





WISCONSIN 4-H

STATE PROGRAMS & EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES







4-H MEANS GROWTH



GROW
MAKE
SERVE
THRIVE







TABLE OF CONTENTS

Program	Grade Level

Ag & Animal Science

04 4-H Dairy Quiz Bowl
04 Meats Judging
04 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl & Skillathon
05 Area Animal Science Days
05 State Livestock Judging
05 State Dairy Judging

4-H Arts

06 Artbeat!
06 WI 4-H Arts Camp

4-H STEM

07 UW Madison Science Expeditions
07 LEGO® Robotics Spike™

Outdoor Education

08 Wildlife & Woods Virtual Classes
08 Wisconsin Shooting Sports
09 ATV Safety

Career & College Readiness

09 Fall Forum
09 Winter Academy
10 Spring Academy
10 Summer Academy

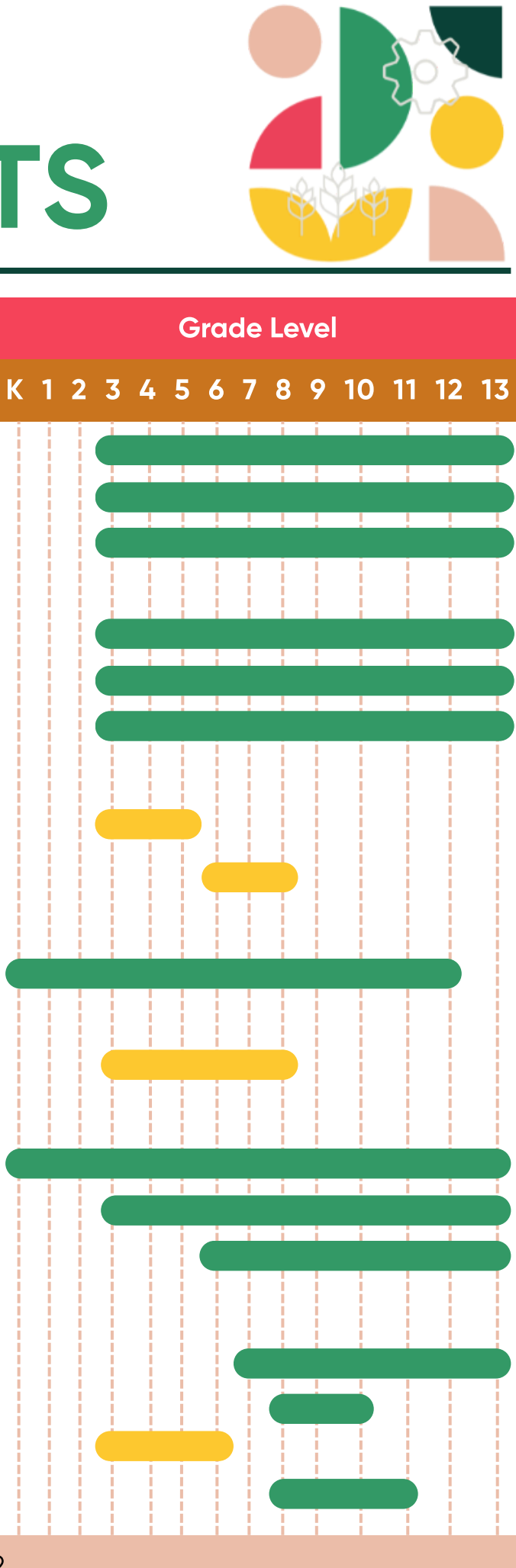


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Program	Grade Level

Youth Empowerment

11 Youth as Partners In Civic Leadership (YPCL)

11 Wisconsin Restorative Justice Summit

State Ambassadors

12 Expressive Arts Ambassadors

12 Wisconsin 4-H Leadership Ambassadors

13 Ag & Animal Science Ambassadors

13 Outdoor/Shooting Sports Ambassadors

Travel Experiences

14 National 4-H Congress

