



**Marinette County  
4-H Newsletter  
November 2025**

Extension Marinette County  
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**Exciting News for Marinette County 4-H!**

I'm pleased to share that Sarah Ferdon will be stepping into the 4-H Educator role for Marinette County, beginning the week of November 2.

Sarah comes to this position after serving for more than 17 years as an educator and Coordinator/Supervisor of the FoodWIse program. She brings extensive experience in coordinating community programs, supporting people from a wide range of backgrounds, and helping them thrive.

Her work across communities and age groups has made her a strong connector to the many educational resources offered through our organization. Sarah's deep experience working with youth has also shown her the value of involving young people in all aspects of their own learning and experiences. Helping youth recognize their potential and watching them grow has been one of the most rewarding aspects of her career.



Sarah's positive relationships and local connections will be a tremendous asset as she helps support the 4-H program in Marinette County. She is committed to supporting our volunteers, leaders, and members to ensure that anyone who can benefit from 4-H has the opportunity to do so.

Please join me in welcoming Sarah to this new role!

It has truly been a pleasure to serve as the 4-H Educator for Marinette County over the past six years. I'm grateful for the opportunity to have worked alongside so many dedicated families and volunteers, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you through future programs and shared initiatives.

Warm regards,

Aimee Elkins  
4-H Positive Youth Development Educator/ Teen Court Coordinator  
UW-Madison Division of Extension – Oconto County



**RETURNING 4-H ADULT VOLUNTEERS DEADLINE FOR TRAININGS/SCREENINGS—PLEASE READ**

All returning Wisconsin 4-H volunteers were required to re-enroll between September 1 and November 1. All required trainings and background checks must be completed by December 1. Until you have completed the required training and background check, you are not considered an approved 4-H volunteer and you are not covered by the liability coverage provided to volunteers of the University of Wisconsin Madison Division of Extension if an incident or injury occurs while you perform volunteer duties in 4-H. Adults who are not approved 4-H volunteers cannot be in custodial care of youth.

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

# REMEMBER: MEMBERS HAVE TO RE-ENROLL IN 4-H ONLINE EVERY YEAR!

## ASSOCIATION BOARD ELECTIONS - SEEKING TO FILL OFFICER POSITIONS

Board elections will be held during Achievement Day/Leader Recognition. Association meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. on the 3rd Monday of every month (rotating locations) with the exception of Aug. & Dec. (no meeting). In addition to descriptions below, board member responsibilities include planning the annual 4-H calendar & annual budget & working with Extension Program Educator to determine 4-H policies and goals, determine training needs, make decisions about the county 4-H program and carry out other business of the Association.

This is a great way to get involved!

President: (two year term) Presides at all meetings of the Leaders Association and acts as Chair of Board meetings. President and Extension Program Educator work together to solve problems and plan educational opportunities.

Secretary: (two year term) Keeps minutes of all meetings of the Leaders Association & turns them into the 4-H office for the newsletter. Brings copy of minutes to each meeting. Works with the Extension Office in getting out correspondence/communications when necessary.



## ANNUAL 2025 4-H MEMBER & LEADER ACHIEVEMENT DAY—PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND

You are invited to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of our members and leaders! There is lots to celebrate in Marinette County!

**Who:** **All** 4-H members, parents & families, volunteers and leaders

**When:** **January 11, 2026 at noon.** **Grover Town Hall.**

**Each club is asked to bring a dessert/sweet. Your hosts, Golden Opportunity and Middle Inlet Moonshiners, will provide drinks, buns and snacks.**

The following members will be recognized during our annual achievement event: All youth who submitted a record book or easy completion form, Cloverbuds who submitted books, James Crowley Dairy Leadership award winner, National 4-H week window display winners, June Dairy Month window display, 4-H graduates, Golden Clover award winners, Outstanding Youth Leader award winner; and more. Also, leaders and youth who served on county-wide committees, members of the 4-H Leaders Association Board, members or leaders that coordinated a special 4-H event or project, volunteer of the year award winner. All 1st, 10th, 20th, 25th, 40th & 45th year leaders will be recognized.

## REVIEW OF RECORD BOOK SHEETS

Monday, November 10, 6 pm, at the Crivitz Fire Station there will be a meeting to update various project sheets. Leaders are being asked to attend to start helping with this task. A Record Book Committee is also being formed and will be included on the sign-up sheet in next month's newsletter. If you have any questions, or would like to assist with this, please call Anne Biernasz at 715-923-4738.

An advertisement for 4-H Camp Marocosa. It features a yellow calendar with a large red 'X' over it, the text 'MARK THIS DATE' in red, and the camp's name and date in large red letters. Below, it says 'Camp Counselor Applications Available in November-December'.

## **'FREE' MOVIE OPPORTUNITY**

The Mariner, in Marinette, will once again be offering a free movie on Nov 8th – movie is Tron Ares. Check Facebook or call the theater to get more information.

