

Extension Outagamie County 4-H

Project Enrollment Guide

2026 - 2027

Welcome New Families:

There are many people in 4-H who are ready and willing to help you as a new family in the program. We are here to help:

Local 4-H Club

Leaders and other families are great resources and support.

4-H Leaders Association

Outagamie County has an organization of leaders and youth leaders which support the county 4-H program.

County 4-H Office

Ask for the county 4-H Program Educator or staff, who are responsible for administering the county 4-H program, to connect you with resources and opportunities.

There are many ways for your family to be involved in 4-H; be active in your club, participate in club meetings, events and activities. There are even county and statewide events, activities and opportunities. Some examples are: speaking, demonstrations, camps, trips and tours, 4-H project workshops and county fair. (Watch for information in your county 4-H Connections Newsletter.)

Youth may need a little adult encouragement to stay involved. Many adults become 4-H leaders when their children become members. All leaders appreciate any assistance parents can give. If you decide that you want to become a leader, you will need to be approved through the Youth Protection process which requires a background check and a few training pieces. Ask the 4-H Program Educator or contact the Extension Office for more information.

Adults can help by:

Sharing

Take an interest in a child's 4-H projects and activities. Listen, look and offer suggestions, but don't "take over." Learning by doing is the 4-H way. A child learns through mistakes and successes.

Preparing

Help a child understand the value of projects and presentations done well and on time. Help

a child understand the importance of follow through.

Being There

A child will gain more from 4-H by regular attendance at club meetings and involvement in 4-H activities. Attend meetings with them. Get to know the 4-H club leader. Lend a hand whenever you can.

Understanding 4-H Projects

What is a 4-H Project? A 4-H project is made up of three types of activities:

1. Hands-on activities: making, producing, practicing, observing, testing, interviewing, caring for, etc.
2. Organized activities: demonstrations, workshops, camps, county judging, project activities, exhibits, etc.
3. Leadership/Citizenship activities: conducting, planning, teaching, assisting, informing, organizing, etc.

Are 4-H Members required to sign up for a project? Yes, all members must sign up for at least one project.

How does this work? Some projects are self-guided with curriculum available through the Extension Office, other projects have meetings and additional requirements to participate.

How does a member select a project? When choosing a project, consider your interests, background, what is necessary to start your project, and what is available to help you complete it. Ask yourself, "What would I like to learn and do in my project this year?" Review this guide as a family, club, or group. A good rule of thumb is to select no more than two projects as a first-year member. County fairs and the state fair often have age requirements different than those for project enrollment. When participating in a fair event, be sure to review the related guidelines.

Resource Leaders are available for some projects. See the Family Handbook for a list or contact the Extension Office.

4-H Enrollment Guidelines

Grade Requirements

4-H grade is determined as of September 1 of the current year.

Cloverbuds – Youth entering 5K through 2nd grade are eligible only for the Cloverbud project.

Members – Youth entering 3rd grade through one year beyond high school graduation up to age 19 as of December 31.

Graduation - Youth may graduate following high school graduation or one year after high school graduation.

Home-schooling – Children who are home schooled will participate in 4-H in their declared grade.

Enrollment Process For Members and Volunteers

All enrollment happens in 4-H Online: <https://wi.4honline.com>

New enrollment will be accepted at any time during the year; however, to provide a complete list of membership to volunteers and leaders, we are asking that new enrollment be completed by Nov 15.

Re-enrollment must be submitted by November 15, 2026.

Once enrollment is submitted and approved, a project can be added or changed until March 15. County Fair Youth may only exhibit at the county fair in the projects they are enrolled in for the current year.

Parents/Guardians should double-check all information in 4-H Online before submitting their enrollment to be sure that all information is accurate and complete.

Literature/Curriculum

Several projects have helpful, informative literature that is research based. We encourage you to either pick up from the Extension Office or purchase from National 4-H Supply at <https://shop4-h.org/>.

