2026 Creative Arts & Communications Festival

Where: Spring Valley High School
S1450 County Rd CC, Spring Valley, WI, 54767

When: Saturday, January 31, 2026

Who: All 4-H Members and Cloverbuds
You do not need to be enrolled in these project areas to participate in the Creative Arts and Communications Festival.

Time: Judging will begin at 9 a.m.; exhibits should be on display by 9:30 a.m. Exhibits should remain on display until after the awards ceremony at approximately 12:30 pm.

What: This festival includes exhibit entries in the areas of arts and crafts, communications (speaking and written), and non-performance music. Registration forms for exhibit sections are attached.

Registration Deadline Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Project Areas:

Arts and Crafts

- Cultural Arts
  - Scrapbooking
  - Art
  - Recycling
  - Ceramics
  - Pottery
  - Printmaking
  - Leather Craft
  - Jewelry
  - Metal Enameling
  - Drawing
  - Painting
  - Theater Arts
  - Clowning
  - Other Cultural Arts
- Woodworking
- Mechanical Projects
  - Scale Models
  - Modular Construction (LEGOS)
  - Aerospace
- Home Furnishings/Environment
  - Quilting
  - Sewing/Needlepoint
  - Refinished Furniture
  - Any Other Home Furnishing Item

Communication - Speaking

- 4-H Pledge
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Speech
- Interpretive Reading
- Dynamic Duos
- Group Interpretive Reading
- Demonstrations
- Storytelling
- Any other spoken Communications exhibit

Communication - Written

- Poetry
- Story Writing
- Poster Contest
- Photo Story
- Multi-panel or Single Panel Comic
- Any other written Communications Exhibit

Non-Performance Music and Dance Selection

- Musical Instrument made by the member
- Original Composition Not Performed
- Informational Music Poster
- CD Cover
- Performance Costume/Outfit Design
- Any Other Music or Dance Related Exhibit

CREATIVE ARTS & COMMUNICATIONS FESTIVAL
Guidelines

- Exhibits must be pre-registered. NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED. NO PROJECT will be accepted that is not pre-registered.
- Exhibit Entries:
    - Arts and Crafts: Members are allowed to enter up to ten exhibits, with a limit of three items per project area.
    - Communications: members may enter in more than one category; there is no maximum on communication entries.
    - Non-performance Music/Dance: Members may enter in more than one category; there is no maximum number of entries.
- Judges will be available beginning at 9 a.m.
- Your exhibits should be checked in and on display at your club table no later than 9:30 a.m. They should remain on display until approximately 12:30 p.m., after the awards ceremony, following all festival events.
- Each exhibit is required to have a 3"x 5" card with the following information listed: club, name, grade of participant, title, and description of the exhibit.
- Members must be present when their project is being judged to get feedback from the judge. If you will be absent on the day of judging, you must fill out the excused absence form. Exhibits brought on the day of the festival without an excused absence form will not be judged. An excused absence form can be found at the end of this packet.
- Exhibitors will be judged in age categories:
    - Cloverbud (grades K-2), Novice (grades 3-4)**,** Junior (grades 5-6), Intermediate (grades 7-8), Senior (grades 9-13)
- Arts & Crafts, Written Communications, and Non-performance Music/Dance exhibits may be entered at both the county fair and at the Creative Arts and Communications Festival, but only once at each event

Creative Arts & Communications Festival
Arts and Crafts Registration Form

Name:_____

Club:_____

Grade: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail: _____

I am entering _____ arts and crafts exhibits (Maximum of ten entries total; limited to three items per project area).

Enter the number of exhibits with associated Arts and Crafts project areas (refer to the list on the first page)

Return registration forms by January 27, 2026:

Mail forms:
Pierce County Extension Office
Pierce County Courthouse Annex,
P.O Box 69 432 W. Main Street,
Ellsworth, WI 54011

Or email forms:
April.daniels@wisc.edu

Number of Exhibits	Project Area
EXAMPLE - 3	***Jewelry***

CREATIVE ARTS & COMMUNICATIONS FESTIVAL
Communication Categories

Speaking Categories

1. **4-H Pledge** – Open to Cloverbuds and Explorers (grades K-3). The pledge must be memorized. Pledge will be judged on voice, stage presence, power of expression, general effect, and presentation correctness.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**– Open to Cloverbuds and Explorers (grades K-3). The pledge must be memorized. Pledge will be judged on voice, stage presence, power of expression, general effect, and presentation correctness.