## WI 4-H CHARTERS WERE DUE NOVEMBER 1

Club charters were due November 1st. Information and forms can be found at <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/resources/volunteer-resources/administrative/charter/>

The 4-H Charter indicates that a 4-H Club or Group is organized in accordance with the objectives of the WI 4-H program. The University of WI-Madison, Division of Extension grants 4-H Charters which formally authorizes a WI 4-H Club or Group to use the 4-H Name and Emblem for educational purposes in accordance with laws and regulations established by Congress and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. 4-H Charters are renewed annually and will be granted upon successful completion of the Wisconsin 4-H Charter Application.

Failure to submit a completed Wisconsin 4-H Clubs & Groups Charter Application by the due date could result in the 4-H Club or Group being dissolved.

## **WINTER LEADERSHIP CAMP: QUEST UN-LOCKED!**

Calling all teen adventurers—your next mission awaits! **Save the Date: January 23–25**, Spencer Lake Camp, Waupaca. Power up your leadership skills, Team up for epic challenges, Recharge by the fire with your crew Registration opens October 1st in 4HOnline. Spots are limited—secure your place before the countdown ends! Are you ready to level up

IRL? #WinterLeadershipCamp #NextLevelLeadership #4HQuest #CampUnlocked #WisconsinTeens

winter leadership camp

Save the Date

level up

your

leadership

Date      Month      Year

23-25      1      2026

Extension  
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## **TRACTOR SUPPLY (TSC) PAPER CLOVER PROMOTION UPDATE**

The Paper Clover Campaign will be November 28 - December 14, 2025. Mark your calendars. More information to come.

## **ROYALTY COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP**

The Royalty Committee needs help to locate articles and/or pictures of the Queen Contest from 1987 to 1999.

Royalty was called the Queen Contest until 2000 when it was taken over by a new committee. The committee was given a binder with articles/pictures thru 1986; there are no articles/pictures from 1987 to 1999. Below is the list of those involved during that time frame. If anyone knows how to reach out to them, please have them contact me: Dorothy Kaminski by phone 920-471-2775 or email [dlkaminski74@gmail.com](mailto:dlkaminski74@gmail.com)

Lisa Diktanas  
Candie Labunski  
Cheryl Scholtz  
Lisa Johnston  
Terry Erickson  
Jennifer DeGroff  
Kimberly LaPlant  
Heather Hillers  
Corrie Kirk  
Cheryl Risner

Becky Fairchild  
Amanda DeGroot  
Andrea Soderberg  
Amanda Tachick  
Janel Beaver  
Erin Block  
Amy Patz  
Kim Pionkowski  
Katie Brissette  
Caitlyn Gleason  
Robin Panske

Thanks for any help we can get to complete this project.



## **CEDAR CREST 4-H CONTEST**

Cedar Crest Ice Cream and the WI 4-H Foundation have teamed up once again to present the "Cedar Crest Ice Cream 4-H Flavor Creation Contest" for WI 4-H clubs. All WI 4-H clubs are eligible to submit their ideas for a new ice cream flavor, along with a flavor description and interesting flavor name. For contest information, rules and the entry form, please visit: <https://cedarcresticecream.com/4H-Flavor-Contest/>

## **2025-26 PROJECT YEAR BEGINS OCT. 1**

Our new enrollment year for 2026 began on October 1.

Leaders had to re-enroll by November 1 and members must re-enroll each year by November 30. Regular members must be in 3rd grade or older.

Cloverbuds (children in 5K through 2nd grade) should be listed in your club enrollment. Cloverbuds can participate in club activities. They can exhibit at the County Fair, only in the Cloverbud category, and do not receive premiums.

\*New members can join at any time, but must enroll by May 1 to enter in the Fair.

\*May 1 is also the deadline to add or drop projects.

\*You must be enrolled in a project in order to exhibit at the Fair in that project.

We hope that your 4-H club will have a special promotion to tell the benefits of 4-H in your respective communities this fall. Invite your friends to join!!

## **4-H TRIPS**

Teens interested in attending trips should fill out the Marinette County Sponsored Event Application. First round was due Oct. 1. All information regarding age requirements and trips was included in the leaders packet at the Fair. Following that, applications are due Feb. 1 and with interviews at the Feb. 4-H Association Meeting.

## **PLEASE REMEMBER TO SAY "THANK YOU"**

Remember to say thank you to your award sponsors and to acknowledge all awards received, whether received at the County Fair, Achievement Day, or throughout the year. Sponsors give because they believe in 4-H and in you the youth!!! Let's show them we appreciate their efforts and give them a word of thanks.

## **MARINETTE COUNTY 4-H CHRISTMAS DECORATING AT PAYANT PARK, WAUSAUKEE**

Decorating of Payant Park in Wausauke (next to Sal's) will be Sunday, November 30th at 12:30-2:30 pm. Please wear boots, hats, coats, and gloves etc. as temperature will be around 30°. We will be putting up lights around the gazebo and decorating the big flower pots along with the Nativity and wreaths. Anyone in Marinette County is welcome to come and help. Call Anne at 715-923-4738 or Barb 715-927-5213 if you have any questions. If you have any decorations, you may bring them with you. We could use step ladders if anyone has one.



