



Wayne County 4-H Family Handbook

**2025-
2026**

To learn to do by doing!



1581 Route 88-N, Newark, NY 14513
ccewayne.org
(315) 331-8415

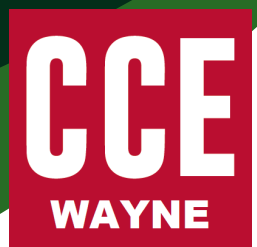


Table of Contents



4-H Basics	2-3
Ways to Participate in 4-H	4
Wayne County 4-H Clubs.....	5
Enrollment	6
Policies.....	7
Become a Volunteer.....	8
How to Successfully Complete a 4-H Year.....	9
Club Awards.....	10
Individual Awards.....	11-15
Project Area Descriptions.....	16-19
Wayne County Activities and Trips.....	21-22
New York State 4-H Activities and Trips.....	23



Wayne County 4-H Staff

Melissa Spoon: 4-H Youth Development Team Leader

Amy Clark: 4-H Youth Development Educator

Camille Caceci: 4-H Community Engagement Educator





4-H SLOGAN: To Learn To Do By Doing

Since 1918

4-H is the largest youth-serving organization in the WORLD. All 50 states and more than 80 countries have 4-H programs. The 4-H Youth Development Program is intended for all youth of all income levels, abilities, ethnic and cultural backgrounds. The first use of the term "4-H Club" in a federal document appeared in 1918 in a bulletin written by Gertrude L. Warren. By 1924, wider usage of the name "4-H" was adopted. This was used thereafter throughout the world.



4-H Pledge

I PLEDGE. . .

**My head to clearer thinking,
My heart to greater loyalty,
My hands to larger service,
My health to better living,**

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

Note: When reciting the pledge, members raise their right hand to their forehead when they say "My head to clearer thinking." Then lower their hand to their hearts as they say "My heart to greater loyalty." Next, at the line, "My hands to larger service," they extend their hands in front of them, palms upward. Finally, in the last line, "My health to better living," they stand at attention with their hands at their sides.

Mission

The mission of 4-H is to assist youth, and adults working with those youth, to gain additional knowledge, life skills, and attitudes that will further their development as self-directing, contributing, and productive members of society.

4-H Colors: The white in the 4-H flag symbolizes purity. Green represents life, springtime, and youth.



4-H MOTTO: To Make the Best Better

Emblem

The first emblem design was a three-leaf clover, introduced by O.H. Benson, sometime between 1907 and 1908. The three “H’s” signified head, heart, and hands from the beginning. A four-leaf clover design with the H’s appeared around 1908. In 1911, Benson referred to the need for the four H’s – suggesting that they stand for “Head, Heart, Hands, and Hustle”...head trained to think, plan, and reason; heart trained to be true, kind and sympathetic; hands trained to be useful, helpful and skillful; and the hustle to render ready service, to develop health and vitality...” In 1911, 4-H club leaders approved the present 4-H design. O.B. Martin is credited with suggesting that the H’s signify Head, Heart, Hands, and Health, which have been universally used since then. The 4-H emblem was patented in 1924 and Congress passed a law protecting the use of the 4-H name and logo in 1939, slightly revised in 1948.

Code of Ethics



Believing it is in the best interest of all Wayne County 4-H members to maintain a reputation of integrity, and to present a wholesome and progressive image, 4-H members and their families are expected to conduct themselves according to the best traditions of their organization. Inappropriate conduct (drinking, using illegal drugs, stealing, vandalism, and indiscreet behavior) will not be tolerated. Any violation of this rule will be grounds for asking the member and family to leave the 4-H activity.

Creed

I believe in 4-H club work for the opportunity it will give me to become a useful citizen.
I believe in the training of my HEAD for the power it will give me to think, to plan, and to reason.
I believe in the training of my HEART for the nobleness it will give me to become kind, sympathetic and true.
I believe in the training of my HANDS for the dignity it will give me to be helpful, useful and skillful.
I believe in the training of my HEALTH for the strength it will give me to enjoy life, resist disease and work efficiently.
I believe in my country, my state, and my community, and in my responsibility for their development.
In all these things I believe, and I am willing to dedicate my efforts to their fulfillment.

4-H is open to all!

**Wayne
County, NY**

Ways to Participate in 4-H



CloverBuds **5-7 YEARS OLD**

Crafted to familiarize children with diverse 4-H encounters, CloverBuds engage in adult-led activities aimed at fostering cooperation, sharing, exploring various interests, acquiring essential life skills, boosting self-assurance, enhancing communication abilities, and participating in group settings. The primary aim is to instill such enthusiasm in this age group for 4-H that they choose to extend their involvement beyond the initial CloverBud experience.



4-H Member **8-18 YEARS OLD**

Youth participate in organized 4-H Clubs and enroll in projects and club activities. Clubs elect officers, plan club programs, including health, recreation and community service.



