

# Dunn County

## 4-H Family

# Handbook



\*Updated 2026

Join the Network | #4HGROWN



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
DUNN COUNTY

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*Extension works alongside the people of Wisconsin to deliver practical educational programs - on the farm, in schools, and throughout urban and rural communities.*

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## What is 4-H?

4-H is the nation's largest positive youth development organization. 4-H empowers young people in grades K-13 to reach their full potential. As a community of young people across America they learn citizenship, leadership, and life skills. 4-H welcomes new members from towns, cities, and rural areas. We learn by doing through hands on projects, activities, and adult mentorship. 4-H's history and roots are in agriculture, but today's programs have a new focus on healthy living, personal growth, science, engineering, and technology programs.

## What is a 4-H Club?

A 4-H Club is made up of five or more youth guided by adult volunteer leaders, partner organization staff, or University of Wisconsin Extension Educators. 4-H clubs follow a proven program model and offer learning opportunities that are youth-directed. Members elect officers to lead their club meetings and activities. The main purpose of the 4-H club is to develop life skills through enriching experiences at home and in the community. Most clubs meet monthly.



## What is a 4-H Project?

A "project" is simply a topic that you can explore. There are over 150 projects to choose from, including photography, foods and nutrition, dogs, "horseless" horse, and the environment. 4-H projects teach more than just project skills; they teach leadership, citizenship, and teamwork. See page 20 for more information!

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## What is a 4-H Member Expected to Do?

- ◆ When you join 4-H, you are expected to attend your club's meetings and enroll in at least one 4-H project.
- ◆ 4-H members are encouraged to share what they have learned in their projects by displaying their work at a local Fair, Tri-County Performing Arts Festival, or by giving a public demonstration. Each of these is an opportunity for 4-H members to achieve recognition and awards.
- ◆ Clubs organize community service projects and host events and activities. Members are encouraged to participate in these community projects.
- ◆ 4-H members are encouraged to keep a record through pictures and stories of their 4-H experiences throughout the 4-H year. These record books are turned in to club leaders in the fall and then returned to members for a lasting memory of their 4-H years. See more information on record books on page 22.
- ◆ All clubs are unique and may have different expectations of their members beyond this general list, so talk with your general leader for more information.



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## Who Supports the 4-H Program?

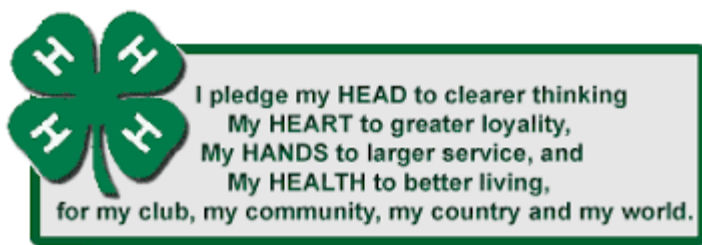
The 4-H Program is a partnership between the University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension, the United States Department of Agriculture, and Dunn County. The role of the Extension 4-H Program Educator is to:

- ◆ Provide educational support to 4-H volunteers in the county. This involves training, counseling, and advising all 4-H clubs and leaders in Dunn County on a continuing basis.
- ◆ Teach educational programs which support the goals of the 4-H program and provide youth and adult leaders with University resources which can contribute to their understanding and successful participation in the 4-H Program.
- ◆ Respond to emerging needs on positive youth development, and expand access to 4-H locally.



## The 4-H Goal

The 4-H Youth Development program will be youth-centered, meeting the need of the individual through an open, mentoring environment which recognizes youth as equal partners in decision making and leadership.



## 4-H Symbols and Traditions

### The 4-H Motto

The new 4-H motto, *"To Make The Best Better"*, was originally proposed by Miss Carrie Harrison, a botanist in the Bureau of Plant Industry. It was officially adopted by leaders who attended the first National 4-H Club Camp in 1927. It has remained the same through the years.

### The 4-H Colors

Green and white are the 4-H colors. The white background of the 4-H flag symbolizes purity; the green 4-H emblem is nature's most common color and is the color of springtime.

