

# Dodge County



# 4-H FAMILY GUIDE

This welcome packet was adapted from Pierce and Ozaukee County by Jennifer Husslein, Sinissippi 4-H; Krista Schmidt, Trenton Highlights 4-H; and Sally Schoenike, 4-H and Youth Development Agent, to help new families become better acquainted with the Dodge County 4-H Program

**WELCOME!!!**

## 4-H'S EASY TO USE DICTIONARY

**Achievement** – 4-H Achieving means a member completes all membership requirements of the 4-H club and county 4-H policy during they year.

**Dodge County 4-H Leader's Association** – A non-profit organization, comprised of 4-H volunteers whose purpose is to promote and direct the County 4-H program.

**4-H Leader Executive Board** – Executive governing body of the Leader's Association. Advises the overall 4-H Program by dispersing funds, appointing committees and carrying out the work of the Association.

**Cloverbuds** – Cloverbuds are first and second grade members.

**Club** – Organization made of a group of youth that have fun together learning and sharing.

**County Committees** – Volunteer (adults and youth) committees which determine project area needs, organize & provide leadership for events/workshops and plan a yearly Plan of Action.

**Enrollment Deadline** – RE-enrolling members submit Enrollment Forms to General Leaders in September & October (*check Newsletter for exact date*). **New** members **MUST** turn in an Enrollment Form to a 4-H Club by December 29 **to show at current Dodge County Fair**.

**Explorer Members** – 4-H members who are in third grade.

**4-H NEWSLETTER ("Focus on 4-H")** – Monthly county newsletter mailed to 4-H families containing meeting information, project news. Educational information and family fun ideas.

**General Club Leader(s)** – Volunteer adult(s) who serve as advisor, friend and main leader.

**Youth Leaders** – 4-H members who help younger members.

**Projects** – Unit of 4-H work (basis of "learning" experiences) which involve learning a skill.

**Project Leader** – Volunteer (adult or youth) that teaches a particular interest/skill to youth or a volunteer who may wish to learn about an unknown project as they teach it to youth.

**Project Literature** – Each project has valuable information written by University specialists for 4-Her's to use in their 4-H Projects.

**Project Meetings** – Project Leaders (either Club or County level) hold meetings for members to come and learn about the project area they have signed up for.

**Record Books** Booklets that members put together explaining what they do during a 4-H year. These books are turned in to General Leaders at the end of the 4-H year. Members follow the County **Record Book Guidelines** booklet to complete their Record Books.

**UWEX – University of Wisconsin-Extension** 4-H is part of the Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Service, the land-grant colleges, and the US Department of Agriculture.

# Dodge County 4-H Activities

4-H activities add “Spice, Seasoning and Flavor” to top off your 4-H experience

Activities help us increase our personal talents and abilities.

- ♣ Some activities (*judging, Clothing Revue and Foods Revue, tours*) add new dimensions to member projects.
- ♣ Other activities (*drama, music and speaking*) develop effective communication abilities.
- ♣ Others (*camping, community service, dairy promotion, exchange trips*) develop citizenship responsibilities. **It should always be remembered that these activities should be enjoyed for their own sake and not be competitive. Current Newsletters provide further information on activities available. Let's have ALL members try and participate in TWO County activities. Come and join the fun!**

## **SPEAKING CONTEST**

An opportunity for members to gain experience in speaking before an audience. Categories include Interpretive Reading of Prose/Poetry, Team Reading, Extemporaneous Speaking and Original Speech. Learning how to read well aloud or to deliver a speech from memory, as well as preparing an original speech, are important in developing our speaking and communication skills.

## **COMMUNICATION and CULTURAL ARTS FESTIVAL**

This Dodge County event is a chance to have the following work evaluated (*you do not have to be enrolled in the specified project to participate*): Drawing, Painting, Creative Writing, Photography, Visual Arts [poster, mural or collage] and Other Crafts. Get started early in the 4-H year with projects for this.

## **DEMONSTRATION and ILLUSTRATED TALK CONTEST**

This event allows members to organize their thoughts & materials to “show and tell” how to make or do a project or activity selection. Demonstrations are showing and doing; Illustrated Talks rely more on charts, pictures and descriptions. Polish up your club presentation and give it at this County event.

## **DRAMA FESTIVAL**

Clubs work together to prepare a play (*20 minutes in length maximum*) and perform the play.

## **FAMILY LEARNING DAYS**

Held on two dates from January through March each year. Sessions are offered on a variety of project areas. Something for everyone in the family to do together. Watch the 4-H Newsletter for dates.

