

Wayne County 4-H



2026-
2027

Family Handbook

To learn to do by doing!



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CCE
WAYNE



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THE 4-H SLOGAN: Learn 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 hands to their forehead when they say, "My head to clearer thinking." Then, fold their hands over 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, use of illegal drugs, theft, 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 for everyone!

**Wayne
County, NY**

Ways to Participate in 4-H



Cloverbuds **5-7 YEARS OLD**

Participation as a Cloverbud introduces children to a variety of 4-H activities in a non-competitive manner. Cloverbuds engage in adult-led activities aimed at fostering cooperation and teamwork, exploring interests, learning essential life skills, boosting self-confidence, and enhancing communication in group settings. The primary goal is to build enthusiasm and positive associations with 4-H to encourage their involvement beyond the initial Cloverbud experience.

Junior Members:

Ages 8-13

Senior Members:

Ages 14-19



Independent 4-H Members **8-19 YEARS OLD**

While club membership is encouraged for the most well-rounded experience, youth are not required to join a club to participate in 4-H. This may be a preferred option for members who live far from a club, have highly specific interests or limited schedules, or other special circumstances. Youth can also begin as independent members while looking into clubs that they may want to join.

Independent members are eligible for all the same county 4-H activities as club members, but their experience will be less structured and more self-guided.



4-H Club Members **8-19 YEARS OLD**

Youth participate in volunteer-led clubs through projects and group activities. 4-H Clubs elect officers, plan club programs and projects, and organize meetings with an emphasis on skill building, healthy living, community service, and club-specific focus areas.

FAMILY ORGANIZATION

The 4-H participant relies on the support and encouragement of their family to achieve success. 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 and events
- Offering guidance and positive reinforcement
- Volunteering as project leaders

Enrollment

The 4-H program 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.

New members must be enrolled by **April 1st** of the program year to participate in 4-H shows at the Wayne County Fair. Returning members must be enrolled by **February 1st** to participate in 4-H shows at the Wayne County Fair.

DUES

The cost to enroll in the Wayne County 4-H program is \$50.00 per member per year (including Cloverbuds). Payment is required before your child will be considered enrolled and able to fully participate. Family rates are listed below.

- \$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 clubs. Additional fees may be added for project materials and entry for events.

Wayne County uses 4-H Online to track member enrollment.

Visit **4honline.com** to create an account and upload forms.

For enrollment forms, go to **ccewayne.org/4-h-youth-development/4-h-forms**.



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 the Wayne County Fair. Additionally, 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 their family are responsible for staying up-to-date on 4-H activities, events, and deadlines. Important updates are emailed via 4-H Online.
- The monthly newsletter provides the latest county 4-H information and club reports. This will be mailed and posted on our website.
- 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 newsletter, submit them to the CCE Wayne Office by the 25th of each month via delivery, mail, or email.

