

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.



February 2025

In This Issue...

Calendar of Events.....	2
Scholarship Opportunities.....	2
WI Americorps Positions Open.....	3
Lena Rocketeers Highlights.....	4
Member Re-Enrollment.....	5
WI 4-H Program Booklet.....	5
4-H Arts Ambassadors.....	5
Save the Dates.....	6
Free Trees.....	6
Oconto River Rockstars Highlight....	7
ArtBeat.....	7
4-H Projects.....	8
Winter Camp.....	8
WI 4-H Adult Volunteers Needed...	9
Area Animal Science Days.....	9
Wildlife & Woods.....	10
Cupid Crew.....	10
Submissions Wanted.....	11
Goat Essay.....	12
Cupid Crew.....	13

Hello 4-H Member, Families, and Volunteers!

February is here, and while the cold and dreary days of winter may still be hanging around, we're keeping our spirits high as we look forward to the warmer weather and exciting events ahead! As we continue to learn, lead, and grow together, let's take a moment to reflect on all the wonderful things the 4-H program provides—connections, experiences, and lasting memories. This month let's remember to express appreciation for those who support us, whether it's a family member, friend, volunteer, or fellow 4-H member. The power of gratitude is contagious, and a simple "thank you" can brighten someone's day.

We've got some great things lined up in the next few weeks, and months—so keep reading for details on upcoming events, opportunities to get involved, and ways to make the most of your 4-H experience! We're so grateful for each and every one of you, and we're thrilled to continue this journey together.

Stay warm, stay connected, and let's make February a month to remember!

Warmly,

Aimee and Amy

Aimee Elkins
4-H Program Educator
aimee.elkins@wisc.edu

Amy Brehmer
4-H Program Assistant
amy.brehmer@ocontocountywi.gov

Contact Us

Extension Oconto County

4h@co.oconto.wi.us

920-834-6845

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

 Oconto County 4-H
Oconto County Courthouse
301 Washington St.
Oconto, WI 54153



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2/23	Oconto County 4-H Painting Event 2:00 pm	Oconto Falls Town Hall
3/2	Ice Skating Event – More info to come	
3/2	Leaders Association Meeting 6:00 pm	Oconto Falls Town Hall
3/22	Beef Weigh in 9:00 am	Oconto County Fairgrounds
4/26	Sheet/Goat Weigh in 9:00 am	Oconto County Fairgrounds
4/26	Swine Tag Pick up 9-10 am	Oconto County Fairgrounds
6/6	Green Bay Blizzard Dairy Night	
6/23-6/27	Summer Camp	Camp Bird
8/16	Cat, Dog, Horse, and Small Animal Show	Oconto County Fairgrounds
8/21-8/24	Oconto County Youth Fair	Oconto County Fairgrounds

Scholarship Opportunities

Calling all Wisconsin 4-H Youth Development graduates! Scholarship applications are NOW OPEN! The Wisconsin 4-H Foundation will award more than \$20,000 in scholarships to outstanding WI 4-H members and alumni pursuing higher education in 2025. All applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2025. You'll want to get your application in early. Find application requirements and guidelines at wis4hfoundation.org/scholarships.

YQCA is excited to launch a new scholarship program for certified youth, ranging from high school seniors to age 21, pursuing an agriculture degree or trade.

We will provide a total of \$30,000 in scholarships to selected youth in 2025! Individual scholarships will be awarded in the following amounts:

- One recipient - \$10,000
- Two recipients - \$5,000
- Four recipients - \$2,500

Scholarship applications are open from January 1st – February 17th. Recipients will be announced in May.

For more information please visit: [Scholarship Program](#)



New Family Newsletter

There is a state resource available for new families, each month we will include a link to the newsletter for new families to check out. This month is information on 4-H projects. Click [here](#) to view the newsletter.

New, Free 4-H Harmony Guide

Do you ever feel like you're running out of ideas for icebreakers or ways to help youth connect? The 4-H Harmony Guide: Meet Up, Buddy Up, is a set of hundreds of cards and activities you can use with youth of all ages.

Best of all, it's a new, [free download from Shop4-H!](#)

Three types of cards (Collaborations, Conversations, and Community Builders) are designed for two different age groups (Early Childhood and Upper Grades). All the cards are meant to build connection and community by helping youth meet up with each other and buddy up to work and play together. Make conversations a regular part of 4-H gatherings. Regular conversations, even short ones, can help young people connect to others and build a sense of belonging. Conversations can also help young people learn and develop important life skills that help them thrive! Club and Project volunteers can use these cards in meetings with youth. Camp counselors and other youth leaders

can use them in their programs. The cards can be a training tool or just for fun.

