



THE COURIER

The Portage County 4-H's Bi-Monthly Newsletter



Pictured Above: Members of the Carson Climbers at their annual painting project meeting

PORTAGE COUNTY 4-H ALUMNI

Since 1923, Portage County 4-H has offered hands-on learning & leadership opportunities right here in our community. Portage County has been the home to thousands of 4-H' members! We would love to be able to stay in touch with those that helped build this program and those whose 4-H experiences shaped their lives, skills and careers. Do you know and Alum? Are you an Alum? Please let us know!

Those that complete the form will get a FREE 4-H Alumni Gift! Please help us share this link far and wide!



ALUMNI RECOGNITION FORM



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

April

- 1 Last Day for Project Changes in 4-H Online
- 10 Peeps Diorama Contest Deadline
- 14 Plant Sale fundraiser order forms due to club
- 15 Managerial Agreements Due to Extension Office
- 19 Summer Camp Counselor Training, 6:00pm, Zoom

May

- 6 Teen Leaders Papa Murphy's Fundraiser, 10:00am - 7:00pm, Stevens Point Location
- 12 Summer Camp Counselor Training, 6:00pm, Zoom
- 16 Plant pickup for plant sale fundraiser, Gagas Farms, 6687 Cattle Lane, Stevens Point
- 17 4-H Signing Ceremony & Scholarship Night, 6:30-7:30pm
- 25 UW-Extension Office Closed (Memorial Day)
- 31 Summer Camp Counselor & Adult Training, 6:00-8:00pm, Zoom

June

- 7 Summer Camp Orientation for Campers & Families, 6:00-8:00pm, Zoom
- 14-18 Summer Academy, UW Madison Campus
- 15-17 4-H Summer Camp at Upham Woods
- 21 Tie Dye Extravaganza, 6:00pm

Check Your Email!

Be sure to watch your email each Friday for the 'Clover Catchup'. In lieu of sending multiple emails each week, we've created a Friday one-stop news email with events, updates and reminders just for you! Our new software allows us to see how many people are opening and reading it...which is not many of you! We use the email that you have entered into 4-H online, so if you would like that updated to an email address you check more regularly- please let us know! Otherwise, you're missing out on awesome events and opportunities for your youth and family.



THE WI 4 H APPAREL STORE IS OPEN!

Show your 4 H pride and support a great cause! Proceeds from this fundraiser benefit the Wisconsin Association of Extension 4 H Youth Development Professionals (WAE4 HYDP).

Store open now through April 15. Youth & adult sizes available. Ship to your home or save on shipping by selecting county Extension office pickup (Items will be available at the end of May)

SHOP NOW



MANAGERIAL AGREEMENTS—DUE: APRIL 15TH

If the animal you are bringing to the Amherst or Rosholt Fair is not owned by the exhibitor or the persons who live at the exhibitor's primary place of residence, you must send a Managerial Agreement to the Portage County Extension office no later than April 15!

This applies to Cattle, Horses, Swine, Sheep, Goats, Poultry, Rabbits, Dogs, Cats, and Alpacas. Please note: Market Animal Project Beef, Swine and Sheep cannot be managerial animals. Copies available at <https://portage.extension.wisc.edu/> (4-H –4-H Forms a

SUMMER ACADEMY

Summer Academy is the Positive Youth Development Institute's signature career, leadership, & college readiness conference hosted at UW-Madison. The event focuses on preparing young people (grades 8-11) for higher education in a way that complements formal education prep programs.

Summer Academy offers an immersive college experience; participants will experience life in a residence hall, explore campus, and enjoy the unique elements of higher ed that only Madison can offer.

For more information, please visit go.wisc.edu/4HSummerAcademy... We can't wait to see you in Madison!



IOWA, PORTAGE, AND WAUPACA



4-H SUMMER CAMP

JUNE 15-17,
2026

UPHAM WOODS,
WISCONSIN DELLS

SIGN UP AND REGISTER ONLINE AT:

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/WFJFYX8AHBSAUXK86](https://forms.gle/WFJFYX8AHBSAUXK86)

Camp Cost
ONLY
\$45/per
youth



EXPLORE NATURE
MAKE NEW FRIENDS
TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES
HANDS ON PROJECTS
SLEEP IN CABINS
HIKING
CAMPFIRE & SMORES

***The total camp cost is \$175 per camper. The registration cost for Portage county youth is just \$45 thanks to the generous support of our 4-H Leaders Association.*



Requests for reasonable accommodations for disabilities or limitations should be made prior to the date of the program or activity for which it is needed. Please do so as early as possible prior to the program or activity so that proper arrangements can be made. Requests are kept confidential.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law.

