, and more.

State Scholarships available to reduce costs (included in 4HOnline registration). For more information, visit <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/summer-academy/>

NEVER TO EARLY TO START THINKING ABOUT 4-H ROYALTY

Royalty is open to all females and males starting 9th grade September 2026 and it's never to early to think about it.

To reflect the changes to the Fair judging schedule, the Royalty Committee has made a few changes as well, such as to when applications will be due, when Coronation will be held and when duties will start.

The first change is the deadline for applications to the committee will be July 1st, 2026.

Interviews will still be held during the month of July.

The second change will be a dinner on the first weekend of August with candidates, family members, judges, committee members and 4-H staff. During the dinner the new royalty will be crowned.

The third change will be duties starting the weekend before the fair. The Saturday of vet science judging.

The committee is still planning to have a meeting in early June for anyone interested or has questions.

Keep watching your newsletter for dates. For more information, please contact Dorothy Kaminski, Chair of the Royalty Committee, at 920-897-2316.

WI TOWNS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

Ten scholarships are being offered. Rural Mutual Insurance Company, Wisconsin Towns Association, and Scott Construction, Inc. are again offering the following scholarships to winners of an essay contest.

Scholarships will be awarded on the following basis: All applicants must graduate from a Wisconsin public or private high school in 2026 and plan to attend a Wisconsin public or private college or university in 2026. Essays will be judged independently on originality and subject matter in relation to the topic. The essays must also contain correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Judging will be completed by August 10, 2026. Recipients will be announced by August 24, 2026. Proof of enrollment in a Wisconsin public or private college is required to receive a scholarship. View complete details [here](#). Submit your essay along with this [background information sheet](#) to kelly.richards@wisctowns.com by May 22, 2026.

2026 Scholarship Topic: "What strategies can be implemented by local government officials in collaboration with citizens to encourage and maintain civility?"

"4-H IS A COMMUNITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS AMERICA WHO ARE LEARNING LEADERSHIP, CITIZENSHIP AND LIFE SKILLS"



TREES AND SHRUBS AVAILABLE

The Menominee Co. Conservation District is again offering for sale trees & shrubs, along with other supplies. Ordering is open until April 1st. Pick up will be at the Menominee Co Rd Commission Stephenson on Fri. May 1 from 1-5 pm and Sat. May 2 from 9-11 am. To see what is for sale and to order on-line visit <http://www.menomineecd.com/> & click on 'tree sale.'

The Dickinson County Conservation District is also doing a tree sale. Orders can be placed online, in-person at our office at 420 N. Hooper St, Kingsford, MI 49802, or over the phone by calling (906) 774-1550 ext. 103. For more information and for an order form, visit <https://www.dickinsoncd.org/shop>

ANIMAL SCIENCE

COUNTY FAIR WEIGH-IN DATES

Beef weigh-ins are March 21, from 8-10 am, at the Fairgrounds. Sheep/goat weigh-ins will be May 16, 8-10 am, at the Fairgrounds. (Must be on the Fairgrounds by 10 am.). Swine pictures are also due at 10 am on May 16. Pictures can be sent to marinettefair@yahoo.com

Next meeting is April 6, 2026 at 7 pm, at the Grover Town Hall.



WI 4-H AREA ANIMAL SCIENCE DAYS

Save the Date

**GRANT COUNTY
JUNE 19TH**

**CLARK COUNTY
JUNE 30TH**



CHECK INBOXES AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR FUTURE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

4-H DOG BOWL CONTEST

SPONSORED BY THE WI 4-H DOG ASSOCIATION

**APRIL 25, 2026
STEM INNOVATION BUILDING
UW - GREEN BAY**



Registration is open for the WI 4-H Dog Bowl Competition on April 25th at UW Green Bay in the STEM Innovation Building. Registrations close March 30th. Looking for more information about the event, registration information, study sources, rules and more? Find it at: <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/.../statewid.../dog-quiz-bowl/>



WI 4-H HORSE ASSOCIATION

**HORSE EDUCATION DAYS
MAY 2 - 3, 2026**

EXCITING CHANGES!

EVENTS INCLUDE:

- Horse Bowl
- Hippology
- Speaking and Demonstration
- Photography
- Model Horse
- Art
- Team Problems
- Creative Communication

QUESTIONS?