14 Beyond Wisconsin 4-H: Exploring The Midwest

15 Ignite By 4-H

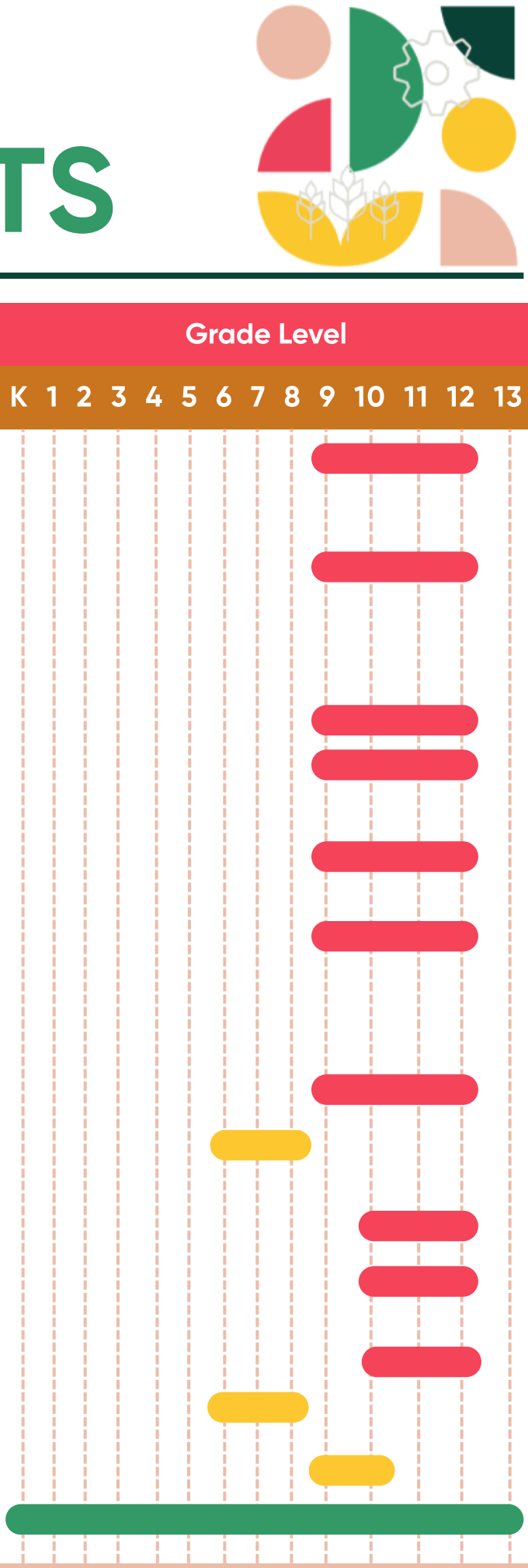
15 Citizenship Washington Focus @ Ignite

16 National 4-H Conference

16 Wisconsin 4-H Space Camp

17 American Spirit Experience

17 Wisconsin Distance Learning



EXPLORE YOUR SPARK!

AG & ANIMAL SCIENCE



4-H DAIRY QUIZ BOWL

No cow required! Every 4-H dairy project member can take part in this educational dairy program. Teams of four members compete with each other in giving oral answers to questions posed by a moderator. It's a great way to develop skills like alertness, self-confidence, teamwork, and mastery in the area of dairy science.

To find more information on livestock and dairy 4-H state events, please visit go.wisc.edu/4hstateprograms.

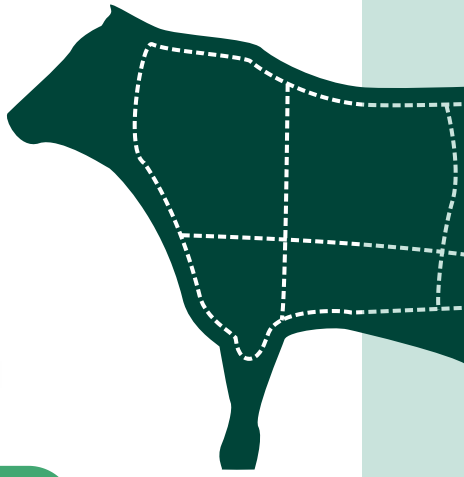
Grades 3-13
UW-Green Bay

Winter

MEATS JUDGING

Is your meat knowledge a cut above the rest? This contest tests youth in the placement of carcass and retail cut classes, carcass grading, retail cut identification and a quiz. For this annual contest, the top teams travel to national competitions in Kansas City, MO, and Denver, CO.