3. **Original Speech**- The topic should be original and written by the contestant. You may write and speak about any topic of interest. Speaking is judged on introduction, main ideas, conclusion, and general delivery.

Cloverbud (grades K-2): 1-2 minutes
Novice (grades 3-4): 2-3 minutes
Junior (grades 5-6): 3-5 minutes
Intermediate (grades 7-8): 3-7 minutes
Senior (grades 9-13): 5-10 minutes

4. **Interpretive Reading**
   1. Selections may be prose or poetry, original or a selected reading. If not an original, the author should be credited. Reading should NOT be memorized. Interpretive Reading is judged on enunciation, inflection, eye contact, and general delivery.
   2. Use full-size copies of selections (not note cards).

Cloverbud (grades K-2): up to 5 minutes
Novice (grades 3-4): up to 5 minutes
Junior (grades 5-6): up to 7 minutes
Intermediate (grades 7-8): up to 10 minutes
Senior (grades 9-13): up to 10 minutes

5. **Dynamic Duos** –This category is open to a team of two 4-H members of any combination of ages. Age is determined by the oldest member of the duo.

Cloverbud (grades K-2): up to 5 minutes
Novice (grades 3-4): up to 5 minutes
Junior (grades 5-6): up to 7 minutes
Intermediate (grades 7-8): up to 10 minutes
Senior (grades 9-13): up to 10 minutes

   1. Dynamic duos are performed by a team of two 4-H members of any combination of ages. This is an Interpretive Reading consisting of a dialogue for two.
   2. If not an original work, the author should be credited. Reading should NOT be memorized.
   3. All readers should use full-size copies of their selections (not note cards).

6. **Group Interpretive Reading**- This category is open to a team of three or more 4-H members of any combination of ages. Age is determined by the oldest member of the group.

Cloverbud (grades K-2): up to 5 minutes
Novice (grades 3-4): up to 5 minutes
Junior (grades 5-6): up to 7 minutes
Intermediate (grades 7-8): up to 10 minutes
Senior (grades 9-13): up to 10 minutes

   1. Group interpretive readings are performed by a team of three or more 4-H members of any combination of ages. This is an Interpretive Reading consisting of a dialogue for three or more.
   2. If not an original work, the author should be credited. Reading should NOT be memorized.
   3. All readers should use full-size copies of their selections (not note cards).

7. **Storytelling** - Storytellers must sit in a chair; costumes and props are not permitted. Participants select a topic area and deliver a story from that area. The storyteller may use vocal variation and physical movement to suggest different characters and character relationships to make the story clearer and more interesting. The storyteller is expected to "demonstrate a sense of audience." That is, tell the chosen story in such a manner that it would be suitable for the intended audience, be it young children, teenagers, or adults. An introduction identifying the author, title, audience, and any other orienting material is necessary. The story must be memorized. Original stories, fables, or folktales are acceptable. The maximum time limit is 10 minutes.

   Topics:
   1. Stories of Inanimate Objects That Come to Life
   2. Stories That Are Titled with First Names (male or female), (i.e., Cinderella, Kenny, and His Kite)
   3. Good Deed Stories
   4. Stories about Magic or Magicians
   5. 4-H Experience (written by member).
   6. Any Other

8. **Demonstrations** – Perform a demonstration on various topics either as an individual or as a team. Teams shall consist of two members. Age is determined by the oldest member of the group. Demonstrations are judged on: introduction, appearance, topic, organization, and general delivery.

   Cloverbud (grades K-2): 2-5 minutes
   Junior (grades 3-5): 4-7 minutes
   Intermediate (grades 6-7): 5-8 minutes
   Senior (grades 8-13): 8-10 minutes

9. **Any Other Speaking Communications Exhibit** – Any other speaking communications exhibit not previously listed. 10 minutes maximum.