Calling all 4-H Youth in Grades 3-7! It's time to sign up for SUMMER CAMP!! We'll be joining Waupaca and Iowa county 4-H programs for 3 days and 2 nights of fun and adventure at Camp Upham Woods in Wisconsin Dells. Space is limited, so be sure to register soon!

[REGISTER FOR CAMP](#)

2026 4-H AWARD RESULTS

A big congratulations to the 2026 4-H Award Winners!

Key Award:

Skyler Cisewski
Autumn Polum

4-H Ambassadors:

Gabriella Young-Bassett
Cortnee Peterson

Leader of Tomorrow Award:

Skyler Cisewski
Autumn Polum



Celebrating 4-H Youth in Agriculture Award Recipients



Congratulations to Kelsie Davis and Autumn Polum, who were selected as this year's 4-H Youth in Agriculture Award recipients. The two were honored at the American Agriculture Appreciation Banquet held on March 9, recognizing their outstanding dedication to agriculture, leadership, and service through Portage County 4-H.

Autumn Polum, daughter of Malayna and Jason Polum, is an eight-year member of Portage County 4-H and a student at Rosholt High School. She currently serves as co-president of the Sunset Stars 4-H Club and vice president of the Teen Leaders Association. Through her rabbit and poultry projects, Autumn has earned multiple grand champion, reserve champion, and best-of-show honors. She is also well known for her commitment to service, volunteering many hours at the 4-H food stand, supporting county-wide events, and giving back to her community as a youth snowmobile and ATV safety instructor.

Kelsie Davis, daughter of Brad and Michelle Davis, is a ten-year 4-H member and a proud participant in the Rosholt Pioneers 4-H Club. Throughout her 4-H career, Kelsie has embraced hands-on learning through a wide range of agricultural projects, including market lamb, market hog, dairy, and horse projects, among others. Her dedication and leadership exemplify the core 4-H values of learning by doing, responsibility, and service to others.

Pictured Left to Right: Kelsie Davis,
Rosholt Pioneers & Autumn Polum,
Sunset Stars

4-H SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS

In this issue of the Courier, we are excited to shine a spotlight on our senior 4-H members. Every milestone along life's journey deserves to be celebrated, and this is certainly one to recognize. Each 4Her's path is unique, filled with experiences that build skills, confidence, and character. We hope you look back on your 4-H journey with pride and smile at the memories that helped shape who you are today. Thank you for your dedication, leadership, and service to your clubs and communities. Your 4-H family is incredibly proud of you. Best wishes to our graduates—may you continue to shine brightly and find success in all your future endeavors!



Favorite 4-H Project:
My favorite project was the poultry project

ELLA BRUDER

13 YEAR MEMBER OF PORTAGE COUNTY 4-H IN
THE CASIMER BOOSTERS &
SUNNYSIDE CLIMBERS 4-H CLUBS

Advice for younger 4-H members: Try new things even if it's scary and nerve racking

Post High School plans:
Attend Mid-State Technical College for early childhood education program



Favorite 4-H Memory:
Going on the American Spirit trip

Advice for younger 4-H members:
Have fun and make new friends!

Post High School plans:
Attend UWSP for Sport Business.



SKYLER CISEWSKI

13 YEAR MEMBER OF THE PLOVER
CLOVERS 4-H CLUB



Favorite 4-H project:
Sewing/crochet projects



Post High School plans:
Music education

ISABELLE FRANCIS

8 YEAR MEMBER OF THE
PLOVER CLOVERS 4-H CLUB

Advice for younger 4-H members:
Explore projects to figure out what you like



Advice for younger 4-H members: Get involved!



Favorite 4-H memory:
My favorite 4-H memory is going on the American Spirit Trip.

ASHLEY MILLER

11 YEAR MEMBER OF THE
ROSHOLT PIONEERS 4-H CLUB

Post High School plans:
I plan to attend UWSP for elementary education and become a teacher!





Favorite 4-H

Projects: Showing sheep with my friend along with my sisters my first year when I had no idea what I was doing and had to figure out things as I went. I may not have known what I was doing but I had so much fun doing it.



LILY PASSWATERS

**12 YEAR MEMBER OF THE
TOMORROW RIVER VOYAGERS CLUB**

Advice for younger 4-H members: Get involved in everything you can, try new project areas, work hard towards your goals but be sure to have fun.

Post High School plans: Attend UW Madison for Interior Architecture.



CAMRYN WADE

**9 YEAR MEMBER OF THE
ALMOND BUSY BEES 4-H CLUB**

Favorite 4-H project or memory:

Everything! I can't choose just one favorite thing I have done with 4H. I am blessed to have had the opportunity to experience 4H at the club, county, and state levels.



Advice for younger 4-H members: Don't be afraid to try new projects and opportunities 4H has to offer. You never know what will spark you interest.