To learn more about Meats Judging, please visit go.wisc.edu/4hmeats.



Spring

Grades 3-13
UW-Madison

4-H LIVESTOCK QUIZ BOWL & SKILLATHON

Do you live for livestock facts? Livestock Quiz Bowl is a quiz competition with questions about beef, sheep, swine, and meat goat topics. Teams of students buzz in to orally answer questions given by a moderator. The Skillathon contest includes a written quiz and learning, stations like breed, feed and equipment identification, and team activities like demonstrating evaluation skills. The top senior level 4-H team represents Wisconsin at the National 4-H Skillathon Contest, held each fall in Louisville, KY.



To find more information on livestock and dairy 4-H state events, please visit go.wisc.edu/4hstateprograms.

Grades 3-13
UW-Madison

Spring

EXPLORE YOUR SPARK!

AREA ANIMAL SCIENCE DAYS



During these regional jamborees each June, youth in the beef, dairy, horse, sheep and swine projects spend a day building their knowledge of animals through breeding and market evaluation and management information, as well as sharpening their decision-making skills through judging and grading experiences. Wear your boots!

To find more information, please visit go.wisc.edu/4hstateprograms.

Summer

Grades 3-13
Location TBD

STATE LIVESTOCK JUDGING



Show your pedigree with livestock judging! The State Livestock Judging Contest selects state winners for national competition. The top senior team travels to Louisville, KY. The second-place senior team selects from many national trip offerings. The teams that compete at State Livestock Judging previously qualified at the district Area Animal Science Days throughout the state.

To learn more about WI Youth Livestock, please visit go.wisc.edu/youthlivestock.

Summer

Grades 3-13
Location TBD

STATE DAIRY JUDGING

County 4-H teams compete at district dairy judging contests during regional Area Animal Science Days for the chance to attend the State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest. State winners in the senior division go on to represent Wisconsin at the All-American Dairy Show in Harrisburg, PA, World Dairy Expo in Madison, WI, and the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, KY.

Go to go.wisc.edu/4hdairy for moo-re info!

Grades 3-13
Madison, WI

Summer

EXPLORE YOUR SPARK!

4-H ARTS





ARTBEAT!

If you want to get started in 4-H Arts, ArtBEAT! is the place for you! Youth, their parents, and leaders can take a closer look at a wide range of art projects, including music, drama, visual arts, art in nature, and more! During this camp weekend, both youth and adult participants stay in the cabins on Cabin Hill. Parents are not required to attend, but are invited.

Visit go.wisc.edu/ArtBeat for more information!

Grades 3-5
Upham Woods
Wisconsin Dells, WI

Spring

WI 4-H ARTS CAMP

It's time to get creative! In this overnight camp, youth can dabble in a wide variety of Expressive Arts including visual arts, performing arts, culinary arts, campfire storytelling, and maker-space activities. Through hands-on experiences, youth can cultivate creativity, skill development, and personal expression in a supportive and colorful environment!

Visit go.wisc.edu/ArtCamp for more information!

Fall

Grades 6-8
Upham Woods
Wisconsin Dells, WI









EXPLORE YOUR SPARK!

4-H
STEM

UW–Madison Science Expeditions

Step into the world of discovery at UW–Madison, your public land-grant research university! UW-Madison Science Expeditions is your chance to explore the unknown! Meet researchers, explore research facilities, marvel at Science Spectacular shows, and dive into hands-on experiences.

Visit science.wisc.edu/science-expeditions for more information!