Written Categories ***(All written categories SHALL NOT be AI-generated)***

10. **Poetry** – Poetry is judged on creativity, clarity of ideas, writing process, style and rhythm, imagery and mood, and grammar and spelling.

    Cloverbud (grades K-2): 1 poem
    Novice (grades 3-4): up to 2 poems
    Junior (grades 5-6): up to 3 poems
    Intermediate (grades 7-8): up to 4 poems
    Senior (grades 9-13): up to 3 poems

11. **Story Writing** - Write a creative story about any experience you've had. Stories must be one to two pages. Stories will be judged on: story structure, including knowledge of plot, character, and setting development, organization of ideas, language usage, grammar, spelling, and overall story.

12. **Poster Contest** – Poster submissions can fall into one of three themes: Healthy Living, Science, or Citizenship. Examples of how to apply one of the themes to a poster include: healthy living topics like anti-smoking or anxiety, science topics like animal breeds or natural science projects, and citizen topics like youth in a leadership role or exploring a hobby or career. **These are only suggested topics and should not limit you to your ideas.** Poster size is 14" x 22". The name, grade club name, and sources should be on the back. (Photographs permitted on posters). Posters are judged on: construction, originality, and general appearance.

13. **Photo Story** - Photo stories are meant to convey or interpret a story or message to the reader through visual and written media. Entries should be newsworthy or convey human interest, just as a newspaper or magazine article would be. Captions should be brief and catchy. Captions and articles should enhance the photograph. All levels are judged on content, article/captions, and photography skills. **Photos, written captions, and articles must be the original work of the 4-H member.**

    Novice (grades 3 and 4):
    2-4 photos - color or black and white. Dimensions of photos: up to 4" x 6" with caption. Mount all on a 14" x 22" tag board.

    Junior (grades 5 and 6):
    Same photos, dimensions, and captions as above, PLUS an approximately 30-word article. Mount all on a 14" x 22" tag board.

    Intermediate (grades 7 and 8):
    One 5" x 7" (or larger) color or black and white photo, or a series of up to five (4" x 6") color or black and white photos, mounted on one 14" x 22" tag board. Caption each photo. An approximately 100-word article, neatly written or typed, should be attached to the tag board.

    Senior (grades 9 and above):
    One 8"x 10" color or black and white photograph, or a series of up to five (4" x 6") color or black and white photos, mounted on one 14" x 22" tag board. Caption each photo. An approximately 200-word article, neatly written or typed, should be attached to the tag board.

14. **Multi-panel or Single-panel Comic** – Comic should be a multi-panel comic or a single-panel comic. A multi-panel comic is a sequence of drawings arranged in interrelated panels with extended dialogue that tells a story in speech balloons. A single-panel comic is not broken up and lacks continuity. It has only one spoken line, printed in a caption beneath the panel itself. Artwork and writing can be black and white or in color. Artwork and writing can be computer-generated, hand-drawn, or a combination of both. 4-H appropriate language, humor, and drawings should be used. Comics will be judged on clarity of ideas, grammar/spelling, creativity/humor, presentation/artwork, and neatness.

15. **Any Other Written Communications Exhibit** – Any other written communications exhibit not previously listed.

Creative Arts & Communications Festival
Communications Registration Form

Name:_____

Club:_____

Grade: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail: _____

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Mail forms:
Pierce County Extension Office
Pierce County Courthouse Annex,
P.O Box 69 432 W. Main Street,
Ellsworth, WI 54011

Or email forms:
April.daniels@wisc.edu

****Enter as many categories as you would like, only one entry per category****

Please check those you are entering:

