



Cloverline

An Update from the Shire

4-H is a **community** of **young people** **across America** who are learning **leadership**, **citizenship**, and **life skills**.

october 2025

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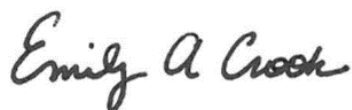
...It's a dangerous business, Frodo, going out your door. You step onto the road, and if you don't keep your feet, there's no knowing where you might be swept off to...

Ah Bilbo's advice to an adventurous Frodo in Lord of the Rings. I'm drawn to Bilbo. His messy yet cozy home would throw me over an overstimulated edge, but the warmth is inescapable. Pulled to adventure despite his desire for a quiet life, I see a lot of similarities between us.


My quest for 2025-2026 is quiet growth, again. It may not seem quite adventurous, but it suits us at the moment, working on securing quality programming with what we have and all. And while I'm always open to new ideas, I may put them in the percolator and let them steep a bit. I've learned that taking them in too early can make the results a little bitter and disappointing.

STILL! I yearn for adventure! So, let's dream a little about 2026-2027. Our state office is starting a new 4-H Military club for youth in active and reserve military families in the Green Bay area. I'm going to observe from the sidelines this year and see what resources they kick up. In the meantime, how does this sit with you Hobbitses? Think it's a worthwhile pursuit?

On we go!



Emily Crook
Positive Youth Development Educator
La Crosse County Extension



volunteer section

Leaders Board Meeting

Date: Thursday, October 9th, 2025

Time: 6:45 p.m. (Open Forum)
7:00pm (meeting)

Location: Hamilton Town Hall (N5281 State Road 108, West Salem)

We are hosting elections at the November meeting! Soon we'll need people to step up and serve in a few positions starting in January:

- Vice President (3 yr term)
- Treasurer (2 yr term)
- Bangor Rep (1yr term)
- Holmen-Mindoro Rep (2 yr term)
- West Salem Rep (2 yr term)
- At Large Rep (2 yr term)
- At Large Rep (1 yr term)

Qualifications: Have a youth-centric mission at heart, be willing to enroll as a 4-H volunteer (you do NOT have to be a leader to be on the board), attend monthly meetings, help at events as able, and offer your insight and wisdom!

Meetings are usually 1-2 hours. We have some exciting things coming up, so let me (Emily.crook@wisc.edu) know if you're interested and we'll get you on the list!

2025 Charters Due

4-H Clubs and Groups must renew their charter annually through completion of the Charter Application Process by November 1, 2025. It's a very simple process that MUST be completed should you want your club or group to remain functioning in the La Crosse County 4-H program. This survey will take about 5-10 minutes and involves SMART goals for your club and group. Leaders and Youth Officers, please visit: <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/resources/volunteer-resources/administrative/charter/> to complete this requirement!

opportunities

2026 Summer Camp!

Date: Wed. July 29-31, 2026

Location: Upham Woods, Wisconsin Dells

It's time to assemble our Chaperones and Counselors again! If you know you want to help make the 2026 Summer Camp experience memorable and amazing, please reach out to Emily at Emily.crook@wisc.edu.

Counselors are youth currently enrolled in 9th and above grades. Chaperones are adults older than 21. Adults between 18-21 can participate as counselors or chaperones if their group is young enough! Bonus incentive: Adults who chaperone with youth who attend, receive one entire camp fee covered for a youth.

Last year, La Crosse had 21 campers, 4 adult chaperones, and 3 counselors, too! We camp with Area 13 counties – Monroe, Vernon, Crawford & Richland. In total we had a full camp at 136 people. Last camp's theme was the 4-H Undercover, and groups had various competitions for points, including guessing the red spy. It was so much fun and went so well because we had so much adult help. I'm hoping we continue our strong camp vibe into 2026!

American Spirit

Registration Opens - NOV 2025 in 4H Online!

Date: June 19-28 & July 3-12, 2026 (your choice, one or the other!)

Cost: Approx \$3,000 (estimate).

La Crosse 4-H Leaders Association offers a hefty scholarship for this (up to 75%!) if the youth is an active 4-H member, provides service to the county program and community, and presents about their trip at a Leader Board meeting.

