4-H Families,

I'm excited to be able to share the newest issue of Exploring 4-H with you!

One thing that's often not realized about 4-H is how the program is organized beyond the club and beyond the county. This month’s issue shows how the program is organized from the club to the county to the state. Hopefully, this helps you understand how 4-H operates and how decisions are made. Additionally, the youth portion of the issue gives 4-H members the opportunity to see how they can be involved at all levels of 4-H, from the local program to some amazing nationwide opportunities.

If you're new to 4-H as of the past month or you haven't had a chance to check out the previous editions, you can find all previous issues on our [website](http://www.4h.org).

- **October** – The 4-H Pledge
- **November** – Projects
- **December** – Club Meetings
- **January** – Terminology

Please don’t forget to fill out [this short survey](http://www.4h.org). 4-H is all about “making the best better”, and your feedback helps us improve!

Have a great day!

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Beyond the Club

You’re a part of something big! 4-H is the nation’s largest youth development organization, with more than 6 million members and over 90,000 clubs. Because of how big 4-H can be, it can be confusing understanding where you (and everyone else) fits into the greater scope of 4-H from a state and national level.

Wisconsin 4-H
The 4-H Program Management team establish directives for the state 4-H program. State 4-H Program Specialists provide resources for educational areas.

Area Extension Director
The Area Extension Director (AED) supervises county-level Extension staff and fosters the relationship between state and the county partners.

Chartered 4-H Clubs
4-H clubs meet regularly, and members work with adults together toward a common purpose. While community clubs are most common, clubs can also be found in afterschool, in-school, and military settings.

Chartered 4-H Groups
4-H groups meet regularly, focus on a specific educational objective, and are open to 4-H members throughout the county. Examples of groups are a countywide Dog Project or a Shooting Sports Program.

Chartered 4-H Leaders Organizations
Leaders Organizations conduct countywide events, fundraise, coordinate recognition, and advocate for 4-H in the community.

County-Based 4-H Staff
County staff work out of the local Extension office. Staff provide education, supervision, and administration for the county 4-H program.

What is Extension?
Extension is a division of UW-Madison that brings the resources of the University to people where they live and work. Extension program areas include youth, family, and community development as well as agriculture & natural resources.

Did you know?
Nationally, 4-H is administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Each state’s 4-H program reports to the USDA annually.

Where do I fit?
Most members and families get their start with a 4-H club. If your family wants to get more involved with 4-H in your county, check with your club leader or your county-based 4-H staff to learn about additional 4-H opportunities. Getting involved with your county’s groups or the Leaders Organization can be great ways to get plugged into opportunities beyond your local club.

Have a minute? Please provide feedback by filling out this 5-question survey.

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Wisconsin 4-H Program Oversight
Employee and Volunteer Supervision
YOUth Matter!

4-H clubs, groups, and experiences are supposed to have youth leaders and youth making decisions. That means that the most important piece of 4-H is YOU. As a 4-H member, you help to make decisions and can make your voice heard.

Each statement below is an example of how you can lead and make decisions in 4-H. Decide if you think the statement shows how you can make a difference at the club, county, state, or national level. Circle where this might apply, some statements might apply to both levels.

**EXAMPLE**

- Sign up for a committee to help run a local 4-H event.
  - Club
  - County
  - State
  - National

- Vote on topics like officers, activities, or community service options at meetings.
  - Club
  - County
  - State
  - National

- Run for election as a representative for my region on the Wisconsin Leadership Council.
  - Club
  - County
  - State
  - National

- Lead other young people and be a mentor as a camp counselor.
  - Club
  - County
  - State
  - National

- Attend local Leaders Organization meetings and share my opinions.
  - Club
  - County
  - State
  - National

- Apply to be on the design team for an educational experience.
  - Club
  - County
  - State
  - National

- Run for an officer position.
  - Club
  - County
  - State
  - National

- Be on the 4-H Communications Team.
  - Club
  - County
  - State
  - National

- Apply for the 4-H Drama Company.
  - Club
  - County
  - State
  - National

- Be a counselor for Space Camp.
  - Club
  - County
  - State
  - National

- Teach other members something I know.
  - Club
  - County
  - State
  - National

- Be on the 4-H Arts Team.
  - Club
  - County
  - State
  - National

- Apply to be a delegate for National 4-H Conference.
  - Club
  - County
  - State
  - National

Don’t know what one of these statements is talking about? Ask your club leader, county-based 4-H staff, or do an online search with your parent/guardian!

Exploring 4-H is developed by Heidi Vanderloop, Chippewa County 4-H Program Coordinator and Ben Hoppe, Brown County 4-H Program Coordinator, UW-Madison; Division of Extension.

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