Request your [free download](#) and get started today!

Attention Adult Volunteers

There are volunteers that are in need of completing training and/or background screening. If you reenrolled but did not receive a confirmation email from UW-Madison with your role descriptions, you are not yet fully approved and need to reach out to us as soon as possible. The 4-H office will let you know what is needed and where to find the training(s). Contact the 4-H office at 920-834-6845.

If you haven't enrolled as a volunteer yet, please do so ASAP.

WI AmeriCorps Positions Open

Looking for a summer opportunity or know someone who is? Wisconsin 4-H x AmeriCorps has exciting quarter-time positions starting May 19! Earn a living allowance, receive education assistance, and grow your skills professionally.: <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/wisconsin4h-ameri corps/>

The poster features a blue header with a white 4-H clover logo and the text "Wisconsin AmeriCorps POSITIONS OPEN". Below the header are three photographs: a group of people outdoors, a person working at a computer, and a group of people working together. The text "Looking for a summer 'job' to earn money and build your resume?" is centered below the photos. At the bottom, there are four circular icons with text: "Get Support while you serve" (Earn \$5,000 in living allowances), "Receive Education Assistance" (Receive nearly \$2,000 in an education award), "Grow Professionally" (Add UW-Madison Extension & AmeriCorps to your career credentials), and "Positions are available statewide. Find one in a county near you!" (with a QR code). The footer includes the Wisconsin Extension logo, the 4-H clover logo, the AmeriCorps logo, and the website "4h.extension.wisc.edu/wisconsin4h-ameri corps/".

Lena Rocketeers Highlights

Christmas is a special time for giving, and that is what the Lena Rocketeers did. At their December meeting the kids filled 50 bags that contained a bag of microwave popcorn, four packs of hot cocoa mix, and mini candy canes with a note that said: Wishing you a warm holiday season and a poppin New Year from the Lena 4H Rocketeers. The bags were then delivered to the Lena Food My Sheep Food Pantry to be distributed before Christmas. The kids then got to decorate sugar cookies to take home and share with their family.



Lena Rocketeers get skiing experience at Paul Bunyan Ski Hill

Fifteen 4-H Club members and six parents enjoyed a day of skiing at Paul Bunyan Ski Hill in Lakewood on Sunday, January 26. For some this was their first time ever trying the sport and for some it had been a year or two since being on the hills. It was great to watch the kids enjoy the day and help each other out on the hills. For any clubs looking for a fun group activity, Paul Bunyan is a great hill for learning and will give large groups a special rate.



Member Re-Enrollment

Our new enrollment year for 2025 began on October 1.

Members and leaders 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.

***If you aren't re-enrolled by February 10 you will no longer get our communication.**

*New members can join at any time but must enroll by April 30 to enter in the Fair.

*April 30 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.

You can register [here](#). If you have any questions or need assistance, please call our office at 920-834-6845 or email amy.brehmer@ocontocountywi.gov.

WI 4-H Program Booklet 2024-25 Now Available

This year's booklet is full of exciting opportunities for 4-H families, members, and volunteers at the state level. These state programs offer valuable educational experiences that help youth develop lifelong skills and form lasting friendships. Whether your 4-H member is ready to create something amazing at Arts Camp in Upham Woods, embark on a thrilling adventure at Space Camp in Huntsville, or showcase their talents in a State Judging Competition, we're confident there's a spark waiting for every 4-H member in this year's offerings.

If you are a volunteer interested in applying to serve as an adult advisor for one of our state or national educational experiences, you can read about the application process and [apply right now through our website!](#)

We can't wait to see all the incredible things our 4-H members will accomplish this year!

Check it out below!

<https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/>

State Communications Team is Back

It offers the opportunity for youth leaders to develop skills in mixed-media support WI 4-H Communications and Marketing throughout the year. The Comms team is a part of the WI 4-H Arts Ambassadors along with Drama Company and Arts Team.



Save the Dates!

- March 2, 2025 3:45-5:45 pm - Ice Skating Event – hosted by Northern Riders – More info to come
- March 22, 2025 9:00 am – Beef weigh in, Oconto County Fairgrounds. Exhibitors and animals must be in line by 11:00 am.
- April 26, 2025 9:00 am – Sheep/Goat weigh in, Oconto County Fairgrounds.
- April 26, 2025 9-10 am – Swine tag pick up.
- June 6, 2025 - Green Bay Blizzard Dairy Night to highlight local 4-H clubs and groups, more information on ticket sales and fundraising opportunities to come.
- June 23 – 27, 2025 – Camp MarOcoSha. 38 counselors have signed up and began training to make this year the best one yet! Adult staff applications should be out soon, as well as registration.
- August 16, 2025 – Horse, dog, cat, and small animal show, Oconto County Fairgrounds.
- August 21-24, 2025 – Oconto County Youth Fair, Oconto County Fairgrounds.