FAMILY ORGANIZATION

The 4-H participant relies on the support and encouragement of their family. Parents and other family members play vital roles in the 4-H program by:

- Assisting in setting project goals
- Providing project supplies
- Supporting work completion at home
- Managing records
- Assessing project progress
- Attending meetings
- Joining events
- Volunteering as project leaders



INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

For young individuals who cannot join 4-H clubs due to living far from a club, school or work conflicts, having highly specialized interests, or other exceptional situations, independent membership is an option. Independent members are required to submit a comprehensive membership plan for consideration.

Enrollment

The 4-H project year spans from October 1 to September 30, with most members enrolling in the fall. Although membership is available throughout the year, project involvement may have restrictions based on the timing of your enrollment.

The enrollment deadline for the 2025-2026 4-H year is **April 30th**. New members must be enrolled by this date to participate in the Wayne County Fair. Returning members must be enrolled by **January 1st** to participate in the Fair.

4H Online: <http://v2.4honline.com>

DUES:

The cost to join the Wayne County 4-H program is \$50.00 per member per year (this includes CloverBuds). Payment is required before your child will be considered enrolled and able to fully participate.

\$50 – 1 child in a family enrolling in 4-H

\$70 – 2 children in a family enrolling in 4-H

\$80 – 3 children in a family enrolling in 4-H

\$90 – 4 children in a family enrolling in 4-H

\$100 – 5 or more children in a family enrolling in 4-H.

Fundraising is not part of the county program but may be required by individual 4-H clubs. Additional fees may be added for project materials and entry fees for events.



Wayne County does not have a detailed attendance policy in place. However, it is advised that 4-H leaders offer guidance to members on attendance requirements. Suggestions include attending at least 50% of club meetings to earn participation credits and qualify for participation in the Wayne County Fair. Additionally, 4-H leaders should assign tasks, and all 4-H members are expected to assist with setting up the Wayne County Fair.

4-H NEWS AND INFORMATION

- Every 4-H member and family are responsible for staying updated on 4-H activities, events, and deadlines.
- The monthly newsletter, the Clover Chronicle, provides the latest county 4-H information and club reports.
- Note that only county, state, and national updates are featured in the newsletter. Club-specific details are shared during club meetings.
- To have club reports and other information included in the Clover Chronicle, submit them to the Extension Office by the 25th of each month via delivery, mail, or email.
- Written messages are preferred to avoid misinterpretation, loss, or misplacement.

2025-2026 4- H Clubs & Leaders

Barnyard Bandits Location: Marion Leader: April Diehl Program Areas: Goats C:585-353-4894	Barn Buddies Location: Palmyra Leader: Lisa Stivers Program Areas: Arts & Crafts, Horticulture, STEM C: 315-719-2038	Nature Kids Location: Williamson Leader: Jean Maynard Program Areas: Arts & Crafts, STEM C: 315-573-4543
Farm Club Location: Marion Leader: MES-Theresa Kuhn Program Areas: Animals, Arts & Crafts, Outdoor, Horticulture C: 315-576-0744	County Line Club Location: Webster Leader: Linda Bowen Program Areas: Goats, Sheep, Beekeeping, Rabbits, Chickens, Orchards C: 585-217-3216	Saddle Creek Stables Location: Williamson Leader: Hannah Jamison Program Areas: Horses, Crafts, Cooking, Agriculture C: 315-743-6728
Ruff n' Tails Location: Rochester Leader: Cindy Paoli Program Areas: Dogs, Static C:585-406-9000	Guns & Clovers Location: Palmyra Leader: Lisa Stiver Program Areas: Shooting Sports C:315-719-2038	Horticulture Club Location: Sodus Leader: Laurie Frey Program Areas: Horticulture C: 315-945-8234
Lake Breeze Bunch Location: Ontario Leader: Kate Smith Program Areas: Arts & Crafts, STEM, Horticulture, Woodworking, Community Service, Outdoor Ed, Public Presentations C:585-733-5953	Moovers & Shakers Location: Lyons Leader: Erica Gansz Program Areas: Dairy, Beef, Poultry, Rabbits, Arts & Crafts, Public Presentations, Baking, Horticulture, Cooking C:585-455-9751	Heart & Soil Location: Palmyra/Macedon Leader: Laurie Rowe/Heather Harter Program Areas: Arts & Crafts, Cooking, Baking, Horticulture C:315-945-6848/315-945-1515
Northern Discovery Applewhips Location: Wolcott Leader: Lesley Haffner Program Areas: Static Exhibits, Horse, Sheep, Goats, Chickens C: 574-350-0299	Peace Seekers Location: Lyons Leader: Janeen Peeso/Jen Lake Program Areas: Cooking, Sewing, Arts & Crafts, Dogs, Woodworking, Lg Animals C:315-398-9040/315-945-7462	S'More Paws Location: North Rose Leader: Heather Luther/Christina Plucinik Program Areas: Dogs C:315-573-8215/315-359-7793
Bucks & Does Location: Marion Leader: Jennifer Hunter Program Areas: Arts & Crafts, Woodworking, Sewing, Heritage Crafts C: 585-737-3149	Spirits of Tomorrow Location: Newark Leader: Kathy Eckert Program Areas: Community Service, Clothing, Arts & Crafts, Woodworking, Food, Public Presentations C: 315-331-7515	Farm Friends Location: Marion Leader: Lori Porrata Program Areas: Large Animals, Static Projects C: 315-945-1664
Roots & Rascals Location: Marion Leader: Leann Sirkin/Allysa Williams Program Areas: Arts & Crafts, Small Animals C: 408-712-3485/315-573-9540		

