

Oconto Clover Connect

I pledge my **head** to clearer thinking, my **heart** to greater loyalty, my **hands** to larger service, and my **health** to better living, for my club, my community, my country, and my world.



December 2018

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'Tis The Season

Gifts. Presents. They're everywhere this time of year. After all, there are entire days in November dedicated to shopping for gifts (or for ourselves). There are so many events throughout the course of the year that involve gifts of some kind.

Throughout history, gifts were given for a variety of reasons. In ancient Egypt, people gave gifts to pharaohs as a tribute, and the gifts were then stored in massive places like the pyramids. In Medieval times, gifts were given to kings and lords to show loyalty and secure protection. Giving of presents, gifts, and donations is a huge part of our society today, and we do it for many reasons. For some, it's part of religious tradition. For others, giving gifts is done to celebrate an important event, like a birthday, a wedding, or a holiday.

What is a gift anyways? In Latin, the word for "present" is donatio – it looks like the word donation for a good reason. That word is formed from the verb dono which means "to give". The focus on presents, gifts, and donations is something that we can give to others, not on something we're looking to receive. When we do give, we often think using the question "What?" What can we give? What can we buy?

This year, I want you all to think about "how" your club can give instead of "what" your club can give. How can you make a difference in the life of someone in your community? How can you use your skills and talents to make a difference for your club? Instead of focusing on what somebody can unwrap, take some time to think about how you can give your time and your efforts to somebody who needs it.

In my short time in my position, I've seen our 4-H clubs come up with amazing ideas for giving back to our communities. Offering to rake leaves or shovel snow for people who cannot do it themselves, starting a food drive for a local food pantry, and entertaining adults in community living homes are all shining examples of how you 4-Hers are making a difference. Keep up the great work and let me know ways that your club is giving this year.

Contact Us

UW-Extension Oconto County
Email: 4h@co.oconto.wi.us
Phone: 920-834-6845
Website: <http://oconto.uwex.edu>

 Oconto County 4-H

Oconto County Courthouse
301 Washington St.
Oconto, WI 54153

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

10	Volunteer In Preparation Training 5:30pm-7:30pm	Wausaukee Village Hall Wausaukee, WI
13	4-H Leaders' Association Meeting Open to all 4-H families 3pm	Gillett Library Community Building Gillett, WI
15	National 4-H Conference Application Deadline	State 4-H Office
24-25	UW-Extension Offices Closed	
31	UW-Extension Offices Closed	

December Leaders' Association Meeting

All 4-H families are invited to the December Leaders' Association Meeting at the Gillett Library Community Building on Thursday, December 13. This is a very important meeting as the next year's Board of Directors (officers) will be elected. We need both youth and adults to serve on the board. A number of other important topics and proposed changes will be discussed. Please consider attending!

January

1	UW-Extension Offices Closed	
7	Annual Leader Training 6pm-7:30pm	Oconto County Courthouse Oconto, WI LEC Room 1389
12	VEX Robotics Competition Team Green Hosts	Oconto Falls High School Oconto Falls, WI
19	January Thaw  Volunteers Needed 	Washington Falls Middle School Oconto Falls, WI
28	Annual Leader Training 6pm-7:30pm	Crivitz Village Hall Crivitz, WI

Other Dates to Remember

4/6	Spring Fling  Volunteers Needed 	Washington Middle School Oconto Falls, WI
4/30	4HOnline Enrollment Deadline to Participate in Oconto County Fair	Oconto Extension Office

Upcoming Volunteer in Preparation Training

Date: Monday, December 10
Time: 5:30pm-7:30pm

Where: Wausaukee Village Hall
428 Village Hall
Wausaukee, WI 54177

A Volunteer in Preparation (VIP) training for new 4-H volunteers will be offered in December. This training is mandatory for all new 4-H and UW-Extension volunteers. This interactive program will last about 1.5-2 hours and cover topics that include:

- Overview of Cooperative Extension
- Volunteer roles and responsibilities
- Best practices when working with youth
- Resources available to you



If you are interested in attending this training, please RSVP by Friday, December 7th by emailing benjamin.hoppe@ces.uwex.edu or calling 920-834-6845. Please contact us if you would like more information about volunteering for 4-H. We always could use more volunteers!



Morgan Badgers 4-H Reels in a Great Time!

By: Lydia Klopotic

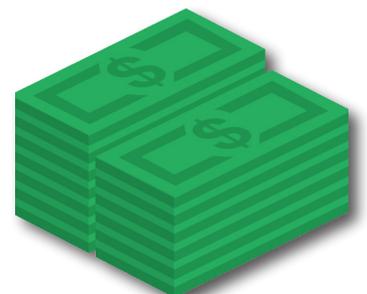


On October 6, 2018 the Morgan Badgers 4-H club went to the Besadny Anadromous Fish Facility in Kewaunee for their open house. At the beginning of our tour, members looked at the river to see all of the salmon fish swimming upstream to spawn. Next, members got to see up close what a real salmon egg looked like & some of them even got to touch the eggs! After that, all of the members got to make their own fish hooks to keep. Lastly, some of the members played a fishing game with fake fish and real fishing poles. It was a great learning experience!



