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**Marinette County
 4-H Newsletter
 October, 2023**

Greetings 4-H Families!

I hope everyone is off to a great start to their school years after an amazing summer. Over the last few months, we have had the opportunity to have two day camps, a tri-county residential camp, and a very successful County Fair. I want to extend a huge thank you to our members, volunteers, partners, and parents. Without all of you these experiences would not be possible.

It is time for a new 4-H year to begin. Please log into to 4-H Online to re-enroll for this year as soon as possible. Continue to keep an eye on your newsletters and emails to stay up to date on what is happening at the county, state, and national levels.

Keep making the best better!

Alexis Witak
 Interim Associate 4-H Program Educator
 Marinette County

**WISCONSIN 4-H POP-UP STORE—
 OPEN UNTIL NOV. 6TH**

Are you ready for some Wisconsin 4-H merchandise? Wisconsin 4-H Pop-up Store is being launched where 4-H youth, volunteers, and families can order their Wisconsin 4-H merchandise (clothing, water bottles, notebooks, caps, etc). There is a brand new line of merchandise options and hope this generates some excitement Most options



come in multiple colors, so be sure to click on the item you want and explore more. The store will be open for individual orders from NOW until November 6. Items will be received around the first week of December. Individuals can order items through the store website. They will be charged a minimum \$15 flat rate shipping. (To order, visit: <https://uwext4-h-taxable.dcpromosite.com/> or <https://go.wisc.edu/x94yby> (same link as before, just shortened).



**YOU HAVE TO RE-ENROLL IN 4-H
 ONLINE EVERY YEAR!**

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.

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CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME TO NEW 4-H ROYALTY

Please join us in congratulating our new 2023-2024 Marinette County 4-H Queen, Matilda Witak, and 4-H Princess, Kassy Hardy, both are from Merry Go Getters 4-H Club.

ASSOCIATION BOARD ELECTIONS - SEEKING TO FILL OFFICER POSITIONS

Board elections will be held during Achievement Day/ Leader Recognition on January 14. 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 4-H newsletter. Brings copy of minutes to

each meeting. Works with the Extension Office in getting out correspondence & communications when necessary.

Youth Reps (2): (1 or 2 year term) Works as active member together with other board members and 4-H Program Educator in a youth-adult partnership model including attending regular meetings, collaborating on 4-H Leader Association projects, providing input & making decisions, & setting goals for the county 4-H program. Representatives should be at least 12 years old.



TEEN LEADERS

This year we had the privilege of starting a new group within 4-H. Teen Leaders is an opportunity for youth in grades 7 through 13 to help plan events and lead younger youth in the county. The next meeting will be held on Sunday October 22 at 2 pm at the Grover Town Hall. If you have any questions please contact Alexis Witak at awitak@wisc.edu. I hope to see you all there!



TIME TO CELEBRATE: ANNUAL 2023 4-H MEMBER & LEADER ACHIEVEMENT DAY

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 & Where: **January 14, 2024. Planned for Crivitz High School Auditoria**

Each family is asked to bring a dish to pass. Plates provided. Also, each club should bring a dessert. We wish to thank our hosts for this year's event: Beaver Four-Leaf Clover 4-H Club and Forever Green 4-H Club.

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, 4-H graduates, Golden Clover award winners, Outstanding Youth Leader award winner; and more.

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, 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 35th year leaders will be recognized.

THE FALL TRACTOR SUPPLY COMPANY PAPER CLOVER CAMPAIGN IS OCTOBER 4-15

Your club could earn \$50 for doing an in-store promotion. See below for details.

The Tractor Supply Company (TSC) has worked with 4-H for the past several years by coordinating a paper clover campaign held in the spring and fall of each year. Proceeds from the sale of paper clovers at each Wisconsin TSC store go to the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation to be used for leadership programming.

The Wisconsin 4-H Foundation is actively encouraging clubs and 4-H members to work with TSC stores in their area to do an in-store promotion during the fall 2023 campaign scheduled for October 4-15, 2023.