*Static means projects in any area where a static item (not animal) is displayed for fair/prejudging night.

Policies

Chaperone Policy:

The New York 4-H program honors a 1:12 ratio of adults to youth. Wayne County 4-H encourages all parents/guardians to be enrolled volunteers and submit paperwork for a background check and driver safety record for the security of all our children. All registered leaders will have these checks completed. The following guidelines are for programs where youth will be dropped off and picked up later. A minimum of 2 adult chaperones is required.

First Aid Kit and Health form will list emergency contact information and will be carried in a tote bag to be taken to off-site programs as well as on trips. For chaperones to attend major events such as Teen Exchange, chaperones will be voted/selected by the CCE Board or Director.



Program Setting	Ages 5-8	Ages 9-11	Ages 12 plus
Meeting/low risk activity	1:8	1:10	1:16
One-Day Trips	1:8	1:8	1:10
Overnight Trips	1:6	1:8	1:10

Transportation Guidelines for 4-H Activities:

- Youth and/or their parents must arrange transportation for all 4-H events and trips, unless specified otherwise in the Clover Chronicle or through direct communication.
- Drivers transporting youth must be at least 21 years old and possess a valid driver's license approved by Cornell Cooperative Extension.
- For trips exceeding 100 miles, two approved drivers must be available.
- Individuals involved in 4-H activities, regardless of age, are not permitted to drive.

Insurance Policy Guidelines:

- Youth or their parents must arrange transportation for all 4-H events and trips unless specified otherwise.
- Drivers carrying youth must be 21 years old, possess a valid driver's license, and be approved by Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Volunteer. Youth under 21 are not allowed to drive.

Fundraising Policy Guidelines: Endorsed by CCE Staff.

Become a Volunteer



Share your knowledge!



For all adults interested in supporting or participating in the Wayne County 4-H program as volunteers for more than one day, completing and submitting a volunteer form is mandatory. Additionally, you must undergo a brief Sexual Harassment Prevention Training by the end of October. You can complete this training independently through the following link: blogs.cornell.edu/ccevolunteertraining/required-training/.

The link is also accessible on our website. Once finished, please send the confirmation to our Team Leader. Volunteers are required to undergo a background and DMV check at least every 3 years. Simply provide us with your email address and phone number, and the agency will contact you directly. We conduct interviews with potential volunteers and check references to ensure that the roles they hope to fill align well and to prioritize the safety of our youth. The safety and well-being of the children in our program are paramount to us.



How to Successfully Complete a 4-H Year



The Wayne County 4-H program requires yearly paperwork and documentation to be completed at both the member and leader levels. This annual paperwork shows the activity both members and clubs have been involved in over the year. The information is extremely useful for planning the next 4-H year and is needed for the data reporting at the state level. There are also awards that can be earned at both the club level and by individual members. Once the paperwork is completed and handed in to the Wayne County 4-H office, it is reviewed by a committee for 4-H staff and volunteers.

Achievement Celebration:

In celebration of all that was accomplished over the past 4-H year, the 4-H program holds an Achievement Celebration each year. This is a chance for our 4-H families to gather and recognize outstanding individual and club participation, and award scholarships. Recognition is an acknowledgement and affirmation of the personal growth in an individual. It can be public or private. It can be within the individual or provided by others. Recognition in 4-H is the encouragement and support for learning. It comes as a result of participation in educational experiences.

4-H uses recognition as one strategy to help youth become more capable and competent. It does this through recognizing and appreciating each person's effort and providing positive reinforcement to continue participating in learning activities. The experiences of 4-H youth must be structured to incorporate opportunities to build positive esteem and self-reliance.

Purposes of Recognition

- To motivate 4-H members to participate, create, and achieve in 4-H.
- To encourage and support the learning efforts of young people.
- To foster a sense of belonging.

Project Summary

A 4-H record or summary is an organized, written account of the progress, personal growth, and accomplishments of the member, gained through participation in 4-H as well as other relevant programs and activities. The process of record-keeping teaches youth valuable skills in goal setting, planning, and organizing, critical thinking, and record-keeping as well as other life and work skill areas. All 4-H members are strongly encouraged to keep records in 4-H, whether they are applying for additional awards or not.