Experience history & heritage by immersing in a 10-day bus journey to the East Coast and Canada – Youth-led content throughout the experience – Increase knowledge of American history while experiencing where it occurred – Dynamic exposure to diverse cultural experiences and perspectives of the foundation of our nation. For more information visit: <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/statewide-events-and-opportunities/american-spirit-east/>

4-H VOLUNTEER

RE-ENROLLMENT UPDATES

☀️ A New 4-H Year is Just Around the Corner! ☀️

We're getting excited for the 2025-26 4-H year — and we've got a few updates to share with our volunteers before re-enrollment opens in September.

📅 4-H Online Updates:

The 4-H Online system will be going through its annual year-end processing during the weekend of **August 29th**. (Counties can add specific re-enrollment start dates here once the system rollover is complete.)

✅ New Volunteer Training Process:

This year, when you log in to re-enroll, you'll be able to complete your **2025-26 Volunteer Training** right in your 4-H Online profile — no extra links or websites needed! Prefer a paper version? No problem — just reach out to your local Extension office, and they'll get one to you.

🔍 Background Checks:

Background checks are required every two years. If you're due, 4-H Online will prompt you to start the process when you re-enroll. After you submit your enrollment, keep an eye on your inbox for an email from **HireRight** to complete your background check. (Be sure to check your spam folder.)

📅 Important Deadlines:

According to our updated Wisconsin 4-H volunteer re-enrollment policy:

- **Enrollment is due by November 1**
- **Complete your training and background check (if needed) by December 1**

These steps are required for you to be an approved volunteer. If they're not completed on time, you will not be allowed to lead programming with 4-H youth until everything is up to date. We truly appreciate your commitment to creating safe, positive spaces for our youth. Getting your re-enrollment done early helps make sure all our programs are supported by approved, ready-to-go volunteers like you!

youth leadership

Ambassador Meeting

Date: Sunday, October 26th 2025

Time: 6:00-7:00pm

Location: La Crosse County Admin Center
(212 6th St N, La Crosse)

We've got the La Crosse 4-H Shop up and running, so you can order apparel with a design from one of our very own 4-H members! Visit here to order: <https://bbgraphics.net/shop/ols/categories/lax4h>



animal sciences

Horse Project Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 15th

Time: 6:30pm

Where: Bangor First Responders

State Dog Agility Show!

Date: Saturday, October 11th

Time: Due Monday, September 1st

Where: Oshkosh Kennel Club, Oshkosh WI

extras >>>

A Workshop Created by Kaarina Dunn, a Mormon Coulee 4-H Club member:

This project, Restoring Our Shores, takes place on October 4th from 8 AM - 3 pm (or completion) at 1502 Marco Drive La Crosse, WI, lunch, water, and snacks are provided.

First come, first serve basis for free YETI water bottles and \$100 stipend for youth ages 10-25. All ages are encouraged to attend.

Here is the link to the google form for sign up (can also be accessed via the QR code on the poster): <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScFhvzo0CDAb9jAxeWZq6GFghnI5xiVK eVKgmJgRO3CZTL5Lg/viewform>

A PROJECT BY YOUTH FOR YOUTH

Restoring Our Shores

WE NEED: COMMUNITY WHO WANT TO BETTER THEIR ENVIRONMENT AND WATERWAYS

WHO ENJOY WORKING OUTSIDE & LEARNING

WHO WANT TO EARN \$100/DAY & A YETI WATER BOTTLE FOR COMPLETING THE RESTORATION

WHEN AND WHERE:

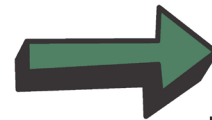
OCTOBER 4

LOCATION: 1502 MARCO DRIVE LA CROSSE, WI

FROM 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM OR DONE LUNCH & WATER & SNACKS ARE PROVIDED



SIGN UP TODAY!



YOUTH ARE HEAVILY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!