Please read this [INFORMATION](#) before signing up for more details and requirements.

[Online registration is required.](#)

Proceeds from the TSC paper clover campaign are used to support leadership development programs like State 4-H Conference, Fall Forum and Wisconsin Leadership Council, as well as Wisconsin delegations attending National 4-H Conference, National 4-H Congress and Citizenship Washington Focus.

Questions: Contact the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation: 608.262.1597 or joanne@wis4hfoundation.org

IMPORTANT ANNUAL CLUB FINANCIAL AND CHARTER PAPERWORK UPDATE

Each 4-H club or group is required to complete financial review and Charter renewal process annually. The deadline for submitting the financial review (covering the fiscal year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023) to the Extension office was September 1st, if your club has not submitted the financial review, this must be done as soon as possible. The deadline for submitting the annual club charter to the Extension office is November 1st. These dates are set by the UW-Madison, Division of Extension state office to comply with IRS deadlines. A club that does not complete paperwork in a timely fashion risks no longer being recognized as a 4-H club or group which could lead to dissolution of the club. If you need assistance in completing these documents contact Aimee at: aimee.elkins@wisc.edu.



PROJECT SUPPORT FOR YOUR SPARKS

Youth who join 4-H are often excited about the many, many projects they can choose to explore. There are so many Sparks (or things they want to learn about)! Yet, if their Spark doesn't have a local project leader to support their learning, that excitement can turn to questions. They may not know how to get started on their own.

Clover to the rescue!! Clover is an online smorgasbord of sparks, interactive activities, and fun. It was created by the National 4-H Council in collaboration with more than 100 universities throughout the United States. And it's FREE and ready for youth, parents, and educators to dive into.



To start exploring: 1. Go to 4-h.org/clover 2. Create a login 3. Click on activities 4. Search for your Sparks. It's that simple. In Clover, you can connect with others in your club or group, track your progress through pins and achievements, and best of all, explore your Sparks! Most activities can be accessed in different formats (interactive online, basic webpage, or download PDF), making access flexible based on your local needs and bandwidth.

An honest note about the site: ▪ Is Clover perfect? No. ▪ Might there be moments of frustration as you learn to navigate the system? Most likely. ▪ Does it get easier as you go? Yes. ▪ Is the content worth it? Absolutely!

No project leader? No problem. Have fun exploring your Sparks with Clover!



2023-24 PROJECT YEAR BEGAN OCT. 1

Our new enrollment year for 2024 began on October 1.

Members and leaders must re-enroll each year by November 30. Regular members must be in 3rd gr 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.

Re-enrollment deadline is November 30, 2023.

*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 were included in the leaders packet at the Fair. Following that, applications are due Feb. 1 and applicants will be interviewed at the February 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.

4-H INSURANCE

All enrolled 4-H members and Cloverbuds, grades 5K & up, are covered for certain 4-H events. If you have an injury during a 4-H event, call the 4-H office immediately for a report form. You must report your injury within 20 days.



2023 ICE CREAM 4-H FLAVOR CREATION CONTEST

Cedar Crest Ice Cream and the WI 4-H Foundation have teamed up again to present this contest for Wisconsin 4-H clubs. The contest is open to all WI 4-H members to create and submit a flavor recipe. Entries are due no later than November 15, 2023. Five top finalists will be selected with one finalist chosen as the grand prize winner. The grand prize winner will receive a Cedar Crest Ice Cream party and a \$500 prize. The winning flavor will also be produced in 2024 as a Feature Flavor for the month of July. The four additional top finalists will receive a Cedar Crest Ice Cream Party. For further information and registration, visit

<https://wis4hfoundation.org/cedar-crest-ice-cream-flavor-creation-contest/>

WI 4-H HORSE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

November 11-12, UW River Falls Campus and Lab Farm. Open to 4-H volunteers and 4-H members grade 7 and older. All youth members need to be accompanied by a guardian or chaperone for this experience. **Cost:** \$75.00 per person (includes breaks, lunch, and dinner on Saturday and a breakfast break on Sunday morning). **Registration Deadline:** November 3, 2023. Registration for this event will be completed through 4-H online. For more information on the sessions, registration and payment, click on: [Horse Conference](#)



MINUTES

4-H Leaders' Association Meeting September 18, 2023—Town of Pound Hall, Coleman

Attendance: Aimee Elkins, Alexis Witak, Anne Biernasz, Jennie Pillath, Dorothy Kaminski, Steve Marvin, Julia Lepinski, Morgan Beaudou, Deb Heitman

President Jennie Pillath called the meeting to order at 6:04pm.