Record keeping in 4-H is called many things in different counties and states. Some are called portfolios, project records, personal records, record pages, resumes, and more! But no matter the name, they all have the same goal for the 4-H member to show evidence of learning and reflection on their 4-H experience. In Wayne County, we refer to them as project summary books, portfolios, and animal/non-animal project records.

A special committee consisting of 4-H Staff, youth members, parents, and volunteers worked together to develop the project summary books and animal/nonanimal project records along with the different levels of 4-H achievement awards. Our goal was to create a system that promotes college and job readiness skills through intentional, thoughtful documentation and record keeping, a practice that will help them be successful in the future.

****NOTE: Portfolios must be handed in by the end of the year (September 30th) to be eligible for any 4-H awards and to assist with data collection. Please refer to the Project Summary Book for more details or the Wayne County 4-H office.***



Club Awards at Club Level



Clubs can design their own recognition program. The following are a few suggested awards that may be given to youths at the club level. These awards will not be given out at the County Achievement Celebration and are at the discretion of the club leader.

Achievement

This award recognizes active members who demonstrate a desire to help their community, participate in public presentations, show a willingness to help, and are enthusiastic. This award recognizes outstanding work in all areas of 4-H, building character, leadership, and citizenship.

Leadership

This award recognizes active members who acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to be an effective leader through helping younger members, leadership activities, and public presentations.

Most Improved

This award recognizes active members who have grown the most in the previous 4-H year, increasing their skills in a particular area of 4-H or in the overall program.

Community Service

This award recognizes 4-H members who go above and beyond in serving their community. For example, spending many hours on a particular project or practicing generosity in several different service opportunities

Club Awards at County Level

***Club leaders are responsible for applying for these awards. The required paperwork is due to the 4-H office by September 30th or date specified by 4-H Staff.*

Club Public Presentation Award

70% of a club's members participate in County Public Presentations by giving a presentation or being a teen evaluator.

Youth Community Action Award (community service)

A club provides service that has a positive impact on the community demonstrated through:

- At least 70% of the club members participate in each of the club's 4-H community service projects.
- Community service projects total at least 10 hours per club.
 - Cannot be a donation out of the treasury unless all the members participate in the fundraising event with the intent to donate the proceeds.
- Exhibiting your projects at the County Fair and/or participating in 4-H promotion activities are not considered Community Service.
- Completed Club Community Service Award Application

Club 4-H Promotion Award

A club that increases public awareness of the 4-H program by participating in at least 2 events (such as a parade, National 4-H Week, information booth, newspaper article, etc.).

Honor Club Award

- Each member of the club participates in at least 1 county event and completes at least 2 projects
- Club completes at least 1 community service project and submits the report by October 1
- Club completes a Club Story for the current 4-H year (see Honor Club Award Nomination Form).
- All re-enrollment paperwork for each club member must be submitted by December 1st.



Individual Awards at County Level



*Individual members are responsible for applying for these awards, seeking recommendations and additional paperwork.

4-H Year Completion Recognition

CloverBud: CloverBuds will receive a certificate of participation for completing a 4-H CloverBud portfolio.

Years of 4-H Participation

4-H members will be recognized for their years of participation with a sticker that will go on their 4-H certificate. Members will be given a pin at 1, 5, and 10 years.

Teen Leadership Award

The Teen Leadership Award is presented to a youth member between the ages of 13 to 18 years old who exhibits a commitment to personal growth and leadership. This teen often helps teach in a group or solo teaches projects with leaders and/or 4-H educators. They also possess strong communication skills & lead in community service events and other special programs such as county or state fairs. There are two levels of Teen Leadership awards, certificates and medals.

*Keywords to use when describing leadership: I taught, I planned, I led, I developed.

4-H Community Service Award

The purpose of the 4-H Community Service Award is to recognize the hard work and demonstrated commitment to community service this past year. The Awards Committee will have the final determination upon review of the portfolio. Members ages 8 to 18 (juniors and seniors) can apply for this award.

4-H Achievement Certificate Award (Level 1) Application on page: 12

4-H Project Mastery Award (Level 2) Application on page: 13

4-H County Medal Award (Level 3) Application on page: 14





4-H Award Application

4-H Achievement Certificate Award (Level 1)



Name: _____ Age (as of January 1st of current year): _____

Club Name/4-H Family: _____

The purpose of the **4-H Achievement Certificate Award** is to recognize the hard work and dedication you have put forth into the Wayne County 4-H program this past year. The Awards Committee will make a final determination upon review of the portfolio. Members ages 8 to 19 (juniors and seniors) can apply for this award. *Note: A portfolio is the accumulation of ALL your 4-H history in a binder or folder, not just the paperwork from the past 4-H year.*

The following items need to be achieved/completed (see awards informational packet) in order to receive a 4-H Achievement Certificate Award. Please read the qualifications carefully to determine which level (bronze, silver, or gold) of certificate you are applying for. Once you have determined the level for which you are applying (bronze, silver, or gold), please circle it.