Please note that the Extension Office has a limited amount of literature available in some project areas. Therefore, contact the Extension Office for the most up to date inventory available.

Volunteer Leaders

There are several projects that could use a leader. Please consider signing up for one to help youth learn and grow in that area. Choose to be a club or county leader. Check with the main leader of your club for more information on leadership opportunities. You do not need to be an expert, just have a passion for the topic and learning. You do not have to be a leader in each area. Contact the 4-H Program Educator for more information.

Volunteer Leaders must re-enroll by November 15.

Resource Leader - An approved volunteer who serves on the county level as a resource to other leaders and members in a specific project or activity.

4-H at County Fair

The Outagamie County Fair is held each year in June. It is a time when 4-H members have an opportunity to show the results of their learning efforts and reflect on what they have accomplished. It is also a chance to meet other members from across the county and share experiences and ideas with them.

Participation at the Fair is not required by the county, but members that choose not to participate are missing an excellent opportunity for additional fun, enrichment, and learning. All 4-H members are encouraged to participate in the Fair, if possible.

To participate in the Fair, the child must be enrolled by the dates listed on page 3 for both new members and re-enrolling members. Per the Outagamie County Fair Association Junior Fair Rules and Regulations "Members must be in good standing of their organization on or before March 15 of the fair year." Many projects have educational requirements or opportunities that occur early in the calendar year.

Fair entry forms are due in May. For more information concerning the Fair, consult the Fair Premium Book.

About this guide

Please note:

Descriptions listed by each project are examples of what could be learned through self-discovery, organized project meetings/activities and other events.

Please reference the Outagamie County Fair Premium book for ideas of exhibits that can be taken to the fair <https://www.outagamiecountyfair.com/junior-fair/>

If you cannot find a corresponding Department or Class in the premium book, please contact the Extension Office 4-H program 920-832-5123 and we will help you find the information you are looking for.

How to Enroll 4-H Online

To enroll in Wisconsin 4-H Online, you need a computer, internet access, a valid e-mail address and a web browser. You must use Google Chrome or Firefox, the program won't fully run on a different browser. Family profile and member information should be entered by a parent/guardian unless the member enrolling is 18 years or older.

Please visit <https://outagamie.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/> for more information.

Expressive Arts

Project Area | Examples of project-based learning within project area | Outagamie Fair Department

Art Appreciation | Celebrating art, art in your future | 133

Computer Graphic Design | 121

Creative Writing | 131

Fiber & Textile Arts | Macrame, rug hooking, tie dyeing, wearable art, creative/cross stitchery, needlepoint, weaving, string/wire art, handmade dolls, knitting, crocheting, wool spinning, weaving | 118 | Knitting, crocheting | 127

Folk Arts & Crafts | Basketry, beadwork, calligraphy, candle making, decorative boxes, decoupage, fuzzy posters, liquid embroidery, rock art, soap making, soap carving, wood art, wood burning, leathercraft, blacksmithing | 118

Performing Arts | Clowning, dance, juggling, music, theater arts, puppetry | 118

Photography | 120

Self-Determined-Expressive Arts | 118 or 133

Upcycling | Trash and Treasure | 133

Videography | 120

Visual Arts | Block printing, ceramics, collages, drawing and painting, glasswork, jewelry making, metal enameling, mosaics, ornaments, paper art, plastercraft, posters, print making, pottery, rubber stamping, scrapbooking, Sculpey clay, stencil painting | 118

Leadership and Community

Project Area | Examples of project-based learning within project area | Outagamie Fair Department

Civic Engagement | Citizenship | 134

Cloverbud | 117

Cloverbud Youth Leader | 133

Communications | Demonstrations, sign language, speaking, Books on the Move | 131 or 133

Community Service | Service learning | 134

Exploring | 133

Global & Cultural | Education Latino cultural arts, international | 134

History & Heritage | 134

Intergenerational | 134
Leadership | Youth leadership | 133
Self-Determined—Leadership & Community | 133 or 134
Workforce Readiness | 134