2026-2027 4-H Clubs & Leaders

Barnyard Bandits Location: Newark/Marion Leader: April Diehl Program Areas: Goats C: 585-353-4894, alcdiehl@gmail.com OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS	Lake Breeze Bunch Location: Ontario Leader: Kate Smith Program Areas: Arts & Crafts, STEM, Horticulture, Woodworking, Community Service, Outdoor Ed, Public Presentations C: katesmith9@gmail.com OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS	Ruff n' Tails Location: Newark Leaders: Cynthia Paoli, Jessica Roche, Angela Flynn Program Areas: Dogs, Static* C: 585-406-9000, cynthia_paoli@urmc.rochester.edu OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS
Marion Elementary Farm Club Location: Marion Leader: MES-Theresa Kuhn Program Areas: Animals, Arts & Crafts, Outdoor, Horticulture C: 315-576-0744 Only Accepting MES Students Grades 4-6	Guns & Clovers Location: Palmyra Leader: Lisa Stivers Program Areas: Shooting Sports C: 315-719-2038 OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS	Peace Seekers Location: Lyons Leader: Jenn Lake, Jeanette Lake Program Areas: Cooking, Sewing, Arts & Crafts, Woodworking, Lg Animals C: 315-945-7462, 315-945-9943 OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS (AGES 8-12)
County Line Club (Monroe and Wayne) Location: Webster Leader: Linda Bowen Program Areas: Goats, Sheep, Beekeeping, Rabbits, Chickens, Orchards C: 585-217-3216 OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS	Roots & Rascals Location: Marion Leader: Leann Sirkin/Allysa Williams Program Areas: Arts & Crafts, Small Animals C: 408-712-3485/315-573-9540 OPEN TO NEW MEMBERS	S'More Paws Location: North Rose Leader: Heather Luther Program Areas: Community Service, Arts & Crafts C: 315-573-8215
Saddle Creek Stables Location: Williamson Leader: Hannah Jamison, Heather Harter Program Areas: Horses, Crafts, Cooking, Agriculture C: 315-945-1515, hthrfthr15@hotmail.com Not Currently Accepting New Members	Moovers & Shakers Location: Macedon Leader: Cairry Place Program Areas: Dairy, Beef, Poultry, Rabbits, Arts & Crafts, Public Presentations, Baking, Horticulture, Cooking C: 315-576-0151 Not Currently Accepting New Members	Heart & Soil Location: Palmyra/Newark Leader: Laurie Rowe/Heather Harter Program Areas: Arts & Crafts, Cooking, Baking, Horticulture C: 315-945-6848/315-945-1515, laurierowe815@gmail.com Not Currently Accepting New Members
Bucks & Does Location: Marion Leader: Jennifer Hunter Program Areas: Arts & Crafts, Woodworking, Sewing, Heritage Crafts C: 585-737-3149 Not Currently Accepting New Members	Spirits of Tomorrow Location: Newark Leader: Kathy Eckert Program Areas: Community Service, Clothing, Arts & Crafts, Woodworking, Food, Public Presentations C: 315-331-7515, kseckert@aol.com Not Currently Accepting New Members	

*Static means any non-animal projects that members enter into the Fair, which are judged before the week of the Wayne County Fair during pre-judging and displayed in the Youth Building.

We are always looking for more club leaders!
If you are interested in starting a 4-H club,
please contact our staff for more information.

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 newsletter 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

- Enforced by CCE staff. Fundraising activities are subject to approval.

Volunteer with 4-H!



Help our programs serve
local youth and make
the best better!



All adults interested in supporting or participating in the Wayne County 4-H program as volunteers for more than one day are **REQUIRED** to submit their volunteer enrollment each year.

Volunteer paperwork can be found at ccewayne.org/4-h-youth-development/4-h-forms under the "Volunteer Resources" section.

Additionally, you must undergo a brief Sexual Harassment Prevention Training before your enrollment can be fully approved. You can complete this training through the following link: blogs.cornell.edu/ccevolunteertraining/required-training/. The link is also available on our website. Once finished, please forward the confirmation email to one of our staff members.

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 may conduct interviews with potential volunteers or request references to ensure that the roles they hope to fill align with our program, 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 annual paperwork to be completed at both the member and leader levels to document their involvement in 4-H activities throughout the year. This information is extremely useful for planning the next 4-H year, and is needed for data reporting at the state level. Year-end paperwork is also required for members and clubs to be eligible for county awards and recognition at our annual Achievement Celebration. Once the paperwork is completed and submitted to the Wayne County 4-H office, it is reviewed by a committee of 4-H staff and volunteers.

Recognition in 4-H

4-H uses recognition as one strategy to help youth become more capable and competent. Recognition is the acknowledgement and affirmation of the personal growth in an individual, and demonstrates support for their success. Continued participation in learning activities is rewarded by recognizing and appreciating each person's efforts. This creates a more structured experience for 4-H youth to seek opportunities that build positive self-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.

Achievement Celebration

This annual event is a chance for our 4-H families to gather and recognize outstanding individual and club participation. 4-H staff award certificates, medals, and scholarships that reflect these accomplishments.