Junior Awards (youth ages 8-13)

Junior Bronze Certificate

- ☐ Updated 4-H portfolio submitted
- ☐ 1 project area
- ☐ 3 hours of community service/4-H promotion
- ☐ 1 county, district, or state event

Junior Silver Certificate

- ☐ Updated 4-H portfolio submitted
- ☐ 2 project area
- ☐ 5 hours of community service/4-H promotion
- ☐ 2 county, district, or state event

Junior Gold Certificate

- ☐ Updated 4-H portfolio submitted
- ☐ 3 project area
- ☐ 7 hours of community service/4-H promotion
- ☐ 3 county, district, or state event
- ☐ 1 public presentation given at the county level

Senior Awards (youth ages 14-19)

Senior Bronze Certificate

- ☐ Updated 4-H portfolio submitted
- ☐ 1 project area
- ☐ 6 hours of community service/4-H promotion
- ☐ 1 county, district, or state event
- ☐ 1 leadership activity

Senior Silver Certificate

- ☐ Updated 4-H portfolio submitted
- ☐ 2 project area
- ☐ 8 hours of community service/4-H promotion
- ☐ 2 county, district, or state event
- ☐ 2 leadership activity
- ☐ 1 public presentation given at the county level

Senior Silver Certificate

- ☐ Updated 4-H portfolio submitted
- ☐ 3 project area
- ☐ 10 hours of community service/4-H promotion
- ☐ 3 county, district, or state event
- ☐ 3 leadership activities (at least one being the the primary leader of a project)
- ☐ 1 public presentation given at the county level

**This application MUST accompany your portfolio
to be considered for a certificate award.**



4-H Award Application

4-H Project Mastery Award (Level 2)



Name: _____ Age (as of January 1st of current year): _____

Club Name/4-H Family: _____

The purpose of the **Project Mastery Award** (previously “project pin” award) is to recognize outstanding work in the various project areas. A project area is defined as a unit of work, for example, completing a wooden bench. You must learn the materials that are needed, how to build a strong structure, learning how to use different tools, and other various research that may go into the project. This is the basis of “learn by doing”. Each project consists of a series of learning experiences to help shape the character of 4-H youth and teach lifelong skills. To be considered a project it must be a long-term learning experience (at least 6 hours in length). The Awards Committee will make a final determination upon review of the submitted portfolio and award application. A member can apply for more than one Project Mastery Award. Members ages 8 to 19 (juniors and seniors) can apply for these awards.

The following items need to be achieved/completed (see awards informational packet) to receive a 4-H Project Mastery Award. Please read the qualifications carefully to determine which project areas for which you qualify for a 4-H Project Mastery Award. Once the project areas are determined, please write them legibly on the lines below.

- ☐ An updated portfolio for the current 4-H year.
- ☐ Submission of this application to be considered for the award(s).
- ☐ Participation in the subject area for a minimum of 2 consecutive years. (Submitted portfolio binder **MUST** include both years)
- ☐ Submission of an animal/non-animal record packet for the project area(s) that they are applying for a Project Mastery Award in.
- ☐ Completion of an evaluated public presentation at the county level within the last year.
- ☐ At least 10 hours of community service completed within the last year (4-H and non-4-H community service counts).
- ☐ Exhibition of projects in the project area at the county fair.
- ☐ Completed a **primary leadership** role in the project area (if you are part of a PDC/advisory committee, you must attend 3 meetings and a supplemental leadership activity).
- ☐ Participation in programs to increase proficiency or knowledge in the project area (i.e., Clinics, workshops, etc.).

4-H Project Mastery Project area(s) I am applying for:

(Refer to the “4-H Project Area(s) Completed This Year Worksheet” for a list of common project areas)



4-H Award Application

4-H County Medal Award (Level 3)



Name: _____ Age (as of January 1st of current year): _____

Club Name/4-H Family: _____

The purpose of the **County Medal Award** is to recognize mastery and outstanding work. County Medals will be awarded to 4-H'ers who have participated in a project area for a minimum of 4 years. Nominations are required to receive this award. Nominations for this award can be made by a 4-H leader, parent, peer, or staff member. A County Medal award cannot be received more than once in the same project area. However, a 4-H'er can receive County Medals in multiple project areas in the same year. Members ages 12 to 18 (juniors and seniors) can be nominated for this award. The Awards Committee will make a final determination upon review of the submitted portfolio, award applications, and nominations.

The following items need to be achieved/completed (see awards informational packet) in order to receive a 4-H County Medal Award. Please read the qualifications carefully to determine which project areas you qualify for a 4-H County Medal Award in. Once the project areas are determined, please write them legibly on the lines below.