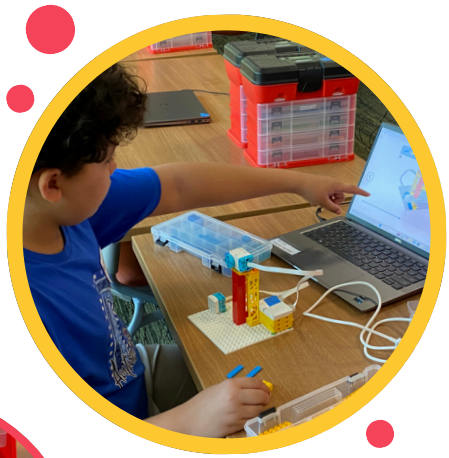
Grades K-12
UW Madison Campus

Spring

LEGO® Robotics SPIKE™

No LEGO experience necessary! Youth get to build LEGO creations, learn basic computer coding, and explore STEM careers. Youth also level-up their skills in teamwork, problem solving, and goal setting to put them on their path to success.

Watch for opportunities offered near you throughout the year.



Grades 3-8
Local events



EXPLORE YOUR SPARK!

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

WILDLIFE & WOODS VIRTUAL CLASSES

Explore the wild, natural world with 4-H'ers from around the state in this monthly virtual event! Together, youth will learn about natural sciences, wildlife, habitats and trees, including wild places across the United States following the 4-H Wildlife Habitat Education Program (WHEP) and the 4-H Forestry Program. Since the sessions are co-presented by youth and adult leaders, the youth leadership opportunities are plentiful.

All Ages
Virtual

WISCONSIN SHOOTING SPORTS

Take aim at learning and improving your skills! In solo practice and through fun competitive events, youth sharpshooters can try their hand at air pistol, air rifle, archery, muzzleloading, pistol, rifle, shotgun, and gun safety. Youth are eligible to participate in the 15 state competitive events throughout the year. Those with top qualifying scores could represent Wisconsin on the state National Championship Team – bullseye!

To learn more about Shooting Sports, please visit go.wisc.edu/4hshootingsports.

Supported through funding from



Grades 3-13

ATV Safety

NEW!!

Riding all-terrain vehicles is even more fun when you know how to do it safely and responsibly! That's why the 4-H ATV Safety Course is a hands-on experience sponsored by Polaris and aligned with Wisconsin DNR and ATV Safety Institute (ASI) guidelines. the course combines classroom instruction with riding experience. Youth will learn ATV safety fundamentals, proper protective equipment use, pre-ride inspections, vehicle control skills, and responsible decision-making. Participants will also learn about environmental stewardship, confidence, and lifelong safe riding habits!

Grades 6-13 | **Spring**

WINTER ACADEMY

Beyond Ready

Grades 8-10
Virtual

Winter

Delve into how your sparks can lead to lifelong learning and successful career pathways in this 100% virtual program. Youth try out creative problem solving strategies and work with peers and adults to become ready for work and ready for life.

Each session of Winter Academy will engage youth in identifying and developing their strengths, creative thinking strategies, and social-emotional regulation.

For registration and more information, please visit go.wisc.edu/4hwinteracademy.



SPRING ACADEMY

NEW!!

Spring Academy is an exciting, one-day regional experience designed for youth in grades 3–6 to discover and explore their "sparks"—the interests and passions that light them up. This part of the Wisconsin 4-H Positive Youth Development (PYD) Academy ecosystem provides a welcoming experience for both current and new 4-H families. Through hands-on sessions in exciting areas like photography, cooking and baking, woodworking, art, animals, and gardening projects, young people will have the chance to try something new, create a take-home project, and see how their interests might connect to future careers and college pathways.

Spring Academy is accessible, engaging, and inspiring for the whole family. Youth participate in three interactive sessions of their choice. Adults can take part in sessions to learn how to support their child's interests and growth. This affordable program includes meals, fun activities, and ways to continue the learning at home.

For registration and more information, please visit go.wisc.edu/4springacademy.

Grades 3-6
Southern & Northern WI

Spring

CAREER & COLLEGE

SUMMER ACADEMY

Beyond Ready

Grades 8-11
UW–Madison

Summer

At Summer Academy, explore exciting, hands-on experiences that help you discover pathways to your future so you can be beyond ready for work and life!