1. ____4-H PLEDGE *open to Cloverbud and Explorers (K-3)*
2. ____PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (AMERICAN FLAG) *open to Cloverbud and Explorers (K-3)*
3. ____SPEAKING (original work)
   Title_____
4. ____INTERPRETIVE READING
   Title(s)/Author_____
5. ____DYNAMIC DUO (Groups can be from different clubs)
   Partner's Name/Grade/Club_____
   Title/Author_____
6. ____GROUP INTERPRETIVE READING (Groups can be from different clubs)
   Partners' Name/Grade/Club _____
   _____
   Title/Author_____
7. ____STORYTELLING: Title/Author_____
8. ____DEMONSTRATIONS
   ____ Individual ____ Team - Partner Name_____
   Topic_____
9. ____ANY OTHER SPEAKING COMMUNICATIONS EXHIBIT
   Description_____
   Title_____
10. ____POETRY
11. ____POSTER
12. ____STORY WRITING
13. ____PHOTO STORY
14. ____COMIC PANEL
15. ____ANY OTHER WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS EXHIBIT

CREATIVE ARTS & COMMUNICATIONS FESTIVAL
Non-Performance Music and Dance Categories

1. **Musical instrument made by the member** - Create a homemade musical instrument. This will be judged on usability, originality, blending of materials, and creativity.
2. **Original composition not performed** - Write an original music composition. Members may submit a recorded version along with the score. This will be judged on musicality, use of notation and symbols, neatness and readability, and overall musical interpretation.

3. **Informational Music Poster** - Create a poster about music, musical instruments, famous composers, or musical styles. Poster size is 14" x 22".

4. **Album Cover** - Design and create an original album cover for your favorite music group or artist. Should be the original work of the exhibitor. The size should be square and mimic an album cover. Any type of media can be used: crayons, markers, ink, or paint. Can be hand-drawn or designed on a computer.

5. **Non-Performance Costume/Outfit Design** – Display for a dance performance costume/outfit. The exhibit can include clippings, photos, and fabric samples. Exhibit should include: who the costume is for (adult or child, female or male and age), what type of production the costume would be worn for (on-stage musical, dance troupe, spirit squad, etc.), what type of dance would be performed in the costume (ballet, tap & jazz, hip-hop, lyrical, worship, gymnastics, dance team), what type of accessories would be used (hair extensions, headbands, clips, suspenders, collars, hats, belts, shoes, etc.).

6. **Any Other Music or Dance-related Exhibit** – any other non-performance music or dance-related exhibit not previously listed.

Creative Arts & Communications Festival
Non-Performance Music and Dance Registration Form

Name:_____

Club:_____

Grade: _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail: _____

Return registration forms by January 27,, 2026:

Mail forms:
Pierce County Extension Office
Pierce County Courthouse Annex,
P.O Box 69 432 W. Main Street,
Ellsworth, WI 54011

Or email forms:
April.Daniels@wisc.edu

****Enter as many categories as you would like, only one entry per category****

Please check those you are entering:

1. ____ MUSICAL INSTRUMENT
2. ____ ORIGINAL COMPOSITION
3. ____ INFORMATIONAL MUSICAL POSTER
4. ____ ALBUM COVER
5. ____ NON-PERFORMANCE COSTUME/OUTFIT DESIGN
6. ____ ANY OTHER NON-PERFORMANCE MUSIC OR DANCE RELATED EXHIBIT

Creative Arts & Communications Festival
Face-to-Face Judging Excused Absence Form

This form must be completed (all signatures in place) and accompany each exhibit on judging day.

I, _____, will be unable to attend the Creative Arts and Communications Festival but would still like to have my exhibits judged.

4-H Member's Signature _____

Parent Signature_____

Who brought in your item(s) for you: _____

Each exhibit must be labeled. Include: club, name, grade of participant, and exhibit. In addition, include information you think the judge might like to know. For example: a description of your item, how you made the item, the length of time to complete the item, why you created the item, how you learned the craft (writing, drawing, dancing, knitting, etc.), what you like about the item, what you could improve on, and why you chose the subject matter.

Exhibit Area

☐ **Communications - Written** (check all that apply)

□ Comic Panel
□ Poster
□ Any Other
□ Photo Story

☐ **Non-performance music and dance** (check all that apply)

□ Musical Instrument
□ Album Cover
□ Original Composition
□ Performance Costume/Outfit Design
□ Informational Music Poster
□ Any Other

☐ **Arts and Crafts**

□ _____
□ _____
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