Secretary's report: Anne made a motion to accept the secretary's report as written in the newsletter. Dorothy seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: New computer and printer arrived. Julia reported that she is running into issues with checks. She was wondering if it is possible to get a debit card. Aimee said the lack of a debit card is due to 4-H state policies. They are working on a new policy. Looking ahead to the future, Stephenson does not have a debit option, only credit card. Steven made a motion to change the location of the Association's account to BMO. Anne seconded. Motion carried. Julia is sorting through the bills from the raffle and food stand. Morgan made a motion to pay the bills and the report. Steve seconded. Motion carried.

Anne made a motion to get a Kwik Trip gift card as a donation to a leader who was recently in a serious car accident. Julia seconded. Motion carried.

Aimee's Update: AFR's were due on September 1. State is going to be strict with deadlines. Club charters are due November 1. For reenrollment, there will be a new training. Aimee and Alexis are looking to have a training for all leaders. More details to come. There is also a concern that the number of leaders/volunteers is shrinking as the number of youth is increasing. Aimee is looking into the barriers that may be in the way for new leaders/volunteers to help make the process easier. Aimee also introduced Alexis and her role as Aimee takes on a state assignment.

Alexis will be creating a new Teen Leadership Group. The first meeting will be Tuesday, the 26th at the fairgrounds. It is for 7th grade and above. She is going to let the youth determine the direction of the group and what they will be doing. She also created and sent a 4-H promotional flyer to the local schools. The American Spirit trip registration is Oct. 1 to Nov 3. Registration is in 4Honline. Club/Outstanding nomination forms are now due the 29th instead of the 22nd.

Committee Reports:

Food Stand: Overall, successful. It will need a new microwave. Brownies were a hit. The inspector came opening morning & the stand passed the inspection with flying colors. The inspector said that the license the food stand has does not require cooks to have the certification that other licenses do. However, Aimee mentioned that 4-H state requires it along with the manager being a fully approved leader. Anne will not

be the manager next year, so the food stand will be in need of new manager.

Raffle: A report was handed out with the club payouts versus profit.

Fair Board: October or November will be a premium book meeting. This is the year to review the book and make changes. Let Lisa or Rich know of any suggestions.

Royalty: New queen, Tilly, has made a suggestion for a community service project. She is going to see if the new teen group might be able to take it on. New Royalty will be in the Peshtigo Historical Days parade. The committee is also looking into the possibility of having a court with younger youth involved. Outgoing queen, Alexis Birr, was thanked for her excellence in promoting 4-H and fulfilling her duties.

Awards and Trips: None

Scholarship: A "thank you" was received from Ella Kahles.

Shooting Sports: None

Old Business:

Summer Trip to the Dells: Steve and Aimee made a report on the success of the trip to Noah's Ark. Steve made a suggestion that in the future a stop somewhere on the way home. The food prices were so high at the park. Noah's Ark did go above and beyond with providing a small lunch for everyone.

Record Book due date is October 3 unless a club leader is coming to judge on October 5, then books can come with that leader.

Fair: Overall, another success. Glad the food stand was able to happen considering the uncertainty a few months ago.

New Business:

Meeting schedule has been set up. Still the 3rd Monday with a rotation among Pound, Crivitz, and Grover. Exception would be July, which will be held at the fairgrounds.