☎ (920) 757-5167, Sharon, Education Chairperson

📄 See the WI 4-H Horse Association Handbook link in the post



More information can be found in the Wisconsin 4-H Horse Association Handbook (look under Chapter 5, Statewide Events, Education Days):

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/.../wisconsin-4-h-horse.../>
Location will be the STEM Innovation Center - UW Green Bay Campus, 2019 Technology Way, Green Bay, WI 54311. Registration information about the contests will be coming out soon and will be completed through 4-H online.

MINUTES

Marinette County 4-H Leaders Association Meeting Mon, Feb 16th at the Crivitz Fire Station

The meeting was called to order at 6:14 PM by Lisa Witak. Attendees were Sue Deschane, Julia Lepinski, Rebekah Wickman, Dorothy Kaminski, Lisa Witak, Sarah Ferdon, Wally Hitt, Barb Kolosowski, and Margaret Graese.

Motion made to approve the secretary's report from the 1/11/26 meeting as presented in the February 2026 newsletter by Barb Kolosowski, second by Sue Deschane. Carried.

Motion to approve the treasurer's report by Margaret Graese, second by Sue Deschane. Carried

Update from Sarah Ferdon

- Handed out "4-H Club Leader Journal" which includes a lot of information and ideas for all things 4-H from key websites to various learning models to parts of a meeting, a meeting agenda template, and committees in 4-H clubs. Any leader not in attendance but interested in a copy, please reach out to Sarah.

Updates were provided for the various Committee reports.

- Food Stand

- Received the annual contract in the mail for the fair. Julia will get that completed.

- Raffle

- Raffle committee includes Barb Kolosowski, Wally Hitt, Julia Lepinski and Dorothy Kaminski. Any other interested individuals, please complete the 2026 Volunteer Sign-Up form that is due Feb 27th. (A copy of the form can be found in the Feb 2026 Newsletter.)

- Motion made to order 20,000 tickets and to move the drawing to be 7 PM Saturday of the fair in the show barn by Julia Lepinski, second by Sue Deschane, carried.

- Clubs - Please start thinking about your prizes and get any big items communicated to Barb or another committee member ASAP so we can be sure those are included on the printed tickets. (Expecting to hand tickets out at the April or May Leadership meeting.)

- Clubs – also, please feel free to start handing in your prizes to any committee member (or Margaret Graese).

- Again, the **raffle drawing will be held SATURDAY, Aug 29th at 7 PM in the show barn.** This is a change from previous years as we are hoping this will allow for

winners to be able to pick up their winnings Saturday night and Sunday.

- Royalty

- Have changed so the interviews and coronation will be the same day with a small dinner in early August. Tentative date would be August 1st prior to the WI State Fair which would start the following weekend. Currently 1 candidate.

Old Business:

- Record Books

- Clarification was discussed regarding the Project Sheet. The Lifetime Dairy Record Sheet and the various Livestock Performance Project Sheets (separate for each species) still need to be completed in accordance with the Marinette County Youth Livestock Performance Contest and Rules. The Fair Book Project Sheet will need to be completed for each non-animal exhibit.

- Achievement Day

- Was Sunday, Jan 11th at the Grover Town Hall and it went well.

- Movie

- 4-H Leaders Assoc sponsored a movie in February and 10 concession tickets were handed out.
 - There is another movie night on March 21st – time and movie to be determined yet.

New Business:

- Summer Field Trip – looking for suggestions from club members (Noah's Ark?? WI State Fair??). Please let your leader(s) know so they can bring them to the next leadership meeting on March 16th.

- Save the Date – Friday, May 29th – Green Bay Blizzards hosting another "Dairy Night"

Discussion Only:

- Meal Ticket for the Fair – add 1 meal for Wednesday of the fair? Change in meal ticket price? Add to agenda for next meeting.

- Will the 4-H be doing anything at the fair in celebration for the 250th anniversary of the nation? Have some one dress up as Uncle Sam?

Next meeting will be Monday, March 16, 2026, at the Grover Town Hall at 6:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn at 7:01 PM by Sue Deschane, second by Dorothy Kaminski. Carried

Respectfully Submitted,
Margaret Graese

MEMORIES FROM WINTER LEADERSHIP CAMP: QUEST UNLOCKED! SPENCER LAKE CAMP IN WAUPACA

Pictures from the recent Leadership Camp held in Waupaca on Feb 27-March 1. Youth from Marinette, Oconto, Shawano, Manitowoc and Waupaca Counties gathered to practice leadership building activities while enjoying the camp atmosphere at Spencer Lake Camp. Youth had the opportunity to work on public speaking skills, effective listening and conversation skills, teambuilding skills, life skills, and team challenges. We were thankful for the above zero temperatures and a great group of youth willing to learn!