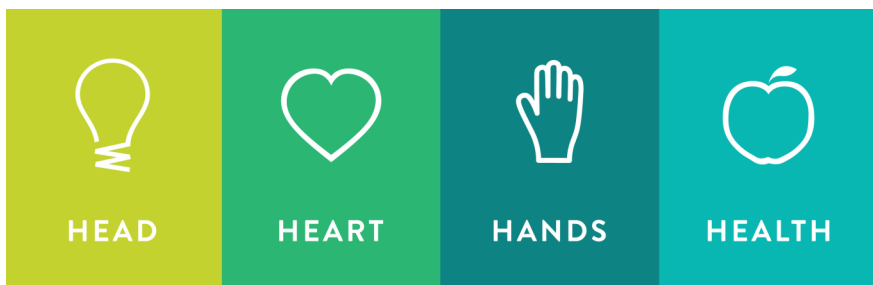
### The 4-H Slogan:

The slogan, "To Learn by Doing" is the cornerstone of the 4-H Program. Kids learn best by being actively involved in their learning.

### The 4-H Grows True Leaders Campaign:

"A true leader leads by example, works well with others, tackles tough challenges head-on and sticks with a job until it's done. This campaign is giving youth a platform to ask for more support in preparing them to lead and to be recognized for their positive contributions." - Jennifer Sirangelo, president and CEO, National 4-H Council. <https://4-h.org/>

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## 4-H Emblem

The emblem is a four-leaf clover with an “H” in each leaf. The letters in the emblem stand for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. Utilizing this model, the 4-H program helps youth development.

### Head

4-H teaches members how to think as team members and leaders through individual projects and community service. Members develop an open mind about issues facing kids today. 4-H kids learn about the world around them, and how to fit into the future.

### Heart

Being a kid can be tough. 4-H helps kids accept the responsibilities of citizenship; determine values and attitudes to live by, and teaches kids to learn how to work with others and make new friends.

### Hands

Youth learn better by doing. 4-H members learn by using their hands and direct experiences to explore areas of interest. 4-H also helps kids develop respect and concern for others through community service.

### Health

4-H helps kids make healthy choices about all areas of their lives so that they can feel good about themselves as adults. It also teaches kids to protect the well-being of others as well as themselves.





## 4-H Membership

### 1) Age categories

A) **Cloverbuds:** Youth in grades K-2. This category allows the youngest members to explore what 4-H has to offer. They only enroll in Cloverbud projects which are designed to give the youth a variety of experiences.

B) **Members:** Youth in grades 3 and up participate as regular members. Youth continue to be eligible for membership through the year following their graduation from high school.

2) Club members should attend at least 50% of the club meetings in order to remain a member. Parents should attend as many meetings as possible. Specific clubs will have different requirements about attendance, please contact the club leader.

3) Club may charge dues range from \$3 to \$10, depending on the club.

4) Families must re-enroll in 4-H Online each fall. Look for information on our website under 4-H Resources.

## The Critical 4-H Experience Elements

The 4-H Program strives to provide 8 elements during a 4-H Experience. They are divided into 4 concepts:

<b>Belonging</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Positive Relationship with a caring adult</li><li>• An inclusive environment</li><li>• A safe environment</li></ul>	<b>Mastery</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Engagement in Learning</li><li>• Opportunity for Mastery</li></ul>
<b>Independence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Opportunity to see oneself as an active participant in the future</li><li>• Opportunity for self-determination</li></ul>	<b>Generosity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Opportunity to value and practice service for others</li></ul>



#### **4-H Newsletter**

The Clover Courier is sent by email at the beginning of the month. This newsletter contains information on upcoming county, state, and national opportunities. It is a handy reference and contains educational information. Please read it so you can stay informed! If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please email the 4-H Educator your information by the 25th of the month preceding the newsletter. We welcome your pictures, artwork, and stories!

#### **4-H Emails via 4-H Online**

It is recommended that you keep your 4-H Online profile current with the email and phone where the Extension Dunn County Staff can reach you. Events and cancellations come up between Clover Courier editions, and the office staff may need to reach you and will use your 4-H Online profile to do so. Details on how to enroll or re-enroll can be found at <https://dunn.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/4-h-forms-and-documents>

#### **4-H Media & Social Media**

You may also find information about 4-H opportunities through the Extension Dunn County website on <http://dunn.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/>. Dunn County 4-H has a Facebook page. “Like” us on Facebook and stay updated with the program <https://www.facebook.com/DunnCounty4H/>

#### **4-H Insurance Policies**

All 4-H members are covered by a supplemental accident insurance policy through American Income Life. Certified 4-H volunteers are also covered by the University of Wisconsin-Madison liability policy. Information on these and additional insurance policies is available from the Extension Office. If an injury during a scheduled 4-H event occurs, it should be reported to the Extension Office within 24 hours.