Achievement Day: Forever Green and Beaver are hosting. A concern by Jennie and Dorothy was brought up regarding Achievement Day being held in December. A proposal regarding a day at the end of November was suggested, however, concern whether Nancy can get awards in time was brought up. Alexis is going to check with Nancy if November is possible and let Jennie and Dorothy know. Steve is going to check to see if Achievement Day can be held at Crivitz.

Movie for January: Anne will look into this.

Deb brought up a suggestion if Marinette and Oconto Leaders Associations could maybe get together once a year to plan out joint events. Aimee and Alexis are looking into different options for the leaders in both counties.

Next meeting is October 16 at 6pm at Crivitz.

Deb made a motion to adjourn. Steve seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Heitman



Reflect and Record

The end of summer is a great opportunity to stop and reflect on the past 4-H year. Many 4-H members reflect on their successes, their challenges, and their experiences through a 4-H record book. Record books are presented in a variety of ways, sometimes through journals, videos, or slideshow presentations. All of these formats allow 4-H members to reflect on their project goals and determine how much progress was made over the past year.

Keeping record books throughout a 4-H career will help youth end up with a summary of all that they've done through their time in 4-H. This summary can be helpful when filling out job and college applications. Record books may also be helpful when applying for county scholarships or awards.



Developing Life Skills

Keeping records of work during a 4-H career helps to grow important life skills.

- » **Self-reflection** on experiences and accomplishments
- » **Goal setting** for the future
- » **Planning and organizing** a successful project or experience
- » **Critical thinking** when challenges arise or things don't go quite as planned
- » **Budgeting** time to meet deadlines and budgeting money to cover the cost of supplies

Adults can create space for youth reflection.

- » Help your youth consider what their goals were for the past year and determine if they met their own expectations.
- » Begin to consider goals for next year. Ask questions like, "If you were going to do things again, how would you do them differently?"
- » Reflect regularly with your youth about their experiences at meetings and events.
- » Take a lot of pictures. Photos and videos are great ways to record participation in activities while also recording achievements.
- » Set aside a few minutes every month for 4-H youth to fill out records.

Clubs and counties may offer awards for keeping high quality records. Check with your local club leader or county educator to learn more.



Have a minute? Please provide feedback by filling out this [5-question survey](#)





Track Your Progress

4-H members like you do awesome things every year. Keeping track of what you do in 4-H can help you to talk about your accomplishments with others. Many members keep track of what they did with a 4-H record book. Record books can be really helpful when you apply for college, jobs, or scholarships! If you are unsure of what record keeping your county does, ask your 4-H educator or a club advisor. A sample might be posted on your county webpage.

What should I record?

There's a lot that you can do in 4-H, so keeping track of everything might seem like a lot of work. If you answer "Yes" to any of these questions, you should include it in your record.

- » Did you learn something?
- » Did you complete a project?
- » Did you accomplish a goal that you set for yourself?
- » Did you receive an award or a scholarship?
- » Did you travel somewhere with 4-H?
- » Did you spend or receive money for your project?
- » Did you make a presentation or give a speech?
- » Did you participate in a club activity?
- » Did you serve in a leadership role?

How do I record it?

Once you've got something to record, you have a lot of ways to keep track of it. Use whatever works best for you and the situation! You might use a mix of all of these things!

- » Write your record on a piece of paper, and keep all the paper in a folder.
- » Write all your records in a notebook.
- » Create a 4-H career scrapbook.
- » Set aside a box for ribbons, photos, and all your records.
- » Take a video of yourself where you talk about what you did.
- » Type your records in an online document.



Completing a craft project or helping out with a club community service project are great things to include in your records!

If you store your records online, have an adult help you keep your information safe! It's always good to store an extra copy of your digital records somewhere.



Club officers should record their time spent learning to lead.

Records should **always** answer these questions:

1. What did you do?
2. When did you do it?
3. What did you learn along the way?
4. What important details do you want to remember?

Background Image Credit: Alyssa Zirbel

Exploring 4-H for New Families is developed by Heidi Vanderloop Benson, Chippewa County 4-H Program Educator and Ben Hoppe, Brown County 4-H Program Educator, UW-Madison Division of Extension.

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