Post High School plans: I will be attending UW Eau Claire and majoring in Public History with a double minor in Latin and Ancient Studies.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE FOLLOWING 4-H SENIORS (NOT PICTURED):

- Reese Dickman (Rosholt Pioneers)
- Mason Filtz (Rosholt Pioneers)
- Via Friedman (Almond Busy Bees)
- Devin Gumney (Almond Busy Bees)
- Cassandra Karl (Silver Knights)
- Chloe Kirsling (Nelsonville Zippy Zees)
- Josie Lashua (Rosholt Pioneers)
- Drake Martens (Casimer Boosters)
- Hadley Michels (River Valley Riders)
- Zach Mocadlo (Nelsonville Zippy Zees)
- Traeh Ogle (Sunset Stars)
- Kessa Plaski (Carson Climbers)
- Calee Schulist (Tomorrow River Voyagers)



4-H'ERS IN ACTION!



Carson Climbers members at their annual painting project meeting



T.R. Voyagers holding their valentines to send to community members.



Carson Climbers members at their annual painting project meeting



T.R. Voyagers at K.B. Willett Arena for the annual skating party. Depending on the month, club members take part in social activities or have the chance to take part in a tour or skill demonstration...or sometimes both!



Carson Climbers members at their annual painting project meeting



At a recent T.R. Voyagers meeting, members had the chance to get to know each other while playing board games.

4-H CLUB REPORTS

TOMORROW RIVER VOYAGERS

The Tomorrow River Voyagers welcomed the new year and made it through the winter months with activities that included ice skating, making Valentines for local seniors, and escaping the cold with a fun board game competition and other activities at their meetings the past two months. The recent show and tell "Get to Know You Activity" came at the perfect time, as members get ready to welcome new animals and start new projects for the fairs in July and August! This sort of long term planning is one of the many great life skills that 4-H helps youth develop.

The Tomorrow River Voyagers are looking forward to a spring full of activities! Service activities, such as our roadside clean-up, are a great way to give back to our wonderful community, and also help members earn eligibility to show at the fairs. Members are finalizing their projects for the fairs with project changes due by April 1st. If you're interested in checking out 4-H, now is a great time to join!

These activities are great examples of the many club and service activities that the Tomorrow River Voyagers take part in throughout the year! 4-H provides so many great opportunities for kids to grow in skills of all kinds while making a positive impact on their community.

The Tomorrow River Voyagers encourage all local families and youth to explore the enriching opportunities that 4-H provides! Whether a student is interested in service, STEAM, healthy living, agriculture, or any other number of interests, 4-H offers a supportive environment to learn and grow.

To discover more about joining the Tomorrow River Voyagers or other Portage County 4-H programs, please visit the [Portage County Extension website](#): Interested families should look for the "New Family Interest Form" link to get more information!



Sunset Stars 4-H'ers showing off the bear paintings they made at a club meeting



Members of the Sunset Stars get hands-on learning how to turn goat milk into soap!

PORTAGE COUNTY 4-H LEADER'S ASSOCIATION MINUTES

March 2026

4-H Leaders Association Meeting Minutes 3/26/2026

Attendees: Amy Boelk, Sharon Cisewski, Kathy Glodowski, Karen Jastromski, Barb Kasprovicz, Christine Keck, Mary Ann Kuklinski, Agnes Mallek, Andrew Mallek, Jan Miller, Robin Oliver, Christina Peterson, Malayna Polum, Steph Radtke, Louise Skornia
Call to order: 6:35 | Additions to Agenda: Old Plat books and cookbook donation | Workshop to add: Cake and Photography workshops | Question on new plat books

Minutes: A motion was made by Louise, seconded by Andrew to update the following paragraph from: The Leaders Association will cover 30% of the cost of the trip for the participants. Most trip registrations have closed. 3 youth will be attending Space Camp that costs \$1300 per youth to be covered. \$390 to be covered by the Leaders Association. One is from Almond so that one should be covered in full. There will be one member attending American Spirit. That trip will be a little over \$2000 and that youth is from Almond. Three youth were set to attend Winter Camp, but it has been postponed. \$185 for weekend with \$56 per youth being covered by the Leaders Association. Summer Academy and Summer Camp registration haven't opened yet. There will be a reminder put in the newsletter that the leaders help with the cost of the trips.

To: The Leaders Association will cover 35% of the cost of the trip for the participants. Most trip registrations have closed. 3 youth will be attending Space Camp that costs \$1300 per youth to be covered. \$455 to be covered by the Leaders Association. One is from Almond so that one should be covered in full. There will be one member attending American Spirit. That trip will be a little over \$2000 and that youth is from Almond. Three youth were set to attend Winter Camp, but it has been postponed. \$185 for weekend and youth will only be responsible for \$45. Summer Academy and Summer Camp registration haven't opened yet. There will be a reminder put in the newsletter that the leaders help with the cost of the trips.