## **LIVESTOCK JUDGING**

Beef, hogs and sheep judging training clinics are set up on various farms by 4-H leaders and the Dairy Agent for project members. County teams are selected in junior and senior divisions for District Competition.

## **DAIRY JUDGING**

A series of judging Training Clinics are set up on various farms by 4-H leaders and the Dairy Agent for project members. County teams are selected in junior and senior divisions for District Competition.

## **FOODS REVUE**

An opportunity for Foods & Nutrition Project members to “show and tell” about the foods they enjoy preparing. Members are judged on prepared food, menus, table service, cost of meal, time management and nutrition knowledge. Also mini-booth display category.

## **CLOTHING REVUE**

An opportunity for Clothing Project members to model garments which they have constructed and/or purchased. Entries are judged on poise, posture, accessories and total outfit appearance. Construction is judged to the extent that it affects general appearance.

## **SUMMER 4-H CAMP**

Summer Camp is exciting for 4-H members. Three days at Upham Woods, the State 4-H Camp, enjoying nature, hiking, crafts, recreation, boating, canoeing, swimming and more. Older youth serve as counselors.

## **MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Perform before an audience, be evaluated...an opportunity for members (do a solo and/or perform as a group).

*And More...Watch your 4-H Newsletter for Details!!!*

# WHAT DO THE 4 H's STAND FOR?



**HEAD** – Through exciting “hands-on” learning experiences, 4-H’ers learn about new project areas, try new skills and participate in various activities. 4-H’ers have fun learning from volunteer adults and older youth, who are interested in sharing their knowledge and experience.



**HEART** – Throughout club, county, district and state events/activities, participants are continually developing their sense of identity, particular project skills and characteristics that result is a statement of “Who I am and What I Stand for”.



**HANDS** – A goal is for 4-H members to arrive at a tentative occupational choice. Three essential factors are:

- 1) Learn about oneself
- 2) Learn about work and occupational opportunities
- 3) Learn knowledge of self and occupational opportunities



**HEALTH** – 4-H continually strives to teach 4-H members to accept responsibility for their lifestyle choices and to create a personal environment, which encourages choices with positive impact on their well being.

# WHO CAN JOIN 4-H?

## 4-H MEMBERSHIP

The 4-H year begins on September 1 and ends on August 31 in Dodge County. Any boy or girl, first grade through one year beyond high school graduation (grad 13) is eligible to join a 4-H club. New members should turn their enrollment forms into their General Leaders as soon as they have decided to become club members. NEW member enrollments must be submitted by December 29 of the current year to show at this year’s fair.



## CLOVERBUDS

Dodge County Cloverbuds are youth in first or second grade as of October 1 of current year.

## EXPLORING MEMBERS

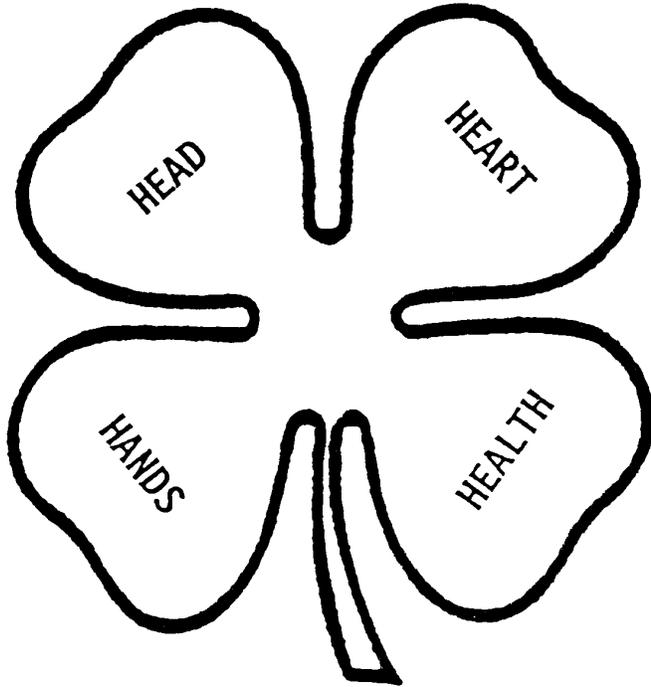
Third graders in Dodge County enroll as Exploring members.