## Dunn County 4-H Tentative Calendar of Events

The following is a tentative year-long list of activities that take place in Dunn County. This will help you get an idea as to when some of the activities will be.

Dates are subject to change and additions will be made.

Watch for specific details in the Clover Courier at

<http://dunn.extension.wisc.edu>

### September

General Leaders Meeting

Record Books Due

Record Book Evaluations

Re-enroll via 4-H Online

### October

National 4-H Week

Volunteer Orientation

Re-enroll via 4-H Online

### November

Fall Forum

Officer Training

Speaking Festival

### December

Holiday Celebrations and

Charity Events

Winter Camp

### January

Horse Project

Winter Camp

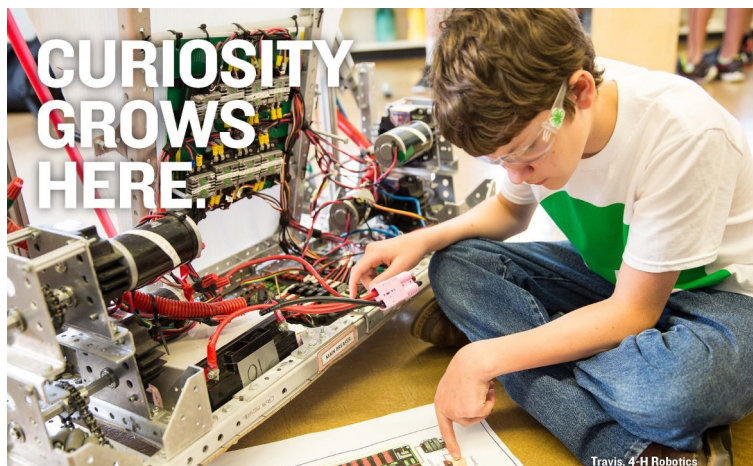
Art U

### February

Award Applications Due

Older Youth Interviews

Tri-County Performing Arts  
Festival





## **March**

Horse Project  
Shooting Sports  
Spring Break Stay-cation  
Clover U

## **April**

Horse Project  
Dog Project  
Shooting Sports  
Final sign-up for projects in  
4-H Online

## **May**

Horse Project  
Dog Project  
Shooting Sports  
General Leaders Meeting  
State Youth Conference

## **June**

Dog Project  
Softball  
Summer Camp  
Colfax Fair  
Summer Project Days

## **July**

Summer Project Days  
Dunn County Fair  
Softball

## **August**

Wisconsin State Fair  
Cloverbud Day Camp  
Softball  
4-H Night at the Races!





## Awards, Trips, and Scholarships

Information on all of these subjects can be found at <https://dunn.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/4-h-resources/>

### What is the Older Youth Opportunity Packet?

This is a packet full of information on camps, trips, awards, state teams, and leadership opportunities for 4-H members in grades 7-12. Information on application deadlines and potential financial assistance is also included.

### What is the 4-H Achievement Award, Leadership Award, and Citizenship Award?

4-H members (grades 7 & above) are eligible to apply for these awards. They are given to members who demonstrate excellence in achievement, leadership, and citizenship through their 4-H project work and activities as well as other participation in the community as a whole.

### What is the 4-H Key Award?

The highest 4-H Award given, it recognizes 4-H'ers that have demonstrated growth in their 4-H involvement, development, and applied their leadership skills and actively participated in the functions of their 4-H club & community. Recipients must have completed 8th grade and have been a 4-H member for at least 3 years.

### What are Project Awards?

Project Awards are given to members who excelled in their project work throughout the year. The awards are given based off of member Record Books, and the number of awards given are based on project enrollment.

### Scholarships

Four college scholarships are awarded to Dunn County 4-H members. The application can be found on the 4-H Resources page online. Be sure to look at the deadlines and apply on time.

