



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2024 ISSUE 364

The Voice of 4-H

The Vernon County 4-H Family Newsletter



4-H CLUBS DECORATED CAR TRUNKS AND HANDED OUT CANDY AS PART OF OUR HALLOWEEN HIDE AND SEEK PROGRAM WHICH WAS OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

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Partnerships Make the Best Programming

Emery Bork - 4-H Educator

As you know, our theme for this year is Education Advocacy. Each club is challenged with finding ways to help youth succeed in school. That could mean running a winter coat drive, doing a fundraiser to pay off school lunch funds, providing nit or hygiene kits, etc. While clubs work on this challenge, we also try to come alongside and offer fun countywide programming on the same theme. This October we debuted our very first Halloween Hide and Seek program. We worked with several partners on this endeavor: Wild West Days Grounds, Vernon County Sherriff's Office, Viroqua PD, and the Vernon County Trauma Task Force. The goal of the program was to raise funds for the K-9 units, the Task Force (they provide funding opportunities to families in need), and to pay off school lunch funds.

The Hide and Seek program had several components, but the main aspect was youth hiding from seekers for 45 minutes on the Wild West Days grounds. Once found, the youth had to check in with me, and wow, were they creative. Several diehards were covered in dirt from head to toe, hoping that burying themselves would be good enough to not get caught. Others slid into spaces I couldn't believe they fit into, and one smart youth hid in plain sight. In all, 49 youth participated, and 5 managed not to be found! Everyone had a blast and cannot wait for next year! We are thankful for all of the entities in Vernon County who work with us throughout the year, it's part of what makes 4-H and the programming we offer so special.



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

Updates: What you need to know

Calendar of Events

This newsletter is a bit different from the usual, as we have included the 2024-2025 Programs and Educational Experiences guide. It is a bit hefty, but we deeply encourage you to take the time to read through it and explore the many opportunities we offer outside of county programming. There is a little bit of something for everyone, and even if your youth is too young for some opportunities, it is important to know and plan for the future.

We also want to remind families that while some of these opportunities cost funding, we will pay for 50% of your travel. It is also the reason why your clubs fundraise, too. Clubs should be financially supporting members to attend these opportunities.

If you would like to become involved with any of the initiatives in the guidebook, please reach out to me to get connected with the right leader.

In other news, please pencil in your calendar for the following activities coming up:

Re-enrollment Deadline: November 15th

New 4-H Family Meet and Greet & Adult Volunteer Re-enrollment Dinner: December 3rd, 5:00-7:30 PM

New families are invited for dinner and a brief overview of the 4-H program from 5:00-5:30. Adult volunteers can meet and talk with new families, and then proceed to complete their trainings afterwards from 5:30-7:30 if necessary.

Youth Officer Training: December 30th

All youth who have been elected as officers in their club are strongly urged to attend our 2 hour Youth Officer Training on Monday, December 30th from 9-11 AM.

2025 Awards Recognition Banquet: January 19th, location TBA. It is strongly recommended that all 4-H families attend the banquet and receive their awards discs and other items.

Arts Fest

The first weekend in March is Arts Fest! Arts Fest focuses on exhibiting/performing the following projects:

Art

Photography

Singing/Vocal

Band Instrument Performance

Piano

Demonstration Speaking

Forensics: Poetry, Storytelling, Group Theatre, Speech Memorization, Prose and more.

Start planning your entries now. Rules and all information will be listed on the website.

***New this year! We will offer a \$100 prize to the best club play entry, \$50 to the second place. ***

Work together as a club to plan and perform a play at Arts Fest. The play must include at least 5 members in your club.