



FALL 2023



**24,000+**

YOUTH MEMBERS



**6,775**

ADULT VOLUNTEERS



**1,000+**

4-H CLUBS

## Building Positive Youth-Adult Partnerships through 4-H

Young people are the next generation of leaders, and Wisconsin 4-H is engaging them in meaningful learning activities in order to thrive as adults. "4-H has impacted my children for a **lifetime of self-discovery and growth**. It has helped them to see challenges as a good opportunity," a parent of 4-H members in Menominee County said.



*4-H members in Oneida County learn a new game during the 2022 North Central Region 4-H Camp held June 13-15, 2022, in Rhinelander, Wisconsin.*

UW-Madison Extension supports the development of a high-quality 4-H program in Wisconsin. Specifically, Extension supports curriculum development, policies to ensure safe environments for youth members, and partnership development to expand 4-H programming to new audiences. In 2022, Extension offered 4-H programming in 71 counties and three tribal nations, which engaged over 24,000 youth members.

“I love thinking about my future and how what I’m doing in 4-H right now will affect it.”

4-H programming creates intentional spaces for youth members to explore their areas of interest, or “sparks,” master new skills, build supportive relationships with peers, and develop a sense of belonging within the community.

Extension provides direct training and support for adult volunteers who are crucial in delivering 4-H programming. In 2022, 240 volunteers and staff members completed the Supporting Youth Mental Health training, which helps ensure safe and positive learning spaces for youth members. When youth members are engaged in high-quality programming – especially through positive youth-adult partnerships – they gain social, emotional, and other skills that put them on a thriving trajectory into adulthood.

### Outcomes and Benefit to Youth Members

Extension invited 4-H youth members to complete a survey in order to evaluate the program’s impact. Over 2,100 youth members responded, and the survey results indicated the overall quality of programming to be 5.71 on a scale of 1–7. Survey subcategories scored even higher – Belonging (5.85) and Youth-Adult Partnerships (5.87). Additionally, **90% of the participants agreed that youth-adult partnerships impacted the overall quality of their 4-H club experience.**

“My favorite thing about 4-H is how it has grown me as a leader.”



**Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

**PROGRAM CONTACT:** JESSICA JENS  
**EMAIL:** JESSICA.JENS@WISC.EDU

**EXTENSION.WISC.EDU**