Youth walk in the shoes of a college student: rooming in a residence hall, learning about higher education options, and speaking with leading professionals about career paths, and exploring what adult life and leadership might look like for them. Youth can choose from career tracks that match up with their sparks and be part of a wide variety of track-based collaborative learning activities and seminars. They also visit different campus and Madison locations and enjoy fun opportunities to build connections and friendships with other youth from across Wisconsin!



Tracks include immersion in areas of study at UW-Madison such as agriculture, technology, and arts, Madison College areas of study including culinary science and the trades, and exploratory tracks spanning several different areas of study.

For registration and more information, please visit go.wisc.edu/4hsummeracademy.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

FALL FORUM

Youth and adult leaders gather at Fall Forum to connect, collaborate, celebrate, and continue building excitement and energy for a new year of 4-H learning! This statewide training weekend with county and state staff is planned by a team from the Wisconsin 4-H Leadership Ambassadors.

At Fall Forum, participants can look forward to:

- An inspiring keynote address
- Opportunities to participate in dozens of youth- and adult-led workshops on Saturday
- Choose-your-own-adventure interactive activities
- Reflection on the weekend and future goal setting

To learn more about Fall Forum, visit go.wisc.edu/4hfallforum.

Grades 7-13 & Adults
Stevens Point, WI

Fall

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

YOUTH AS PARTNERS IN CIVIC LEADERSHIP

YAt Youth as Partners in Civic Leadership (YPCL), groups of youth and adults who work together as leaders in local schools, communities, and organizations gather for youth-led workshops about community service, civic engagement, health, and relationships. The weekend ends with each team of youth and adults creating and presenting an action plan for a project they'll bring back to their home communities.

YPCL participants can also explore outdoor activities, team building exercises, and a talent show. Participants should register as a part of a team that includes adults and youth working in partnership. Examples of teams include but are not limited to nonprofit organizations, community centers, afterschool programs, school-based student clubs, county coalitions, and 4-H clubs.

Learn more at go.wisc.edu/YPCL.



Fall

Youth Grades 9-12, Adults 18+
Upham Woods
Wisconsin Dells, WI

WISCONSIN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SUMMIT

At the Wisconsin Restorative Justice Summit, high schoolers and adults learn about and build their experience in restorative justice and peacemaking practices. Many schools, county human services agencies, and teen courts use equitable, evidence-based restorative justice to help youth and families repair harm and acknowledge responsibility. These practices have the potential to transform youth services, programs, and communities into more just and inclusive spaces.

Grades 9-12, Adults 18+
Madison College-
Truax Campus

Summer



Participants will hear from a keynote speaker as well as take part in interactive breakout sessions and collaborative activities to learn more about restorative practices, social justice efforts, and more. They'll leave knowing how to use their voices and create positive change in their communities.

To learn more about this event, please visit go.wisc.edu/RJS.

STATE 4-H AMBASSADORS

ARTS AMBASSADORS



This is your chance to apply your creativity to statewide programs as an Arts Ambassador! You'll focus on growing your arts sparks through Drama, Visual Arts or Comm/Media Teams.

You'll:

- Create expressive arts and showcase it to others
- Assist in the planning and teaching of statewide events
- Serve as leaders and role models for 4-H youth and adults
- Build personal leadership and communication skills
- Connect the county, regional, and state levels of Wisconsin 4-H

WISCONSIN 4H ARTS AMBASSADORS

Applications for State Art Ambassadors open in Fall in 4HOnline and are due in December.

Grades 9-12

For more information on State Teams, visit go.wisc.edu/4hambassadors.

LEADERSHIP AMBASSADORS

Wisconsin 4-H Leadership Ambassadors is your chance to shape statewide programs with your ideas and experience! Youth and adult leaders from Wisconsin build their leadership skills as they:

- Plan and participate in statewide activities like Summer Academy & Fall Forum
- Serve as leaders and role models for 4-H youth and adults
- Promote for Wisconsin 4-H via social media and through county connections
- Build personal leadership and communication skills
- Connect the county, regional, and state levels of WI 4-H



Applications for State Leadership Ambassadors open in Fall in 4HOnline and are due in December. Please review the position descriptions for more information on application requirements.