**Join the Network | 4-H Grows Here**



## Let's Talk About the Fair!

The Dunn County Fair is held each year on the last full week of July. It is a fun way to show the entire community the skills you have learned through 4-H. The fair can be a fun, exciting part of the 4-H experience, and Dunn County 4-H members participate whole heartedly at the Dunn County Fair. **However, it is important to note that the Extension Office does not run the fair.**

If you have questions or concerns about the fair beyond how your projects relate to fair entries, please contact the Fair Board.

**Dunn County Fair Board Office | [fairboard@co.dunn.wi.us](mailto:fairboard@co.dunn.wi.us)  
Phone: 715-308-8659 | Fax: 715-231-6478**

In addition to the fair, there are many county, state, and national events that encourage you to showcase your skills.





# The Dunn County 4-H Leaders Council

## Purpose

The Dunn County 4-H Leaders Council assists in the development and advancement of programs that encourage the positive development of youth in Dunn County. The Council has five main points of purpose. (1) Improve, foster, promote and develop the educational 4-H program of Dunn County; (2) Provide an opportunity for the leaders of Dunn County 4-H Clubs to unite their educational activities and programs; (3) Create youth and adult partnerships that will support the purposes of the Dunn County 4-H program; (4) Support community involvement by youth and adults participating in the Dunn County 4-H program. (5) Generate and provide financial and other support for 4-H events, activities, and educational programs.

## Structure and Meetings

The Leaders Council meets at least 4 times per year. The Council consists of one adult representative per chartered club or major program area (and potentially one youth representative per club or major program area). Youth Representatives are encouraged to attend.

## Finances

The Council oversees the Pie Social at the Dunn County Fair, holds a golf fundraiser, and sells plat books through county offices to raise money for support of the 4-H program. 4-H clubs are responsible for providing youth and adults to run the Pie Social one or more shifts during the fair, volunteering for the golf tournament, and sell ads for the plat book when the new books are produced every 3 years. The pie social and plat book sales provide financial support for camps, leader and member recognition, scholarships, judges, awards, leader training opportunities, educational materials and more.

### 2023-2024 Dunn County Leaders Council Board Members

**President** – Amy Zuber Seguin  
**Vice Pres.** – Tim Holmstadt  
**Treasurer** – Katie Wantoch

**Secretary** – Gwen Quilling  
**At Large** – Melissa Hazen  
**At Large** - Brian Seguin



## Youth Leadership

In 4-H, youth grow in commitment and responsibility by taking on leadership roles. Some opportunities include but are not limited to:

### Club Officers

Officers work together with their club leaders in establishing their specific roles and responsibilities. Clubs will usually have a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and historian/reporter.

### Youth Activities Council (formerly Teen Leaders)

The Youth Activities Council is a countywide youth organization for 4-H member in grades 6—12 . They take an active part in leading county activities. By doing this, they grow, mature & learn leadership skills. The Youth Activates Council also plans and participates in social events and service projects.

### 4-H Camp Counselor

Working as a camp counselor is a rewarding experience! Plus, it can be a great resume builder. This is an excellent leadership opportunity for older youth who like to work with younger youth. Watch for applications in the fall or contact the 4-H Educator directly!





## Adult Volunteers and Leaders

Please note: Extension Volunteers are trained and must pass a background check every 4 years. Please contact the office if you might like to join the volunteers that make 4-H happen.

### Activity/Event Volunteer

- Provide leadership/organization for an activity or event **and/** or participate as a committee member.

### Adult Advisor/Chaperone

- Work with a team of adult advisors and 4-H Youth Development staff to ensure youth have a safe and positive educational experience.
- Adults interested in state level chaperone and coordination responsibilities must complete an **Adult Advisor Application**
  - State level experiences may include: Citizenship Washington Focus, Space Camp, and National 4-H Congress.

### Chaperones – for 4-H youth development experiences:

- Must have completed the Youth Protection Process; be enrolled 4-H volunteer leaders and be over 21 years of age (for some experiences adults must be over 25).
- Overnight chaperones need to complete additional Youth Mental Health training.

### Club Enrollment Coordinator

- Provide leadership for members and adult volunteers who are enrolling in the club or group organization.

### Club Leader

- Includes: Club Leader, Co-organizational Leader, Co-General Leader, Organizational Leader, and General Leader.
- Provide leadership to the club or group organization.