Fundraising Opportunity for Clubs

The Project Development Committee is looking for a club or clubs to host the lunches for the January Thaw (Jan. 19) and Spring Fling (April 6). Your club would provide a healthy, nutritious lunch and snacks (if desired) and your club gets to keep all the profits. Previous lunch hosts have made from \$100-\$300 in profits. If your club is interested, contact the UW-Extension office at 4h@co.oconto.wi.us or (920) 834-6845.



Annual Leader Training Meeting

Local Annual 4-H Volunteer Leader Training sessions have been set for Oconto and Marinette Counties! This training has been called the Annual Mandatory Leader meeting in Oconto County. The theme of this year’s training is All Together, Not the Same. Together, we’ll explore how our clubs can welcome community members of all backgrounds.



As part of the charter and club renewal process, all clubs must have at least one representative attend a training session. There is no minimum number of representatives from each club. Ideally, at least 2-4 adult and youth members will attend from each club.

You do not need to attend your specific county’s training. A full list of trainings statewide as well as supplemental materials for your club can be found here: <https://fyi.uwex.edu/wi4hvolunteers/annual-leader-trainings/>

Wisconsin 4-H License Plates Now Available



The 4-H specialty license plate is now available through the Wisconsin Department of Motor Vehicles. Bearing the 4-H Clover and the message “Empowering Our Youth”, the plate offers the opportunity to show support of the 4-H program, as well as make a financial contribution. The sale of each license plate will include a monetary contribution to the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation.

Half of the proceeds from every plate sale will go back to the county where the licensed vehicle is housed, and the other half will be used for state and regional 4-H programs. Counties with license plate sales will receive a disbursement from the Foundation on a yearly basis, with a check payable to the county’s Leader’s Association. The funds may be used to support the county 4-H program under the direction of the County Educator.

For more information, visit www.wisconsin.gov/Documents/formdocs/mv2969.pdf or contact your local Wisconsin DMV office.

4Honline Re-enrollment

‘Tis the season to re-enroll in the 4-H program. Each year at this time 4-H parents and adult members need to log in to <http://wi.4honline.com> and submit their enrollments for all the 4-H members in their family. It’s important and it’s easy!

4-H families that re-enroll each year receive the benefits of being in their community clubs, exhibiting at the fair, participating in 4-H county-wide events and are eligible for scholarships and funding for projects, clinics, attendance at summer camp at 50% discount as well as many travel and education experiences. If you have any questions or issues with the re-enrolling process, contact the UW-Extension office at (920) 834-6845 or 4h@co.oconto.wi.us.

Apply for a Scholarship!

The Wisconsin 4-H Foundation will award more than \$10,000 in scholarships to outstanding Wisconsin students pursuing higher education in 2019. To be considered for financial support, applications must be received by the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation via email by Friday, March 15, 2019, 5:00 pm.



Wisconsin 4-H Foundation scholarships are awarded to students based on demonstrated personal growth, development and leadership, academic performance and future educational goals.

To be eligible for Wisconsin 4-H Foundation scholarships, students must have been a Wisconsin 4-H member for at least one year, have a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, and be enrolled or planning to enroll at a university, college or technical school during the 2019-2020 academic school year.

How to apply and more information is available at: <http://wis4hfoundation.org/scholarships/>

Questions? Contact the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation office at 608.262.1597 or Info@Wis4HFoundation.org

Volunteer Opportunities



January 19 – January Thaw: Project Volunteers & Food Hosts

Are you active in a certain project and interested in teaching others about a project for January Thaw? The Project Development Committee is looking for volunteers to host project sessions for January Thaw. If you're interested in hosting one or more sessions in a project that you're passionate about, contact the Project Development Committee or email the county 4-H office at 4h@co.oconto.wi.us

Consider hosting the lunches for the January Thaw and Spring Fling events as well. This could be a great fundraiser for your club!

February 2019 - July 2020 – 4-H Digital Ambassadors

Oconto County 4-H has been approached to bring a Digital Ambassador program to Oconto County, partnering with a major technology company. The program needs 2 adult volunteers and 4-6 youth volunteers (teens between grades 7-11). The youth will serve as Digital Ambassadors who will teach adults in Oconto County communities about the benefits of technology and increase their comfort with digital tools (such as computers and the internet). 2 adults and 2 youth volunteers would travel to Columbus, OH in February for additional training, and the Digital Ambassadors would be required to lead approximately 10 learning sessions for local community members.

Contact benjamin.hoppe@ces.uwex.edu for more information!

Ongoing – 4-H Ambassador Program & Belonging Committee

Help bring 4-H to the schools of Oconto County. The Oconto County Leaders Association Board of Directors would like to announce the reformation of the Ambassadors Program. They are looking for adults and older youth, grades 9 and up, to come together to develop this program for Oconto County. The focus would be representing 4-H to the schools in our county. Kids respond better to other kids than adults, and we want the youth in Oconto County to know about 4-H!