Secretary's Correspondence: A Thank you was received from Trisha Edmundson

Committee/Club/Leader Reports: County-Wide project workshops/meetings: Snowman Contest ends at the end of February - 8 entries | Mad Scientist Workshop – March 8th - 17 participants. Held at Boston School Forest and it went well | Ceramics Workshop – March 8th - 6 participants. | Bylaw Review & Revision Committee - Have not had a chance to meet yet | Upcoming workshops: Christine Keck is working on a Demonstrations/speech workshop in May | Cake Decorating - Kathy is willing to have ad it will be at the American Legion in Rosholt. | Photography - Jan helped photography judge at Amherst last year and that judge is doing a workshop with Rosholt Pioneers in May. Would the leader's association want to hold one with the County? Jan will send Lisa her contact information to get this scheduled. | CFB needs Plat books - Malayna will reach out to them to confirm.

PORTAGE COUNTY 4-H LEADER'S ASSOCIATION MINUTES

March 2026 Continued

Unfinished Business: 4-H Trip Funding Participant Review - Leadership Ambassador Fee Request – Trisha Edmundson Cost is \$500 (This includes the costs for Summer Academy, Fall Forum, Camp, Apparel, and lodging for all events) A motion was made by Sharon, seconded by Jan, to provide Trisha with \$250 to cover her State Ambassador fee. | 4-H Awards Ceremony - Kathy was not able to secure the Jensen Center on 11/1 but she was able to get 10/30. Kathy to contact Jensen Center to cancel 10/30 Malayna to contact Create Portage County to see if they are available on 11/1 | Ambassador Apparel - 2 new ambassadors. Youth have apparel designs to review. Former ambassadors will have an option to purchase new swag. | Portage County Business Council is hosting an event and the extension office will have a table at the event. Could any of the old plat books and cookbooks be used as giveaways for the spinning wheel? - A motion was made by Malayna, seconded by Sharon, to use the old plat books and 10 cookbooks for the event. The expo is May 12th at the Holiday Inn.

New Business: Portage County Scholarships – 7 applications received. Committee is needed to review the applications. Committee members will be: Lisa, Amy, Caroline, Christine, and Malayna. Lisa/Amy will send out an email to schedule | Electronic payments for camp. Malayna to set up PayPal and Venmo | National 4-H Week Baby Supply Basket Idea - Idea would be to have the clubs donate a basket to be given away at local hospitals to babies born during 4-H week in October. Idea was tabled for Marketing/Promotions committee | Leaders Association bank accounts & investment options discussion. - A motion was made by Malayna, seconded by Jan, to transfer most of our checking at CFB to a savings account at CFB. | Plant Sale Fundraiser - Slight price increase on hanging baskets (\$1 more). Sale goes until 4/14. Club leaders get to Jan by 4/16. Pickup will be Friday May 15 at Gagas Farms. Let Lisa know if you want printed copies of the forms. | Budget Committee Selection - Committee is needed to create the budget for 2026/2027. Committee members will be: Malayna, Jan, Sharon, Amy, new educator. | Amherst Fair Food Stand Schedule - Instead of schedule by club, we will have time slots sign up. Club leaders would have to be present to take a shift. | Summer Camp - Ashley Miller was a camp counselor at summer camp last year and has made a Power Point presentation to try and recruit members to attend camp. Amy will work with Ashley to get this made as a video for clubs to share. | Rosholt Fair turns 100 this year. Will 4-H be doing anything? Waupaca County recognizes each club at milestone anniversaries. Could something be done like that for us? Club history – if you have any club history about your club or a club that you used to be part of, be sure to get it to the extension office. | Clover Connect Zooms - Great information is provided during the meetings. If you were not able to attend, the recordings can be found [here](#).

4-H Educator Update: New 4-H Educator will be hired. | Amy received a promotion! She will be staying in Portage County. | Marketing Recruitment team being created. | Once new Educator is hired, we would like to do a meet and greet with all of the club leaders. | Summer Camp will open next week. | Summer Academy registration is open 6/14-6/18 at UW Madison. Stay at dorms.

Next Meeting Date – June 25th at 6:30 pm |Adjourn – A motion was made by Andrew, seconded by Sharon to adjourn at 8:11 pm.

Portage County Extension Staff

- Jen McNelly, Area Extension Director
- Amy Boelk, 4-H program Educator
- Lisa Henriksen, 4-H Associate Educator
- Vacant, Human Development and Relationships Educator
- Adam Hartfiel, Regional Livestock Educator
Serving; Portage, Adams, Waushara, & Green Lake
- Katie Livernash, Community Development Agent
- Denise Rocha, Support Staff

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UW-MADISON EXTENSION
PORTAGE COUNTY 4-H

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