### Committee Volunteer

- Provide leadership for a committee **and/or** participate as a member of a committee.
- Create educational experiences for all youth engaged in the program.

### Project Leader

- Provide leadership and organization to the project group who is learning about a specific topic. For example: photography, arts, foods, community service, rocketry and robotics, gardening, rabbits, dairy, etc.



## Parents

The idea of getting youth and adults involved together is one of the basic tenets of 4-H. Parents have the opportunity to share their experiences and knowledge with 4-H members. For every strong 4-H club, there are parents who feel strongly about being a part of the club process and operation.

### **Parents can participate in the following ways:**

- Becoming a certified 4-H Volunteer
- Assisting members in selecting 4-H Projects
- Attending club meetings
- Helping members with club activities
- Being supportive and showing interest in member and club activities
- Providing assistance to the general and project leaders
- Serving on a club or county committee of your choice
- Offering your skills and talents. Parents make great project leaders!
- Providing transportation
- Chaperoning or advising trips

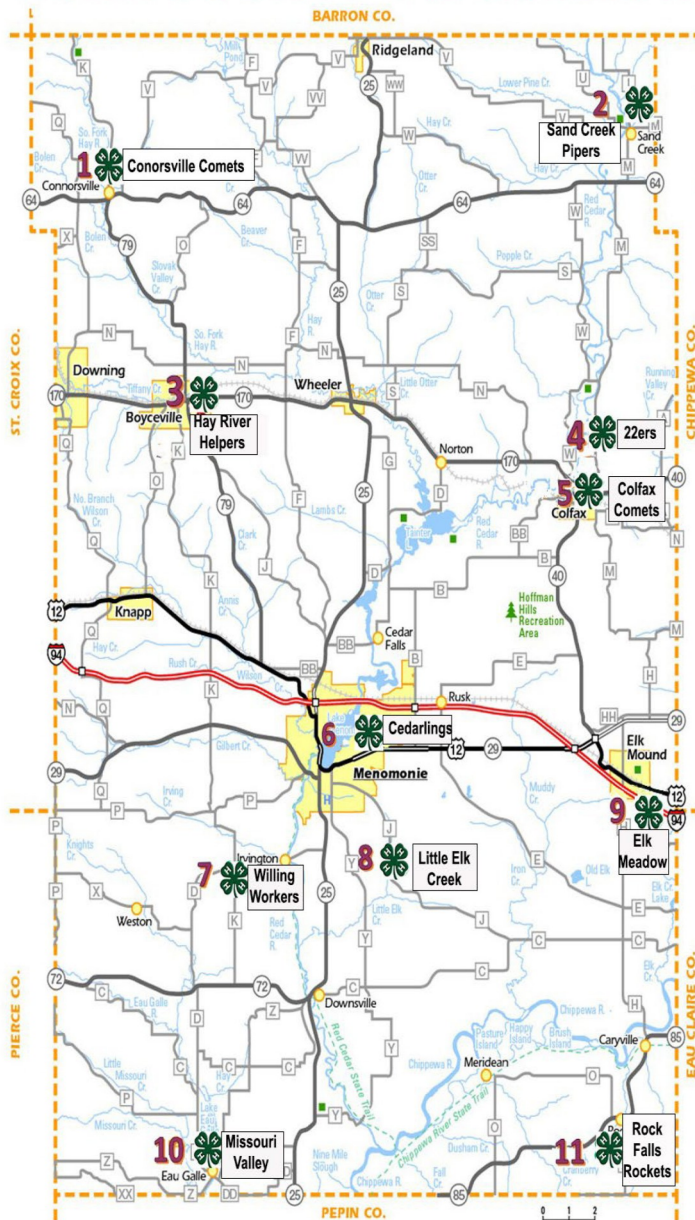
This is just a short list of what you can do as a parent. Ask your General Leader about other ways you can help!