Family, Home, and Health

Project Area | Examples of project-based learning within project area |
Outagamie Fair Department

Candy Making | 125
Child Development | 129
Consumer Savvy | 133
Entrepreneurship | 134
Food Decorating | Cake decorating | 125
Food Preservation | 125
Foods & Nutrition | Microwave, cooking, baking, breads | 125
Health | 134
Home Environment | Decorative wreaths, interior design | 128
Personal Finance | 134
Self-Determined—Family, Home, & Health | 133
Sewing | Clothing, quilting, regalia making, stuffed animals | 126
Sports & Fitness | Softball, bowling, fun and fitness | 134

Agriculture and Animal Science

Project Area | Examples of project-based learning within project area |
Outagamie Fair Department

Beef | Beef feeder, beef meat animal products (map) | 102
Cats | 113
Cavies | 110
Dairy | 101
Dogs | Dog obedience | 109
Exotic Animals | Ostrich, emu, zebras, zedonk | 110
Goats | Meat goat, dairy goat, pygmy goat | 105
Horse | Horseless horse | 106
Llamas/Alpacas | 110
Pocket Pets | Cage birds, reptiles, tropical fish, hamsters, gerbils, chinchilla | 110

Poultry | Poultry bantams, poultry game birds (quail, pheasant), poultry market, poultry pigeons, poultry turkeys, poultry waterfowl | 107
Rabbits | Rabbit hopping, rabbits market | 108
Self-Determined—Animal Sciences | 110 or 133
Sheep | Sheep meat animal products (map) | 104
Swine | Swine meat animal products (map) | 103
Veterinary Science | 110

Environmental/Outdoor Education

Project Area | Examples of project-based learning within project area |
Outagamie Fair Department

Astronomy | 116
Birds | 116
Conservation | Weather and climate, exploring your environment, water science, aquatic science, water, recycling | 116
Entomology (Insects) | Bees | 116
Geology | Rockhound | 116
Maple Syrup | 116
Outdoor Recreation | Adventures, backpacking and hiking, bicycling, camping, canoeing, fishing, rock climbing, winter travel, cross country skiing, downhill skiing | 116
Safety | Off-highway vehicles, tractor certification, snowmobiling | 133
Self-Determined—Environmental/Outdoor Education | 133
Shooting Sports | Air pistol, air rifle, archery, gun safety, muzzle loading, pistol, rifle, shotgun | 116
Taxidermy | 116
Wildflowers | 116
Wildlife & Habitat | Wildlife, hunting, forestry | 116

Plant and Soil Science

Project Area | Examples of project-based learning within project area |
Outagamie Fair Department

Crops | Corn, soybeans, small grains (wheat, oats, barley, and rye) | 114
Horticulture & Gardening | Herbs, vegetables, fruits, flowers, hydro/aquaponics | 114 or 115
Indoor Plants | House plants | 115
Landscaping & Design | Home grounds | 115

Plant Crafts | Flower arranging, flower crafts | 115
Self-Determined—Plant & Soil Sciences | 114, 115 or 133
Soil Science | 114, 115 or 133

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)

Project Area | Examples of project-based learning within project area |
Outagamie Fair Department

Aerospace | Model rocketry, flying | 124
Coding & Computer Science | Computers | 121
Energy & Electricity | Wind energy, home energy, electricity, solar power | 123
GPS & Mapping | Geocaching, geospatial | 124
LEGO® | 124
Mechanical Sciences | Automotive, tractors, small engines, maintenance and repair | 124
Model Building | Model cars, model railroad, remote controlled cars, scale model, model
rocketry, radio-controlled plane | 124
Robotics | 124
Self-Determined—STEM | 124
Welding | 124
Woodworking | 122

Stay Connected!

Information about upcoming events, project updates, leaders meetings and more can be found in our bi-monthly 4-H Connections Newsletter and on our social media pages. If you need additional assistance, contact your Program Educator.

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