## LEADERS

Any interested person can be a 4-H volunteer leader in Dodge County. Leaders must enjoy working with youth, sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm for learning and having fun. *All leaders are automatically members of the Dodge County 4-H Leaders Association after completing a Youth Protection class.*



# LET'S GET INTRODUCED TO 4-H



*"Our world needs leaders as never before. Leaders who will prove that integrity, concern and courage are challenging words to live by. 4-H'ers have shown that they have these qualities."  
- Dewitt Wallace, founder  
Readers Digest*

*"4-H has made a difference in my life. I haven't had time to get into trouble with drugs, because my project work keeps me so busy and interested in learning new things."  
- 4H Member*

Please, ask a 4-H member or volunteer: "Why are YOU involved in 4-H?"

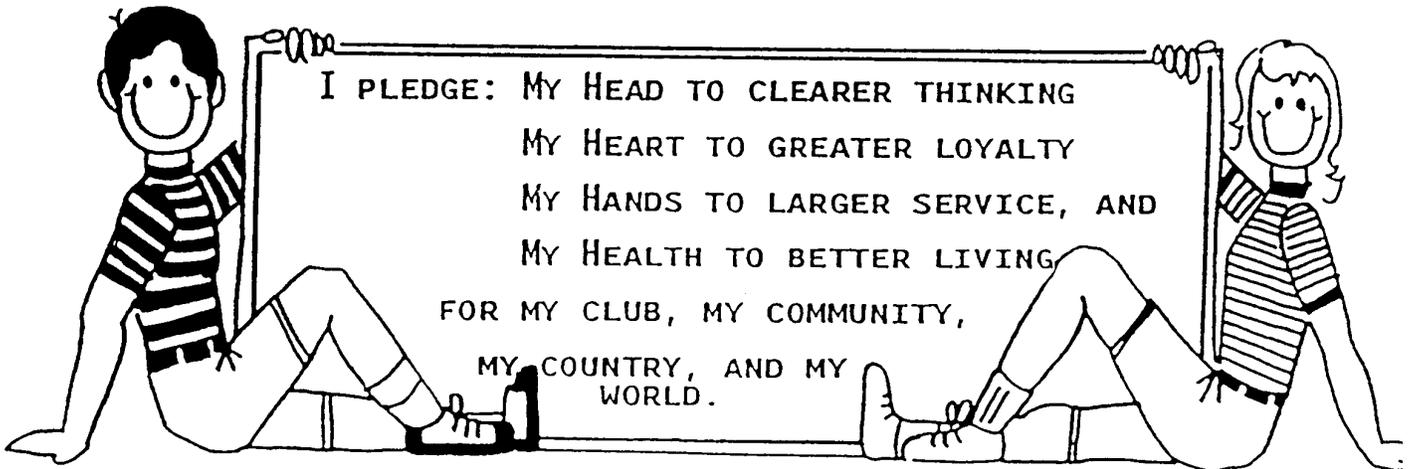
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# PLEDGE



# WHERE DO YOU FIT IN?

Youth and their families in Dodge County .....



**Join one of the local clubs:**

**MY 4-H CLUB IS:**

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**Every club has a General Leader:**

**MY GENERAL LEADER IS:**

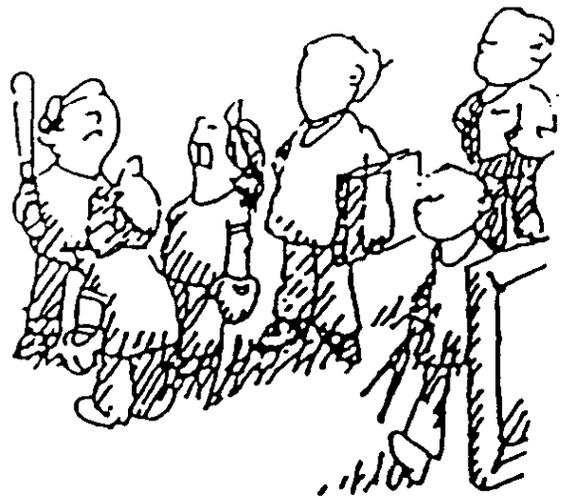
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And become part of the Dodge County 4-H Family.

**Each county has a 4-H and Youth Development Agent**

**OUR 4-H AGENT IS:**

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## **If you join a Dodge County 4-H Club, WHAT is EXPECTED of you?**

1. Select a project suited to interests, abilities and age.  
*(There are over 80 projects to choose from.)*
2. Do project work according to the best information available.
3. Attend and share in the meetings of the club.
4. Participate in club activities.
5. Serve on committee of your choice.
6. Keep and turn in a record of what you do in 4-H each year.