THIS PROJECT WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH A MICROGRANT FROM THE LA CROSSE AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND THE CITY OF LA CROSSE'S YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION FUND. THE YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION FUND IS SUPPORTED BY BLOOMBERG PHILANTHROPIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (UCLG) AND THE BLOOMBERG CENTER FOR PUBLIC INNOVATION (BCPI) AT JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY. THE YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION FUND IS SUPPORTED BY PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SUSTAINABILITY INSTITUTE.

THE RAD
RIVOLI ARTS DISTRICT

MINIATURE PAINTING CLASS

w/Aaron from Above and Beyond Adventures



Whether you are a beginner or even an experienced miniature painter, Aaron with Above & Beyond Adventures will teach you all the techniques you need to know and give you the confidence to paint any miniature you desire.

MONDAY'S - 11/3, 12/1

5:00-7:30pm

@the RAD 3rd floor Art Workshop
123 4th St. N, La Crosse WI

More info:

- Families or groups of 3+ receive a \$5 discount on their total

**\$11 IN ADVANCE
\$13 WALK-INS**



Scan the QR code to learn more and register!

THE RAD
RIVOLI ARTS DISTRICT

STOP MOTION ANIMATION CLASS

GARDEN PARTY

Discover the magic of stop motion! In this beginner-friendly class, students will use iPads to explore and create short films with styles like:

- claymation
- found object animation
- cut paper animation

For ages 7-12

*students leave with a copy of their creation!



Located in the RAD 3rd floor Art Workshop
123 4th St. N LaCrosse, WI



Scan the QR code to learn more and register!

extras >>>

PRESIDENTIAL AI CHALLENGE

The AI Challenge is a research project where youth partner with an adult leader to identify a community issue that might be addressed through Artificial Intelligence. Submissions are due on January 20, 2026.

There are two project tracks:

Track I (Proposal)

Teams create an in-depth proposal for how AI technologies could be applied to address a community problem or challenge. This proposal must address an observed challenge in the student's community, detail the mechanisms for applying AI technologies, and elaborate on how AI technologies could help address that challenge.

Track II (Technical/implementation)

Teams build a solution with AI technologies that can help address a community challenge. Solutions could take many forms, such as phone apps, websites, or processes, with supporting materials showing how people would leverage the technologies and how AI technologies are helpful in addressing that challenge.

Learn more about the Challenge, team requirements, and deliverables online at: Presidential AI Challenge (<https://www.ai.gov/initiatives/presidential-challenge>)



4-H craft fair

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11TH

9:00AM to 3:00PM
at the Omni Center
255 Riders Club Rd,
Onalaska WI

Conference room to right of entrance

Exhibitors should sign up by September 30, 2024. Rules, guidelines and registration for a table is here:
<https://tinyurl.com/4HCraftFair>

Important Dates 2025-2026

9-10-25 through 10-12-25: 4-H Exhibit Showcase, Pump House

10-11-25: Craft Fair, Omni Centr

11-01-25: Fall Forum

01-03, 01-17, 01-31, 02-14, 02-21, 03-07-26: Archery Program, Omni Center

02-07-26: Clover College, Bangor Elementary

HORSE PROJECT SUCCESSES



La Crosse County horse project kids have a lot to celebrate and be proud of! Over the first two weekends in September the horse kids participated in the 4-H State Gymkhana (Speed Events) and the 4-H state Expo (Pleasure Events). The following is a re-cap of the placings at the shows:



STATE GYMKHANA:

MACLAINE HEILMAN: Grand Champion: Flag Race

Reserve Champion: Barrel Racing, Key Race, Lt Special, Plug Race

Top 10: Pole Bending

STATE EXPO

ADDY APFEL: Reserve Champion: Horsemanship

Top 10: English Showmanship, Western Showmanship, Trail, and English Pleasure, English Equitation

OLIDIA BERLIN: Grand Champion: Pony English Showmanship, Western pleasure, Horsemanship

Reserve: Western Showmanship

MACLAINE HEILMAN: Grand Champion: English Showmanship, Western Showmanship, English Pleasure, English Equitation, Western Riding, In-Hand Trail, Western Pleasure, Horsemanship

Top 10: Trail, Walt/Trot Trail (with her 2nd horse)