**The most important role of adults in 4-H is to support their children in the commitments they make, help them think through decisions, and assist them in reaching their goals.**

**By making 4-H a family affair, parents and adults can assist the youth of today to become tomorrow's leaders.**



# DUNN COUNTY 4-H COMMUNITY CLUBS



**1 Connorsville Comets**  
New Haven Town Hall

**2. Sand Creek Pipers**  
MyZoHa Studio

**3. Hay River Helpers**  
Boyceville Community Center

**4. 22ers**  
Grant Town Hall

**5. Colfax Comets**  
Colfax Town Hall

**6. Cedarlings**  
Dunn County Government Center

**7. Willing Workers**  
Willing Workers Club House

**8. Little Elk Creek**  
Little Elk Creek Church

**9. Elk Meadow**  
Amy Chapel

**10. Missouri Valley**  
Eau Galle Town Hall

**11. Rock Falls Rockets**  
Rock Falls Town Hall

# Dunn County 4-H Community Clubs, Project Clubs, and Groups

Community Club	Meeting Day	Time	Location	General Leader(s)
<b>22ers</b>	3rd Sunday	6:00PM	Grant Town Hall	Angie Harder 715-308-0371 Stephanie Breyer 715-523-2697
<b>Cedarlings</b>	1st Monday	6:30PM	Dunn County Gov Center	Amy Zuber Seguin 608-213-4053
<b>Colfax Comets</b>	2nd Monday not Feb & Dec	6:30PM	Colfax Town Hall	Katie Wantoch 715-579-0268 Rebekah Shearer 715-490-1998
<b>Connorsville Comets</b>	2nd Sunday	2:30PM	New Haven Town Hall (Connorsville)	Laura Briesse 715-704-9652 Emma Briesse 715-651-5073
<b>Elk Meadow</b>	1st Monday	6:30PM	Amy Chapel	Gwen Quilling 715-308-1111 Julie Thordson 715-491-1655
<b>Hay River Helpers</b>	1st Sunday	6:00PM	Boyceville Community Center	Shirley Casper 715-308-0745
<b>Little Elk Creek</b>	1st Sunday	6:30PM	Little Elk Creek Church	Trisha Holmstadt 715-556-4857 DeAnna Heckendorf 715-308-0676
<b>Missouri Valley</b>	3rd Sunday	1:00PM	Eau Galle Town Hall	Carrie Bullard 715-226-1493
<b>Rock Falls Rockets</b>	1st Sunday	6:00PM	Rock Creek Town Hall	Theresa Strand 715-495-5813 Paula Biesterveld, 715-579-5723
<b>Sand Creek Pipers</b>	1st Sunday every other month	5:00PM	MyZoHa Sand Creek	Stephani North 715-271-6275
<b>Willing Workers</b>	2nd Sunday	6:00PM	Clubhouse - Irvington at County Rd D&K	Amanda Hansen 715-790-7644 Shelly Stoeklen 715-309-8700 Leslie Schmidt 715-505-0719
Project Club / Group	Meeting Day	Time	Location	Project Club Leader(s)
Project club meeting schedules may vary depending on time of year. Contact leaders for up-to-date information.				
<b>Dairy Judging Project</b>	Sunday April-June	6:00PM	Various farms	Jim Powers, 715-308-2109
<b>Dog Project</b>	Mondays April-July	6:00PM	Dunn County Rec Park	Sandy Miller, 715-233-3074 Barb Viner 715-309-3116
<b>Leaders Council</b>	Quarterly- Dates vary	6:30PM	Dunn County Gov Center	Amy Zuber Seguin 608-213-4053
<b>Shooting Sports</b>	Sundays April-May	12:00PM	Northwoods Rod & Gun Club	Tim Holmstadt, 715-556-7202
<b>Small Animal Project</b>	2nd Tuesday, every other month	6:30PM	Dunn County Gov Center	Michelle Bachand 360-515-6557
<b>Youth Activities Council</b>	4th Tuesday	6:30PM	Dunn County Gov Center	Michelle Bachand 360-515-6557 Zachary Rozmiarek 715-308-8616
<b>Youth Equine Project</b>	Sundays & Thursdays, April-July	6:00 PM	Horse Arena at the Dunn Co. Rec. Park	Paul Swenson 715-556-3067,





## Dunn County 4-H Enrollment Information

### Enrollment Basics

New 4-H families may enroll at any time. However, in order to participate in the Dunn County 4-H fair and 4-H softball, members must be enrolled by **May 1st**.