Neighborhood Forest – Free Trees

Once again, we are partnering with Neighborhood Forest's tree program, they are giving trees out as part of their Earth Week celebration from April 16-22.

We are excited to be participating in this wonderful program that teaches youth about the importance of environmental stewardship through the magic and wonder of planting and watching trees grow.

Please fill out the following online registration form by March 15th and receive a free tree (6-12 inches in size) during Earth Week (April 16-22). The tree species will be announced in early April. Neighborhood Forest aims to provide native trees in all regions they serve.

Register to receive a free tree for Earth Day to plant with your child:

<https://www.neighborhoodforest.org/parent-registration/?school=26435>

For the purpose of the program please indicate your child's teacher to be the 4-H Program Educator, and Neighborhood Forest Coordinator Aimee Elkins

Trees will be delivered to us and we will arrange to get the trees in the hands of your children on or around Earth Day (April 22nd) via pick up.

Instructions on planting and caring for the trees, along with species details, will be emailed a few days before the tree delivery and will also be accessible in the "[Resources](#)" section on the Neighborhood Forest website. For further questions, please check out the [Parent FAQs](#).

Thank you for your support and participation. For more information about this program, please visit www.neighborhoodforest.org or www.facebook.com/neighborhoodforest.

Oconto River Rockstars Highlight

The Oconto River Rockstars 4-H Club worked together to create valentines for elderly nursing home and homebound residents of Oconto County in support of the 12th annual Cupid Crew Program.



ArtBeat

Don't miss this chance to join 4-H ArtBeat, an introduction to Wisconsin 4-H Expressive Arts & Camp Adventures! Learn more [here](#). Registration is open from January 20 – February 17, 2025.



Art Beat

REGISTRATION OPEN

WHAT

4-H members in grades 3-5 can explore visual arts, drama, music, and STEAM through hands-on activities

WHEN

March 15-16, 2025

WHERE

Upham Woods Outdoor Learning Center

COST

\$125 for Youth Members, \$75 for Adult Volunteers



LEARN MORE






Positive Youth Development Institute
DIVISION OF EXTENSION
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

4-H Projects

All 4-H Projects need to be entered in 4-H online by April 30, to be able to bring items to the fair. New this year, I worked with the state and got access for families to be able to enter your own projects in as needed. You can go under the profile and click on projects on the left-hand side, then click edit. If you are having issues, please reach out to me and I will gladly get them added for you. You can email me at amy.brehmer@ocontocountywi.gov, please include what projects your child would like added.

Member List

Profile

Events

Wisconsin 4-H

Enrollment

About You

Activities

Animals

Awards

Clubs

Consents

Groups

Health

Invoice

Projects

Questions

Files

Trainings

Wisconsin 4-H

2024-2025

Projects

Edit

Project Alias	Years In Project	State Project	Club Name	Volunteer Type	Consents
Art	5		Oconto River Rockstars		No Consents
Cats	5		Oconto River Rockstars		No Consents
Ceramics	5		Oconto River Rockstars		No Consents
Crocheting	5		Oconto River Rockstars		No Consents
Dairy Goat	3		Oconto River Rockstars		No Consents
Dogs	5		Oconto River Rockstars		No Consents

Winter Camp 2025 Recap – 9 Youth from Oconto County Attended



Wisconsin 4-H is Looking for Adult Volunteers

Adult advisors are needed for programs like Space Camp, Summer Academy, Citizenship Washington Focus, National 4-H Congress, and more. Adult advisors will serve as support for all youth participants and work as a team to ensure that the experience runs smoothly. Learn more about the positions available and find the application [here](#).



2025 Area Animal Science Days

**WI 4-H AREA ANIMAL
SCIENCE DAYS**
Save the Dates

**PIERCE COUNTY
JUNE 13TH**

**CALUMET COUNTY
JUNE 30TH**



**WATCH INBOXES AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR
FUTURE REGISTRATION INFORMATION**



Wildlife & Woods

Wisconsin 4-H is excited to offer two Wildlife & Woods virtual series again in 2025 - Explorations and Careers & Competitions!

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.

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.

Registration for these events is now open in 4HOnline!