As part of the county-wide charter goal for our 4-H clubs, the Oconto County Leader's Association is also forming a group of adults and youth to look at expanding access to and promoting belonging within our 4-H clubs. What does this mean? It can mean a lot of things:

- Finding ways to promote 4-H in our county, communities and schools
- Investigating ways to reach out to other populations and invite them into our 4-H clubs
- Sponsoring events that allow 4-H families to experience different cultures, life challenges and points of view
- Seeking out dynamic speakers regarding these topics
- Creating games and activities that speak to these topics and could be used to open discussion in our clubs.

Oconto County doesn't not have a lot of cultural diversity to draw on, but that doesn't mean we can't give our 4-H families opportunities to experience it. We would like to encourage each club to have one adult and/or youth member in this group. The group itself would decide on where, when and how many times they would meet.

The future of the 4-H Ambassadors and the Belonging Committee are still being discussed, including which ages will be included. Join us at the next Leader's Association meetings in November and December to present your thoughts and ideas. If you're interested in either group (or both!), contact Cheryl Meyer at gmeyer@outlook.com or 4h@co.oconto.wi.us.

2018-2019 - Oconto County 4-H Leader's Association Seeking Youth and Adult Directors

The Board of Directors for the Oconto County 4-H Leader's Association is looking for dynamic individuals with a passion for 4-H to serve on the Board of Directors. This position would require a one-year commitment for youth (preferably ages 8th grade and above) and three years for adults. This group meets monthly (about 8 times) a year. They provide the governance and make decisions regarding Oconto County's 4-H program, it's spending and activities. Members do not need any special skills or experience—just passion and enthusiasm for 4-H! The Board will provide the rest. Our program relies on our volunteers. Please consider being on this team. They are a GREAT group to work with! If you are interested or just want more information, contact Cheryl Meyer at gmeyer002@outlook.com.



Submissions Wanted!

Did you want to share about a successful 4-H event that you just hosted? Do you have an upcoming 4-H event that you want to promote? Do you have a fun experience or 4-H story to share? Send your news, notes, reports, and articles to us along with a photo, and we'll include in the next issue. See below for our email and mailing addresses.

Deadline: All contributions are due by the 10th of the month to make it into the next publication.



Feedback

Please do not hesitate to provide feedback, both positive and negative to us. Sharing your thoughts, ideas, and observations helps your Extension Office do the best we can to serve you. Please use the attached Care to Share form sent with the newsletter or send us an email so that we can follow up with you!



Oconto Clover Connect

How to Contact Us

Telephone: 920-834-6845 **Email:** 4h@co.oconto.wi.us

Website: <http://oconto.uwex.edu>  Oconto County 4-H



Staff

Ben Hoppe: 4-H Program Coordinator; benjamin.hoppe@ces.uwex.edu

Jenny Tyczkowski: UW-Extension Program Assistant; jenny.tyczkowski@co.oconto.wi.us



Oconto County 4-H Leader's Association Board of Directors

Cheryl Meyer, President (Brazeau Eagles)

Isabella Rennie, Vice President (Pasture Pirates)

Kolin Farrar, Secretary (Southernline)

Arvilla Rusnak, Treasurer (County-wide)

McKenzie Meyer, Director (County-wide)

Sierra Seizy, Director (Team Green)

Ann Sievert, Director (Pasture Pirates)

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OCONTO COUNTY 4-H

“Care to Share Form”

This form has been designed to provide valuable input to the Oconto County 4-H program in two ways.

The first is to share ideas and suggestions for all area leaders and youth. We are always looking for new ways to educate our youth. All ideas, no matter if you think we may already be familiar with them, are welcome!

The second purpose is to allow members to express any concerns or problems they may be experiencing. We want to be able to address and correct any problems, but cannot do so if we are unaware of any issues.

Please take a few moments and complete all three sections of this form and sign it. **Forms without all three sections completed and a signature will be disregarded.**

Care to Share Ideas/Suggestions Section

Section 1: Idea or suggestion: _____

Section 2: Directions: _____

Section 3: If possible, please send an example or a photo of the project. Please let us know who is submitting the idea!

Section 1: Describe current concerns or issues: _____

Section 2: Describe the specifics of the problem: _____

Section 3: Give your suggestion(s) for a possible solution: _____

If the concern or issue is one that needs immediate attention, please make sure you fill out all of the following information. We cannot proceed without verifying the information with you.

Please print:

Name of person completing this form: _____

Address of person completing form: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address _____

Signature _____ Date _____



Developed by John de Montmollin

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Division of Cooperative Extension of the University of Wisconsin-Extension

Please return completed forms to:

Oconto County 4-H
301 Washington Street
Oconto, WI 54153

or E-mail: benjamin.hoppe@ces.uwex.edu