- ☐ An updated portfolio for the current 4-H year.
- ☐ Submission of this application to be considered for the award(s).
- ☐ A nomination form must accompany this award application.
- ☐ Participation in the subject area for a minimum of 4 consecutive years. (Submitted portfolio binder MUST include all 4 years)
- ☐ Submission of an animal/non-animal record packet for the project area(s) that they are applying for a County Medal Award in.
- ☐ Completion of an evaluated public presentation at the county level within the last year.
- ☐ At least 15 hours of community service completed within the last year (4-H and non-4-H community service counts).
- ☐ Exhibition of projects in the project area at the county fair.
- ☐ Completed a primary leadership role in the project area (if you are part of a PDC/advisory committee, you must attend 3 meetings and a supplemental leadership activity).
- ☐ Participation in programs to increase proficiency or knowledge in the project area (i.e., Clinics, workshops, etc.).
- ☐ Submission of a written paragraph about how the member feels they have achieved a level of mastery in the project area they have applied for a County Medal in.

4-H County Medal Project area(s) I have been nominated for:



Affiliation to member: _____

[illegible]



Project Areas & Descriptions



Achievement	For outstanding work in all areas of 4-H, building character, leadership, and citizenship.
Agriculture	For knowledge of 4-H agriculture projects, activities, and current improved farming practices.
Aerospace & Rockets	For knowledge gained through the construction and flight of model rockets powered by air, water, or solid fuel engines.
Alpaca	For knowledge of raising alpacas and understanding of feeding, care, selection and showing.
Arts & Crafts	For exhibiting creativity through a variety of mediums, learning life skills, and growth in project knowledge.
Beef	For understanding of beef cattle breeding, production, and management practices and acquiring skills in executing them by caring for beef cattle on the farm and in the industry.
Cats	For taking responsibility for the care and training of a cat, including health, grooming, and feeding.
Cavy	For knowledge of raising cavies (guinea pigs) and understanding of feeding, care, selection, and showing.
Childcare	Knowledge of the different stages of child growth and development.
Citizenship	For showing participation as an effective citizen through 4-H work, including learning the role of a citizen in a state, nation, and world.
Community Service	For exhibiting commitment to community service throughout the project year.
Computer Technology	For understanding how to interact with computers and technologies to explore the world of coding, information systems, GPS/GIS, robotics, media production, and more.
Conservation	For achieving an understanding of conserving natural resources and completing a variety of 4-H projects relating to the natural world.



Project Areas & Descriptions



Dairy	For understanding dairy production through the care of one or more dairy animals, including an understanding of dairy animal selection, feeding, marketing, production, raising, and breeding.
Dog	For taking responsibility for the care and training of a dog, including health, grooming, feeding, and obedience training.
Electricity	For learning about electricity and proper use and care of electrical equipment, including making electrical items, repairing small appliances, and working with electronics.
Engines	For ability to identify and understand the function of different engine parts, learn compression ratios, and safety issues, as well as tearing down and rebuilding an engine.
Entomoloty/Bees	For understanding insect identification and control, knowledge of Beekeeping and products.
Environmental Stewardship	For practicing increased awareness of conservation and sustainable practices. Also, developing the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to become an environmental steward every day.
Food & Nutrition	For knowledge of food selection for a balanced diet as well as skills in planning, preparing, purchasing, and serving attractive, nutritious meals and snacks.
Gardening & Horticulture	For practicing current gardening techniques to produce fruits, flowers, and/or vegetables.
Goat	For knowledge of goat breeding, production, and management exemplified by caring for one or more goats.
Forestry	For understanding the fundamentals of forest management, tree, and plant identification.
Healthy Living	For knowledge of first aid and desirable personal health practices, as well as presenting this knowledge to improve the health of family and community.



Project Areas & Descriptions



Home Environment	For learning skills all about the home environment, from decorating a room and arranging furniture to landscaping an outdoor area.
Hobby Collection	For knowledge, organization, and labeling of a collection of items that one has a passion in.
Horse	For learning skills of horsemanship, displaying sportsmanship, supporting community horse projects and activities, and learned horse physiology, health needs, equipment, and management.
Leadership	For acquiring the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to be an effective leader through helping younger members, Teen Leadership activities, and Public Presentations.
Outdoor Education & Recreation	For the acquiring of skills in environmental resource management, entomology, outdoor recreation and education, soils, wildlife, fisheries, and marine life.
Pets	For knowledge of raising and understanding of feeding, care, handling, housing, and daily needs of a variety of household animals.
Performing Arts	For understanding and successful application of performance arts, such as dance and theater.
Photography	For acquiring skills and creative abilities by taking and/or developing pictures.
Poultry	For understanding of poultry management including brooding, rearing, laying, broiler, turkey, and/or duck as well as incubation and embryology.
Public Speaking	For excellence in public speaking gained through Public Presentations, Teen Ambassadors, and/or other 4-H work.
Rabbit	For knowledge of raising rabbits and understanding of feeding, care, selection, and showing.
Recycled Crafts	For the knowledge of repurposing (upcycling) of items to create something new and/or useful.