For more information on State Teams, visit go.wisc.edu/4hambassadors.

WISCONSIN 4H LEADERSHIP AMBASSADORS

Grades 9-12 & Adults

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

AG & ANIMAL SCIENCE AMBASSADORS

Ag & Animal Science Ambassadors is your chance to shape statewide programs with your ideas and experience!

WISCONSIN 4H AG AMBASSADORS

Ag Ambassadors:

- Advocate for agriculture by meeting with 4-H and University stakeholders
- Serve as leaders and role models for 4-H youth and adults
- Support Summer Academy and lead sessions at Fall Forum
- Build personal leadership and communication skills
- Connect the county, regional, and state levels of Wisconsin 4-H

Grades 9-12 & Adults

Applications for State Ag Ambassadors open in Fall in 4HOnline and are due in January.

For more information on State Teams, visit go.wisc.edu/4hambassadors.

OUTDOOR/SHOOTING SPORTS AMBASSADORS

Grades 9-12 & Adults

NEW!!



The 4-H Outdoors for Everyone Ambassador Program helps young people build leadership skills through outdoor learning and service. Participants explore topics such as outdoor recreation, conservation, safety, and environmental stewardship through a mix of online learning and hands-on experiences.

Along the way, youth will:

- Develop practical outdoor skills
- Gain confidence
- Learn how to share their knowledge with others

As ambassadors, participants take an active role in their communities by planning and leading projects, events, or educational activities that promote outdoor experiences and responsible stewardship of natural resources. The program also introduces youth to career and educational opportunities related to the outdoors, natural resources, recreation, and environmental fields. Through these experiences, ambassadors develop as leaders and inspire others to explore, enjoy, and appreciate the outdoors.

More information coming soon!

TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

NATIONAL 4-H CONGRESS

Join other 4-H'ers at National 4-H Congress for five days in Atlanta, GA, at the premiere nationwide event for where you'll network with others from around the country, Canada, and Puerto Rico. While at Congress, you will engage in leadership, citizenship, global awareness, and inclusion.

- Educational Workshops
- Explore Atlanta sites and museums
- International Night with dinner and entertainment
- Community Service - give back to Atlanta and make a positive impact
- World-Renowned Speakers
- Congress Gala



Learn more at go.wisc.edu/4HCongress.

Fall

Grades 9-12
Atlanta, GA

BEYOND WISCONSIN 4-H: EXPLORING THE MIDWEST

NEW!!

This is an unforgettable Wisconsin 4-H travel experience designed for middle school students in grades 6–8. Youth will journey from Wisconsin to St. Louis, Missouri, by coach bus for an adventure that blends fun, learning, and cultural discovery. Along the way, participants will explore science museums, art centers, and enjoy live music and performances, all while sampling local flavors like St. Louis-style barbecue.

The experience kicks off Thursday evening with an overnight stay at a camp facility in Illinois, where students will engage in teambuilding activities and build relationships with peers from across Wisconsin. After a weekend of hands-on, interactive experiences in STEM, art, music, and regional culture, along with two nights in a St. Louis hotel, the youth will ride through the night on Sunday and return home Monday morning with memories to last a lifetime.

This is more than a travel experience, it's a chance to spark curiosity, build connections, and see the Midwest in a whole new way!



Grades 6-8
St. Louis, MO

Winter

TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

IGNITE BY 4-H

Ignite by 4-H brings together teen leaders from across the country for four days to collaborate, connect, and cultivate passion with hands-on workshops and activities. With other Wisconsin youth, participants can focus on learning in the key tracks of Animal Science, STEM, and more. Take your spark to the next level by exploring career paths, learning from industry leaders, and becoming Beyond Ready for your future!

For more information, visit go.wisc.edu/igniteby4h.

Spring

Grades 10-12
Washington, D.C.



CITIZENSHIP WASHINGTON FOCUS @ Ignite

CWF is now a dedicated track at Ignite-the premier experience for teens to discover their sparks to explore and experience civic engagement, citizenship, and gain leadership skills. CWF is a week-long experience in the nation's Capitol where you can tour national museums, visit the National mall, and experience federal government in action!