## **WHAT DOES A 4-H CLUB DO?**

A 4-H Club elects its own officers and conducts its own business. Each club meets monthly with an annual plan for their programs. Each meeting usually includes a kind a special fun educational program. *This can be demonstrations or talks by members, parents or a resource person; recreation or indow games; family sharing nights; or a field trip*



**EVERYONE** is part of the Wisconsin 4-H Program, which is sponsored by  
University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension

## HOW ARE PARENT(S) AND GUARDIAN(S) PARTNERS IN 4-H?

1. Help members select the right project(s) for their interests.
2. Give encouragement and supervision, but allow 4-H'ers to do their own work. This means giving *positive* encouragement when problems arise.
3. Help locate or assist youth in finding financial aid for project work.
4. Provide a place for records and other club/county materials at home.
5. Help members set standards of honesty, teamwork and good sportsmanship
6. Be willing to help whenever possible for the club as drivers, chaperones, lunch committee or as need arises.
7. Attend club meetings with the member(s).
8. Help members complete club/county yearly requirements.
9. Give input into the county program by participating in county meetings and serving on committees.
10. **Have fun with your youth!**

### 4-H Parent/Guarding Pledge

#### I PLEDGE...

**MY HEAD** to give my child the information I can to help them see things clearly and to make wise decisions.

**MY HEART** to encourage my children no matter whether they have successes or disappointments.

**MY HANDS** to help my child's club; if I cannot be a leader, I can help in many equally important ways.

**MY HEALTH** to keep my child well and strong through 4-H

For our club, our community, our country and our world.



## HELPFUL INFORMATION FROM 4-H MEMBERS and ADULTS

**“If I had only known...”** *(From a MEMBER)*

- ♣ I can go to ANY county activity that is listed in the 4-H Newsletter Focus on 4-H.
- ♣ I should have read the Newsletter EVERY month!
- ♣ Keeping records of your involvement in 4-H activities, speeches, demonstrations, school/community/church and other organizations for reference makes it so much easier when applying for trips and awards.
- ♣ ANY of my friends can join 4-H. You do not need to own an animal to be a part of 4-H.

**“If I had only known...”** *(From a ADULT)*

- ♣ I would have sent a calendar with my child(ren) to meetings to mark down club/county 4-H events.
- ♣ I keep a drawer/shelf/box for ALL 4-H Newsletters, mailing and Record books for easy access.
- ♣ Youth are to keep reusing the green Record Book covers from year to year.
- ♣ Parent(s) or guardian(s), grandparents are encouraged to attend and participate in 4-H events with their youth. Everyone's help is needed to make the program strong. 4-H is a FAMILY organization.
- ♣ The County Extension office can obtain videos, slides, etc. for project leaders to use at project meetings.
- ♣ To ready my Newsletter and call the Extension Office, club leaders or other 4-H parents with questions...however small I think it might be.
- ♣ Free leader materials are available from UW-Extension to help you with your child's project work.

**DODGE COUNTY UW-EXTENSION 4-H PHONE NUMBER: (920) 386-3790**

**MY GENERAL LEADERS PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_**

**OTHER CLUB PHONE NUMBERS: \_\_\_\_\_**

## 4-H RECORD BOOKS



Record keeping is a life skill that can be developed through your 4-H work. Setting your project goals, keeping track of the financial records, and recording your accomplishments is all part of complete record keeping.

At the beginning of the first 4-H year, members will receive 4-H Record Book Guidelines. (Cloverbuds have a “special” record book.) ***Your Record Book should contain a permanent record of projects/activities as long as the member is in 4-H. FOLLOW these RECORD BOOK GUIDELINES for 4-H record details.***

4-H records should be filled out *completely AND accurately*. Parents may oversee the child’s work, but it is best if a child does his/her OWN writing. Encourage you 4-H member to work on the Project Record Sheets THROUGHOUT the year! Pictures and clippings can help you tell your 4-H story.

To achieve in 4-H (*successfully complete a 4-H year*) a member must complete a 4-H Record Book AND the specific achievement requirements of the local club (*meeting attendance, displaying project work, etc.*)

A non-achieving member receives no credit for the year of 4-H just ending and is not eligible to join again for one year.

A 4-H member’s Record Book is evaluated at the CLUB level to determine if it meets achievement requirements. Outstanding Record Books may be selected to receive CLUB awards. Top Club Record Books will be submitted by the club to the UW-Extension Office for County Record Book award consideration.