Project Areas & Descriptions



Sheep	For understanding of sheep breeding, production, and management exemplified by caring for one or more sheep.
Shooting Sports	For learning marksmanship, the safe and responsible use of firearms, and the principles of hunting and archery.
STEM	For the understanding and development of projects that utilize Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematic practices.
Swine	For the understanding of swine breeding, production, and management, exemplified by caring for one or more swine.
Technology and Engineering	For the understanding of robotics, computer science and electrical engineering, with the ability to problem-solve and be a creative and critical thinker.
Veterinary Science	For the knowledge of basic anatomy and systems, and elementary principles of disease in animals.
Visual Arts	For knowledge and successful mastery of drawn/painted artwork (and mixed media).
Wildlife & Fishery	For knowledge of a variety of birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, and/or amphibians and environments. Also, knowledge of the plants and animals that live in and around your community.
Wood Science	For knowledge and successful application of woodworking, including tool safety skills.



Wayne County Activities & Trips

Achievement Night (October)

This is the night that we celebrate the previous 4-H year. We hand out awards to youth and volunteers. We usually have a fun activity planned with food provided as a thank you for all your hard work throughout the year.

Produced in New York (November)

This educational event gives youth an opportunity to showcase their food preparation and presentation skills. Youth gain skills in ideal nutrition practices while adapting recipes, learning about the nutritional value of ingredients, and planning well-balanced meals to pair their recipes with. The program also encourages youth to learn where foods come from.

This program incorporates two of the three NYS 4-H mission mandates: Healthy Lifestyles and Science, Engineering, and Technology.

Holiday Special/Open House (November)

This event is open to new and current 4-H members to find out what Wayne 4-H and the individual 4-H Clubs can provide. Staff, Club Leaders, and Teens lead holiday-themed crafts for kids to make and take home. A great way for kids to learn about opportunities to expand their skills and involvement, and create handmade gifts for friends and family.

Winter Weekend (February)

Winter Weekend is a unique opportunity to explore nature, and learn valuable hiking, sledding, and snowshoeing skills while having an unforgettable adventure. Open to 4-H'ers ages 12 and older. Provides a space for youth to build relationships while doing crafts, games, hot dog roasts, community service projects, making friends, and having lots of fun!

4-H Public Presentations/Presentation Day (February)

A program in which youth learn to create a presentation and develop the skills needed to present it before an audience. They learn about the research process and the steps needed to organize information into an interesting and creative presentation. It is one of the most beneficial and rewarding 4-H experiences. It provides a unique opportunity to develop a positive self-concept and poise, gain self-confidence before a group, learn to express ideas clearly, respond spontaneously to questions, and gain subject matter knowledge. Types of presentations include demonstrations, illustrated talks, speeches, horse communications, interviews, and impromptu! CloverBuds can participate as well - this is a great opportunity for them to start getting comfortable speaking in front of an audience. On Presentation Day, 4-H members give their presentations in front of a small audience (usually other 4-H'ers and parents) and are evaluated by a volunteer or staff member. Participation in presentation events held on the county, district, and state levels is generally by invitation with achievement at the local level being one of the criteria.

Supervisor for a Day (March/April)

This event is open to any mature teen or tween (ages 12+) currently enrolled in Wayne County 4-H. Participants will shadow a Town Supervisor and learn how local decisions are made, visit the County Museum, Tour the County Jail, and more! Pickup and drop off are at CCE; lunch and transportation throughout the day are provided. Note that this is an all-day event, so youth will have to miss school to attend.

Wayne County Activities & Trips

Teen Exchange Program (July)

This program is available to enable 4-H members to grow and learn by experiencing educational and cultural exchange experiences. Involvement will enable the members to develop their leadership, citizenship, and appreciation of different cultures. It will provide an opportunity for members to share information about their local 4-H program and family culture.

Any youth between 12-19 years old as of January 1st at the time of exchange completion, who is currently an ACTIVE member in Wayne County 4-H may participate. Members should have a sincere interest in traveling, making new relationships, working as a team, team building, and fundraising, and should be willing to support the program in all activities. Members must be enrolled in the Wayne County Teen Exchange Program by September 30th, of the first year of the two-year commitment to participate in the club.

Wayne County Teen Exchange is a 2-year commitment. One year will be spent hosting a group from out of state and the 2nd year will be spent traveling to another group's state. The order in which the group travels and hosts will be determined once an exchange state is chosen and decided upon by the leadership.

4-H Camp Beechwood (July)

Each summer, the Wayne County 4-H Program offers a 1-week day camp for youth aged 5 (completed kindergarten) to 12 years of age, at Beechwood State Park, on the shores of Lake Ontario in Sodus, New York. Camp Beechwood provides a safe, fun experience in an outdoor setting that allows youth the opportunity for physical and emotional growth. Campers learn leadership, team building, problem-solving, and creative thinking skills while engaging in outdoor adventure. We utilize teen counselors and coach them to help build leadership skills as well as teach them useful job readiness skills. The teens complete an application, develop a resume, and submit a letter of reference. Our counselors organize their own cabins, teach songs, lead activities, and supervise the campers. Registration opens May 1st.