Explore your Head, Heart, Hands, and Health with fun 4-H activities!

**Audience:** Grades 5K-2

**Register:** By Nov. 16th!

**\*\$5 Fee for the kit**

 UW-MADISON EXTENSION

**DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM**

**4-H DISCOVERY KIT**

**Session Dates:**  
**Jan. 13, Jan. 27, Feb. 10, Feb. 24**  
from 6:30 – 7:30 PM

Learn more and Register at:  
<http://virtual.wi4h.org>

In the 4-H Discovery Kit Distance Learning Program, youth in grades 5K–2 will explore what it means to be part of 4-H through fun, hands-on activities built around Head, Heart, Hands, and Health! Each session introduces a new topic from building rockets to baking mug cakes, while helping youth learn project and life skills. Kits include most of the materials needed plus a few simple items from home.

Activities include:

Rockets Away (Jan. 13) – Experiment with how rockets fly  
 The Day You Begin (Jan. 27) – Celebrate what makes you unique  
 Lava Mug Cake (Feb. 10) – Learn kitchen safety and spread kindness  
 Healthy Minds and Bodies (Feb. 24) – Make calm jars and move for fun

Zoom Sessions: Jan. 13, Jan. 27, Feb. 10, Feb. 24 (6:30–7:30 PM)  
 Registration now through Nov. 16: <http://virtual.wi4h.org>



In the Design Your Landscape Kit Distance Learning Program, youth in grades 3–8 will discover how science and art connect through landscape design. Learn how to plan, sketch, and design your own outdoor space while exploring topics like plants, soil, and sustainability.

This hands-on project combines creativity with environmental learning which is perfect for youth who love both art and nature! Each kit includes supplies and a design booklet to guide you through your project.

Zoom Sessions: Jan. 26, Feb. 9, Feb. 23 (6:30–7:30 PM)

Register now through Nov. 16: <http://virtual.wi4h.org>

**Distance Learning Program**

**DESIGN YOUR LANDSCAPE KIT**

Learn how to plan, sketch, and bring your own landscape design to life!

**Audience:** Grades 3-8

**Session Dates:** Jan. 26, Feb. 9, Feb. 23 from 6:30 - 7:30 PM

**Register:** By Nov. 16th!

**\*Fee of \$5 for the kit**

 UW-MADISON EXTENSION

**LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT:**  
**HTTP://VIRTUAL.WI4H.ORG**

## MINUTES

### Marinette County 4-H Leaders Association Meeting Monday, October 20, 2025—Crivitz Fire Station

The meeting was called to order at the Crivitz Fire Station at 6:05 PM by Jennie Pillath. Attendees were Jennie Pillath, Sue Deschane, Julia Lepinski, Anne Biernasz, Dorothy Kaminski, and Margaret Graese.

Motion made to approve the secretary's report from the 9/15/25 meeting as presented in the newsletter by Anne Biernasz, second by Sue Deschane. Carried

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

Updates were provided for the various Committee reports.

- Awards and Trips
  - Approve interviewee to go to Space Camp and Winter Leadership Camp
  - Please add “Did you complete a record book?” to the Sponsored Event Application

#### Old Business:

- Record Books
  - Discussed how “gifts/awards” for completing a record book should be something bigger/more than a gift/award for completing a completion form
- Achievement Day
  - Deciding on date – January 11, at Grover Town Hall at noon
    - \*Middle Inlet Moonshiners and Golden Opportunity are the clubs in charge to bring buns & any other wanted snacks and each club to bring a dessert. (Next year Pike River and Merry Go Getters will be the clubs in charge.)
  - Election of Officers: President and Secretary
    - \*Decided to have a short meeting at Achievement Day to hold election
- Movie
  - Reminder, there is a free movie date on Nov 8th – movie is Tron Ares

- 4-H Leaders Assoc is sponsoring a movie in February (Date TBD) and includes \$5.00 towards concession for members and leaders.

#### New Business:

- Set date to work on record book sheets – need to make a committee (Deb, Lisa, Anne, Jennie, others?) – Anne B is working on getting a date and currently looking at Nov 10th at 6:30 pm (Crivitz Fire Station)
- Association Charter – Julia Lepinski completed/filed
- Reminder – Adult volunteer re-enrollment deadline is Nov 1st

#### Discussion Only:

- Save the Date – Wisconsin Herd, Sat, Dec 13th at noon – see the attached flyer on page 3.

Next meeting will be Monday, November 17th at the Grover Town Hall at 6:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn at 7:04 PM by Anne Biernasz, second by Dorothy Kaminski. Carried

Respectfully submitted,  
Margaret Graese