Wildlife & Woods

EXPLORATIONS VIRTUAL SERIES

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

JAN. 29, 2025
FEB. 26, 2025
MAR. 26, 2025
APRIL 23, 2025

Wildlife & Woods

CAREERS & COMPETITION VIRTUAL SERIES

FREE SERIES: FOR YOUTH GRADES 6-12
7:00PM-7:45PM

JAN. 27, 2025
FEB. 24, 2025
MAR. 24, 2025
APRIL 28, 2025

Register via 4HOnline
wi.4honline.com

To learn more about virtual learning opportunities, please visit 4h.extension.wisc.edu/vlc

An EEO/AAE 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.

Cupid Crew

4H members are invited to be a part of the Cupid Crew 2025! 4-H members can design greeting cards as a part of the outreach efforts to the aging community where our Extension Lifespan Educator, Katie Daul, and Program Assistant, Amy Brehmer, will be delivering red roses, valentine's cards, and Little Hearts during Valentine's Week. Thank you to our 4-H members for sharing an uplifting and caring message so everyone can feel the love this Valentine's Day! If you or your club are interested in making some cards, please get them to our office by February 10. Pick up can be arranged if needed. We have included the card and instructions at the end of the newsletter. Thank you!

WISH OF A LIFETIME®
cupid crew
FROM AARP

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 15th 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 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@ocontocountywi.gov

Website: <https://oconto.extension.wisc.edu/>



Oconto County 4-H



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

Staff

Aimee Elkins: 4-H Positive Youth Development Educator; aimee.elkins@wisc.edu

Amy Brehmer: Extension Program Assistant; amy.brehmer@ocontocountywi.gov

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

President – Brooke Schaal (Little Seedlings)

Vice President – Riley Windus (Lena Rocketeers)

Secretary – Miranda Seitz (Morgan Badgers)

Treasurer - Ann Sievert (Morgan Badgers)

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.

Como empleador que brinda igualdad de oportunidades en el empleo y acción afirmativa (EEO/AA, por sus siglas en inglés), la University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension, proporciona igualdad de oportunidades en el empleo y en sus programas, incluyendo los requisitos del Título VI, Título IX, y de la ley federal para personas con discapacidades en los Estados Unidos (ADA, por sus siglas en inglés) y los requisitos de la Section 504 del Rehabilitation Act.



TYLER THIEL MEMORIAL MEAT GOAT ESSAY

Due Feb 28th, 2025

Tyler Thiel Memorial will be gifting a Boer goat doeling to a 4-H member in Shawano, Marinette, Oconto, Outagamie, or Waupaca county. To qualify for this goat, you must show it in the 2025 county fair. Doe must be bred to a meat breed buck at appropriate breeding age. One of its kids must be shown at the first fair that it is eligible for.

The essay may be handwritten or typed, 1 - 2 pages long, and postmarked by **February 28th, 2025**.

Mail the essay to:

**Mike and Shirley Thiel
W4933 Cty Rd G
Black Creek, WI 54106**

Please Include the following in your essay:

☐ Name, Age, Address, Phone, Email 4-H Club, & County

Please answer the following in your essay:

- ☐ Tell about the other livestock that you, and your family raise.
- ☐ Do you have goats now?
 - ☐ If yes, tell us more...(breed, age, how many, how you care for them, and what's your plan with your herd)
- ☐ Explain why you are interested in goats...
- ☐ Why do you show or want to show goats at the Fair....
- ☐ Explain your facility....
- ☐ Explain how you will take care of this goat (Feed, water, shelter, medications, etc.)

4-H Member Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent or Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Winner must pick up goat in Freedom between March 1st-7th



This Valentine's Day, Wish of a Lifetime from AARP is teaming up with schools and volunteers of all ages for the 12th annual Cupid Crew, a nationwide effort to connect with older adults and send them love.

From our heart to yours, Happy Valentine's Day.

wishofalifetime.org/cupid



Rose Sponsor



Supporting Sponsor



Community Partner



wishofalifetime.org/cupid

Thanks for joining Cupid Crew to help love grow! Volunteers are the heart of Cupid Crew. Your dedication is essential to bringing love and connection to hundreds of thousands of older adults this Valentine's Day. To get started creating your heartfelt cards:

- Print page one of this document and fold in half where the dotted line appears. The inside should be blank on both sides to allow room for your creation.
- Personalize the front and inside of the card. Consider adding an inspirational quote, a poem, or a friendly message to let them know they are not alone and that their community is thinking of them.
- Then deliver the cards to a local older adult community or a neighbor's house.

If you have any questions, please email cupidcrew@wishofalifetime.org.