Grades 10-12
Washington, D.C.

Spring

- State's Night-Out Cultural Event
- Smithsonian Museum
- Meet with Wisconsin Elected Officials
- Capitol Hill and National Mall Tour
- Arlington National Cemetery
- Discuss issues importnant to youth and local communities



For more information, visit go.wisc.edu/CWF.

TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

NATIONAL 4-H CONFERENCE

Be a part of the next generation of leaders! National 4-H Conference brings 4-H youth and adults from around the nation to work towards strengthening and expanding the 4-H Youth Development program at the local, state, and national levels. National 4-H Conference is the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture's premier youth development opportunity to engage youth to share your voice with federal agencies and Congress.

For additional information, visit go.wisc.edu/NationalConf.

Grades 10-12
Washington, D.C.

Spring



WISCONSIN 4-H SPACE CAMP

Space Camp is just what you think it is — it's camp for astronauts! Wisconsin 4-H Space Camp lets you experience three days on a space mission where you train like an astronaut with a team of other Wisconsin 4-H'ers. You get to learn about space exploration, go on simulated missions, and command mission control! Experience aspects of life as an astronaut, live in a habitat, and build a model rocket! You get to venture away from home, meet new friends, develop leadership and teamwork skills, and learn all about space.

- Experience the Pathfinder Program!
- Explore space mission simulators
- Build and launch your own model rocket
- Experience on-site meals and sleeping habitats simulating real space training
- Learn about space exploration and astronaut life in guided museum tours

For additional information, visit go.wisc.edu/SpaceCamp.

Grades 6-8
Huntsville, AL

Spring



TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

AMERICAN SPIRIT EXPERIENCE

Immerse yourself in American history and cultural heritage! Travel on American Spirit Experience on a 10-day bus journey to the East Coast and Canada! Learn about American history where it occurred by visiting significant sites, have dynamic exposure to the diverse cultural experiences and perspectives foundational to our nation.

Cities include:

- Philadelphia, PA
- New York City, NY
- Boston, MA
- Lexington/Concord, MA
- Salem, MA



Grades 9-10
U.S. East Coast

Summer



Along the way, you'll develop skills in leadership, learn history and civics, and personal expression of values.

For more information, please visit go.wisc.edu/AmericanSpirit.

WISCONSIN DISTANCE LEARNING

No matter where you are in the state, distance learning programs connect you to 4-H programs and people! Interact with 4-H state specialists and educators and meet new friends through Zoom as you dig into fascinating new topics. Many opportunities include a take-and-learn kit delivered right to your county!

Visit virtual.wi4h.org to find out more about this year's Distance Learning kits and programs!



Grades K-13
Virtual

DISTANCE LEARNING

Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

COUNTY & STATE KEY AWARDS

This prestigious award is the highest recognition a 4-H member can receive and honors a select group of 4-H participants annually. The youth receiving this award at their county level are those who have demonstrated consistent growth in their 4-H involvement, developed and applied their leadership skills, and actively participated in their 4-H club and community. Contact your local county 4-H office for local application processes. County award winners may apply for the **Top 10 State Key Award**.

State Top 10 Key Award applications open **May 1 and are due August 1**.
Award notifications announced in **October**.

The Key Award is sponsored by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau.
Additional State Key Award information can be found at 4h.extension.wisc.edu/state-4-h-awards.

JAMES W. CROWLEY DAIRY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Named in honor and memory of James W. Crowley, a longtime Extension Dairy Specialist and strong supporter of the dairy youth project, this award provides recognition to youth who have excelled in their Dairy Project. Eligibility for this award includes: current enrollment in the 4-H Dairy Project and have at least two previous years of membership, must be in grades 10-13 as of January 1, and should have an outstanding record of involvement and accomplishments in the 4-H Dairy Project. Fifteen state awards are to be presented and recognized with a plaque annually to outstanding 4-H Dairy Project members. The top three youth will each receive $1,000 cash awards. Youth that have received a plaque only are encouraged to apply again. Additionally, the top awardee that is a Junior in high school as of January 1, 2025 is offered a $5,000 scholarship to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison and enroll in the Department of Dairy and Animal Sciences.