BRIELLE HUFFMAN: Top Ten: English Pleasure, Western Showmanship, Western Pleasure and Horsemanship

AVA JANDT: Reserve Champion: Western Showmanship and Trail

Top 10: Western Riding, English Pleasure and Western Pleasure

EMMA JANDT: Reserve Champion: Walk/Trot (W/T) Horsemanship, W/T Trail,

Top 10: W/T English Pleasure, W/T English Equitation, and W/T Western Pleasure

RYLEE LYGA: Reserve Champion: Trail

Top 10: English Pleasure, English Equation, Western SMS, Horsemanship, Western Pleasure, Western Riding

SERENE MATHER: Grand Champion: Western Pleasure, Horsemanship, and Trail

Top Ten: Western Showmanship, Hunt Showmanship and Western Riding

BROOKLYN MARINELLI: Reserve Champion: In -hand trail

Top 10: Western Showmanship, English Equitation, Western Riding, Trail, Western Pleasure, and Horsemanship

LEXI MARINELLI: Reserve Champion: Horsemanship

Top 10: Western Pleasure, Western Riding, Trail, and In-hand trail

BROOKLYN TATE: Grand Champion: English Pleasure, Horsemanship

Reserve Champion: Western Showmanship

Top 10: English Equitation, English Showmanship, Western Riding, and Western Pleasure

Left to Right (Brooklyn, Brielle, Rylee, Maclaine, Emma, Olida (Grace a friend from Vernon County), Ava) – Way to represent La Crosse County in the Judging Contest girls!!!!



For the first time in many years La Crosse County also had 2 teams (a senior team and junior team) compete in the judging contest. The senior team earned **Grand Champion** as a team (Brooklyn Tate, Maclaine Heilman, Rylee Lyga, and Brielle Huffman) and the junior team earned a Top 10 (Emma Jandt, Ava, Jandt, and Olida Berlin).

Brooklyn Tate earned a Reserve Champion in the individual results and Maclaine Heilman, Rylee Lyga, Brielle Huffman, Olida Berlin and Emma Jandt also earned top 10 in their individual results. Maclaine Heilman also earned Reserve Champion on her horse photography.

In addition: The following kids were invited by state 4-H Horse to participate at the state fair in August for trail and speed events: Brooklyn Tate, Maclaine Heilman and Serene Mather participated in the trail events and Maclaine Heilman was scheduled to participate in the speed events however, they were canceled due to the flooding in Milwaukee. In the trail events Maclaine earned a 1st and 2nd place, Brooklyn earned a 6th and 8th place and Serene earned a 3rd and 4th place. Brooklyn and Serene were on the team earning Grand Champion as a team! Way to represent La Crosse County at this event!



FORMS SECTION

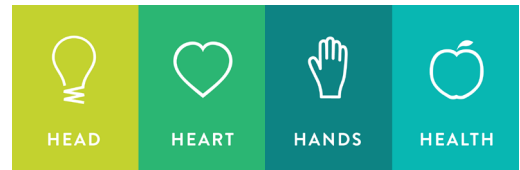
There will ALWAYS be paper options, and if you'd like paper copies, please just let us know and we will provide them for you.

charter link: <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/resources/volunteer-resources/administrative/charter/>

restoring our shores: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScFhvzo0CDAb9jAxeWZq6GFghnI5xiVKeVKgmJgRO3CZTL5Lg/viewform>

apparel form: <https://bbgraphics.net/shop/ols/categories/lax4h>

AI challenge: <https://www.ai.gov/initiatives/presidential-challenge>



october 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Restoring Our Shores
5	6	7	8	9 Leaders Board Meeting	10	11 Craft Fair State Dog Agility Show
12	13	14	15 Horse Project Meeting	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Ambassador Meeting	27	28	29	30	31	

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture
University of Wisconsin—Extension
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212 6th St. N Suite 2200
La Crosse, WI 54601

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

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The Cloverline can be found in color and with hyperlinks online at <https://lacrosse.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-youth-development/cloverline-newsletter/>

We thank all who volunteer their time and talents to contribute to this newsletter.

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