



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



Happy November (and almost December), new 4-H Families!

I hope you enjoyed last month's edition of Exploring 4-H where we talked about the pledge. If you didn't receive that email last month, we are archiving all editions as they come out on our newly redesigned website. [Click here for the October edition!](#)

This month, we are talking about 4-H projects. I would strongly recommend that 4-H members only sign up for a few projects at most in their first year (the minimum is 1!). This allows everyone to ease into 4-H without getting too overwhelmed. If you want to show a project at the fair, the deadline to be enrolled in your projects is February 28.

As mentioned in this month's edition, you can find project resources in a number of different places! First, check with your club project leader to see if the club does anything locally. Some projects will also have countywide workshops and throughout the year.

Here are some links to other resources:

- National 4-H Curriculum: <https://shop4-h.org/collections/curriculum>
(some of this curriculum can also be borrowed from the Extension Office)
- Cloverbud Learning Activities:
<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/wi4hcloverbuds/activity-plans/>
(these are offered countywide for Cloverbuds, [more info here](#))
- State 4-H project website: <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/wi4hprojects/>

Please don't forget to fill out this 2-minute survey: <https://forms.gle/ENeo5qzTVwc32cbd6>

As always, you're more than welcome to contact me with any questions you may have. I hope your family has a wonderful Thanksgiving.

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4-H Projects

4-H engages youth in **project-based** education. Through project-learning, youth can dive deeper into their **interests** and **passions**, ultimately **mastering** new skills. 4-H projects are meant to be **hands-on** to create a memorable learning experience.

What is a project?

A project is simply a topic area that **sparks** a youth's interest! Projects may be done individually or in a group such as performing arts. 4-H members are encouraged to enroll in only one or two projects for their first year. Wisconsin 4-H has eight major project areas for 4-H members in 3rd grade and up:

- Animal Sciences
- Arts & Communication
- Community Involvement
- Family, Home, & Health
- Mechanical Sciences
- Natural Sciences
- Plant & Soil Sciences
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math)

A ninth project area is specifically for grades K-2, known as **Cloverbuds**, is intended to be more developmentally appropriate for our youngest members.



Experiential Learning Model, Based on the Kolb Learning Model (1975) and Bybee's Learning Cycle (1977). Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

What resources are available?

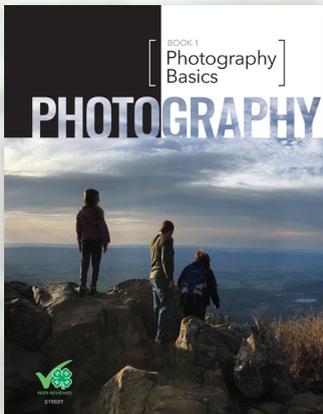
Each 4-H program differs in how they offer project-learning opportunities. Some programs offer countywide, short-term workshops. Others may have countywide programs with set dates and meeting locations. Some 4-H clubs may have adults specifically devoted to certain project areas.

What if my county or club doesn't offer a project?

The home also provides a great place for project-learning where the adult serves as the teacher. Project curriculum is available for many of the projects from shop4-h.org or your local 4-H office.

What is a project leader?

Project leaders provide a safe environment to learn about a project area in which they have an expertise. Adults can register to volunteer as a project leader to share their specialized skill set with youth!





Pick a Project!

Through the list below and circle the letters of the things you like to do best. At the end, tally your results to find your major project areas of interest. For your first year, it's best to pick only one or two projects from your top major project area. You can always add more later!

E. I like to build with LEGOs	D. I like to sew	H. I like rockets
C. I like to help younger kids	F. I like learning about insects	G. I grow crops for my animals
H. I want to be an engineer	A. I like animals	B. I like to take pictures
G. I like fairy gardens	F. I like hunting	C. I would like to create my own project
E. Rube Goldeberg Machines interest me	D. I like to help around the house	H. I am interested in how robots work
C. I would like to be a camp counselor	A. I like to ride horses	B. I like puppets
A. I like taking care of sick or baby animals	B. I like to draw or do crafts	F. I am passionate about the environment
B. I like to make scrapbooks	G. I want to have a flower garden someday	C. I like to lead & organize events
E. I like to work on engines	H. I want to learn about computers	D. I like to bake or cook
G. I want to learn how to grow vegetables	D. I would like to be a teacher	C. I want to be a leader
B. I like collecting things	E. I like radio controlled cars	H. I like geography and maps
H. I am interested in outer space	F. I like being outdoors	A. I like snakes
D. I like babysitting little kids	G. I like to garden	B. I like to act or sing
D. I like to decorate my room	E. I like to build things	C. I would like a project to help me find a future career
F. I like riding ATVs	H. I like to code	A. I like teaching my dog tricks

Totals: A: ___ B: ___ C: ___ D: ___ E: ___ F: ___ G: ___ H: ___

A: Animal Sciences

D: Family, Home, & Health

G: Plant & Soil Sciences

B: Arts & Communication

E: Mechanical Sciences

H: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math)

C: Community Involvement

F: Natural Sciences

Adapted from Ohio State University's Making the Best 4-H Clubs Better, Version 2.0 Pick a Project by Heidi Vanderloop, Chippewa County 4-H Program Coordinator, UW-Madison Division of Extension

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