Applications open **May 1 and are due June 10**.
Award notifications announced **early August**.

Additional information can be found at go.wisc.edu/crowley.



How to **REGISTER**

Registration Information

Registration information for our state-wide programs and educational experiences including deadlines, age, eligibility, program details, and fee payments are all found online: go.wisc.edu/4-hstateevents

Registration for programs and experiences is through 4HOnline.

State Experience Scholarships

Wisconsin 4-H believes that cost should not be a barrier to program participation. State needs-based scholarships are available for youth who participate in Statewide Educational Experiences. These funds are designed to supplement local county based support and youth are encouraged to seek out local support as well.

Youth can apply for a scholarship through the event registration process in 4HOnline.

For more information on these scholarships, please visit the Scholarship page on our website.

Cancelation and Refund

Some events may have cancelation deadlines and advanced payment requirements or non-refundable deposits based on the event. Please note these important details when registering.

4-H Online

Find up-to-date info on programs and experiences here!

Contact Us

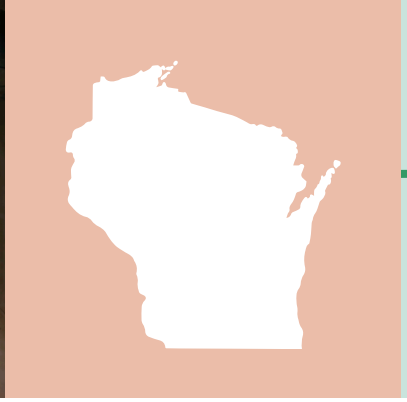
Positive Youth Development Institute
Wisconsin 4-H
UW-Madison | Division of Extension
3500 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53705
Phone 608-262-1557
Email pydadminteam@extension.wisc.edu

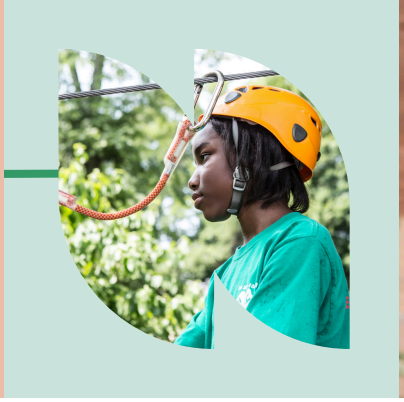
extension.wisc.edu/positive-youth-development/

Accessibility

You may request an interpreter, materials in an alternative language and/or format, and/or other services to make this event more accessible. Make your request at least 25 days before the event so there is enough time to meet your requests. There is no added cost to you for these services. Contact us at pydadminteam@extension.wisc.edu. or phone 608-262-1222.











UW–Madison Division of Extension's Positive Youth Development Institute prepares the youth of today to become the effective, empathetic adults of tomorrow. Our research-based youth enrichment programs like teens in governance build youth and adult capacity and partnerships that help both sides grow. 4-H clubs, camps and afterschool programs give young people the hands-on experiences they need to develop an understanding of themselves and the world.

We empower Wisconsin youth, and the communities who support them, to thrive.

Thank you to our generous sponsors

COMPEER FINANCIAL · OTTO BREMER TRUST · mGOE Foundation · TSC TRACTOR SUPPLY CO · ANDIS FOUNDATION · Wisconsin Farm Bureau FOUNDATION · SCHLECHT FAMILY FOUNDATION · Alliant Energy Foundation · Casey's · CEDAR CREST ICE CREAM

When you give, you help youth learn, grow, and be successful in their lives.

For more information and to stay connected with 4-H philanthropy, visit: go.wisc.edu/4hgiving.

4-H Extension UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

© 2026 The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System doing business as the University of Wisconsin–Madison Division of Extension. All rights reserved.
University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin counties, published this information to further the purpose of the May 8 and June 30, 1914, Act of Congress. The University of Wisconsin–Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law.

Last Updated: Fall 2026