#### *November 15th*

**Re-enrollments** due at the Extension Office. Re-enroll in your club and select projects you are interested in.

#### *May 1st*

Deadline for members to join 4-H and still be able to exhibit at the Dunn County Fair. Enrollments must be in to the Extension office by this date. This is also the **final date to choose projects!**

#### *After May 1st*

You may still join 4-H, but will not be allowed to play softball or exhibit at the Dunn County Fair for the current year.

### Choosing Projects

A “project” is simply a topic that you can explore. On the Wisconsin 4-H project pages, you’ll find descriptions and resources on a wide variety of major topics. You can even create your own!

<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/wi4hprojects/>

### Popular Projects in Dunn County

Photography	Art	Foods & Nutrition
Swine	Dairy	Drawing & Painting
Cloverbuds	Beef	Woodworking
Horse	Dogs	Clothing
Jewelry Making	Sheep	Cake Decorating

## How to Enroll

Enrolling in 4-H in Dunn County is very easy!

Log on to: **wi.4honline.com**



Depending on if you are a new member or a returning member, there are variations as to how to enroll within the online system.

### 1. New Enrollment:

If you are interested in joining a 4-H club, contact the Extension Office or a General Leader of the club for information. When joining, clubs will instruct you to log on to **wi.4honline.com** and complete the registration process. **Be sure to save your password!**

### 2. Re-Enrollment:

An individual who belonged to 4-H last year will receive a notification that re-enrollment is required for the new year. Log on to **wi.4honline.com** and log in with the same account information used to create your profile.

Information from last year will roll over. Please verify the information is correct, that you have a family email address, edit your project listing (if needed), and submit. **Double check the family email for typos as this is how we will contact you.**

**NOTE:** New **volunteer leaders** must complete the Volunteer Orientation process, in addition to filling out the online enrollment process. Volunteer enrollment needs to be done every year. We take safety very seriously. Dunn County 4-H Volunteers are mandated reporters and have passed a state background check.





## RECORD BOOKS

All people, young and old, must keep records of one thing or another. Think of the things you must record—the meeting next week, your appointment with the doctor, exams at school, and money you spend on clothes and school supplies. Record keeping is simply a way of remembering something for the future. 4-H record keeping prepares you for life!

**Records help you benefit in ways that are harder to see, yet are very important.**

- ✓ Learn how to identify your goals and set priorities.
- ✓ Establish good organizational and planning skills.
- ✓ Develop responsibility in record keeping.
- ✓ Learn if money is made or lost.
- ✓ Explore careers and jobs.
- ✓ Learn to compare and evaluate success or failure.
- ✓ Experience personal satisfaction and growth through completion of a worthwhile task.

When you keep accurate records, you will have a complete story - telling what projects you took, leadership positions you held, and activities you participated in.

### Requirements

All members should complete a record book. Members in grades 3-5 may complete a Junior version of the record book. Cloverbuds are not required to complete a record book but are encouraged to.

**PRO TIP:** Start your 4-H record book NOW, and keep records throughout the year! It will make the job of compiling your 4-H record book easier at the end of the year! Refer to <https://dunn.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/record-books/> for more information!



## Welcome to the Dunn County 4-H Program!

### **Mission Statement:**

The Dunn County 4-H Youth Development education program creates supportive environments for diverse youth and adults to reach their fullest potential.

*“To Facilitate Programs in Education, Experience, Achievement, Leadership and Community Service for the Youth of Dunn County.”*

### **Vision of the Dunn County 4-H Program:**

A community of young people throughout Dunn County learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills.

If you have any other questions, comments, or concerns please contact the Extension Office or your Club Leader.

We look forward to learning and growing with your family in the Dunn County 4-H Program!







# MORE OPPORTUNITY, MORE SMILES.

Every kid needs the chance to thrive. It'll inspire their lives,  
and they'll inspire our community.

**CREATE #OPPORTUNITY4ALL KIDS AT 4-H.ORG**

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## Dunn County 4-H

3001 US Highway 12 East, Suite 216 | Menomonie, WI 54751

715-232-1636 | [dunn.extension.wisc.edu](http://dunn.extension.wisc.edu)

Wisconsin Relay: 7-1-1

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The 4-H name and emblem are federally protected under Title 18 US Code 707. Contact the Extension Office if you require accommodations.

Adapted from materials by Ian Meeker, Bayfield County 4-H Youth Development Educator

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