4-H Gardening and Cooking Camp (July)

Starting in 2024, Wayne County 4-H offers a weeklong day camp for youth ages 8-12 at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Office. This camp provides a safe, fun experience where kids learn basic gardening and cooking skills. It is also a time to learn about the importance of nutrition and physical activity. We utilize teen counselors and coach them to help build leadership skills as well as teach them useful job readiness skills. The teens complete an application, develop a resume, and submit a letter of reference. Our counselors organize crafts, lead activities, and supervise the campers. Registration opens May 1st.

Wayne County Fair (August)

The Wayne County Fair provides our local 4-H members with an opportunity to share and showcase the projects they've been working on all year long. The public is invited to come and see what the youth in this program are doing. Highlights of Fair Week include livestock shows, plant science projects, home economics, entomology displays, public presentations, and more! You must pre-enter your indoor project to the extension office by the date listed in the 2026 Wayne County 4-H Fair Book.

Wayne County Activities & Trips

Livestock Auction Program

The Livestock Auction Program educates members in sustainable animal husbandry practices that produce healthy livestock for our local meat market. From start to finish, these youth learn all aspects of the market process including animal nutrition, evaluation and selection, welfare, marketing, and processing. The program participants who raise livestock (chickens, turkeys, meat rabbits, meat goats, market lambs, steer, and pigs) will sell their animals at the 4-H Livestock Auction in August which is held at the Wayne County Fair. The money raised at this auction goes back to the youth to support their ongoing projects, save for college, and more.

Animal Science Knowledge Contests

Provide the opportunity for youth to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in Animal Science in a competitive setting. Youths 8 - 19 who have a serious interest in learning more about horses and dairy cattle participate in practices preparing them for the Hippology and Quiz Bowl contests. Species-specific knowledge contests are also held at the Wayne County Fair for a multitude of different animal species. Members participate as a team, as well as for individual placings. Members competing in these knowledge bowls will also compete at the state and national level if they do well individually at the county and district level!

Dairy, Livestock, and Horse Judging

4-H Judging is an event that allows for youth ages 8-19 to be the judge of a class of animals! Youth will participate in a team of 4 to judge a group of animals based on their conformation! There is an opportunity to place as both a team and individually and there are opportunities to compete at both the state and national level.



New York State Activities & Trips

Capital Days

Open to 4-H'ers ages 14-18. Join us in person in our state capital, Albany, as we get acquainted with our state government and connect with other teens from across the state! Visit the Assembly and Senate Chambers, tour the Capitol building and learn all about its history, and visit the NYS Court of Appeals. Choose an agency you can interact with that you would like to know more about, from the Department of Ag & Markets, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Health, the Department of Education, and the Department of Environmental Conservation. Then schedule a visit with your Assemblyperson and Senator and tell your 4-H story. Costs about \$245 for a three-day event.

NY State International Exchange Program

Inbound Program: Being a host family is an experience that will last a lifetime. The States' 4-H International Exchange Summer Inbound Program brings nearly 700 young people from around the globe to homes across America every summer. As members of American families, exchange participants experience the American way of life and share their own culture in a variety of ways. This experience will allow your family the opportunity to expand their global perspective while opening a brand new world to a young person from overseas. You and your family can join in this unique adventure by hosting this summer. All it takes is a warm heart, an open house, and a passion for international experiences.

Outbound Program: Spend time abroad and immerse yourself in another culture! American youth delegates live with a local family and find themselves part of a world tourists never get to see, sharing everyday life with relatives and friends from the community. All summer programs include a State 4-H chaperone for the duration of the program, short-term medical insurance, and overnight national departure orientation. The annual application deadline for Outbound Programs is typically in late Fall.

New York State Fair (August-September)

Nearly 500 4-H teens serve in leadership roles at The Fair annually as Teen Leaders—giving public presentations, helping with evaluations, writing the fair news, welcoming the public to the Youth Building, involving fairgoers in hands-on activities, overseeing the Incubation and Embryology demonstration area, and more. 4-H Teen Leaders are virtually everywhere on the grounds. Although teens only receive a small premium for serving in leadership roles, most teens agree they do it for the fun and the experience. Without our cadre of Teen Leaders, the 4-H exhibits at the State Fair wouldn't be nearly as interactive or full of the vibrance of our young people. We welcome your participation this year and hope that your experience is an excellent one, and that you will reflect on it often for years to come.

New York State STEM Challenge

Work as a team to lead a Power Protectors program for a minimum of one group in your community. This could be for youth who are already part of a club, afterschool program, or other 4-H groups that you bring this activity to. Or this may be a new group of youth brought together just for this 4-H experience. National programs also available.