4-H Portfolios, Summaries, and Project Records

Record-keeping in 4-H is called many things across different counties and states, but they all share the same goal for the 4-H member: to show evidence of learning and reflection on their 4-H experience. The process of record-keeping teaches youth valuable skills in goal setting, planning, organizing, and critical thinking that can be applied in their personal and professional lives. In Wayne County, we refer to them as portfolios, summary books, and project records. All 4-H members are strongly encouraged to keep records in 4-H, whether they are applying for additional awards or not. All year-end paperwork can be found at ccewayne.org/4-h-youth-development/4-h-forms.

A 4-H Portfolio is the accumulation of ALL your 4-H history in a binder or folder, typically divided up by program year and built upon each year. This serves as a representation of the member's 4-H experiences, and can include things such as photos and flyers from volunteer events, certificates and awards from competitions, project pins and ribbons, and anything else that shows their participation and growth in 4-H.

The 4-H Summary Book 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. A new summary book should be completed each program year to document specific projects, community service hours, and events. This document is also required for any members who wish to apply for county certificates and awards, which are given out at the Achievement Celebration.

Project Records are completed *in addition* to the the summary book ONLY when youth are applying for project mastery pins or medals. Youth fill out a project record for each project area in which they are seeking a pin/medal. This document asks for more detailed reflection on their work in the project area.

****NOTE: Portfolios must be handed in by the end of the program 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 awards and recognition. 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 Achievement Celebration, but can be printed by 4-H Staff and given at the discretion of the club leader.

Achievement

This award recognizes active members who demonstrate a desire to better their community, participate in public presentations, show a willingness to help others, and are enthusiastic about 4-H. 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 across many 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 helper.

Club Community Service Award

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 a 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 September 30th.
- 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 February 1st.



Individual Awards at County Level



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

4-H Year Completion Recognition

4-H Members and Cloverbuds will receive a certificate of participation for submitting a 4-H portfolio.

Teen Leadership Certificate

The Teen Leadership Award is presented to a youth member between the ages of 13 to 19 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 community service events and other special programs such as county or state fairs.

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

4-H Community Service Certificate

The purpose of the 4-H Community Service Award is to recognize the hard work and demonstrated commitment to community service this past year. Members ages 8 to 19 (juniors and seniors) can apply for this award.

4-H Achievement Certificate Award (Level 1): The purpose of the 4-H Achievement Certificate Award is to recognize the hard work and dedication you have put forth into the 4-H program this past year. Members ages 8 to 19 can apply.

4-H Project Mastery Award/Project Pins (Level 2): The purpose of project mastery pins is to recognize outstanding work in the various project areas. 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). A member can apply for more than one project mastery pin per year, but can only get one pin per project area. Members ages 8 to 19 can apply.

4-H County Medal Award (Level 3): 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 and received a 2-year pin for that project area. Nominations are required in order 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 19 can apply.





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.
Arts & Crafts	For exhibiting creativity through a variety of artistic and craft mediums, learning life skills, and growth in project knowledge.
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.
Communications & Performing Arts	For development of skills and confidence in communication and expression through written works, 3D displays, or dance/theater performances.
Community Service	For exhibiting commitment to community service throughout the project year.
Dog	For taking responsibility for the care and training of a dog, including health, grooming, feeding, and obedience training.
Entomology & Beekeeping	For understanding of insect identification, collection, and control, and developing skills and knowledge of beekeeping products and practices.
Environmental Stewardship	For increasing awareness of environmental conservation, sustainable practices, and resource management, in areas such as forestry, fisheries, wildlife, and reuse/recycling. Also, developing the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of environmental stewardship in everyday life.
Food & Nutrition	For knowledge of food selection for a balanced diet as well as skills in planning, preparing, purchasing, and serving appetizing, nutritious meals and snacks.
Gardening & Horticulture	For practicing current gardening techniques to produce fruits, flowers, and/or vegetables.



Project Areas & Descriptions



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.
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 is passionate about.
Horse	For learning horsemanship skills such as riding, handling, and training, as well as horse physiology, care, 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.
Large Animals*	For the understanding of large animal raising, production, management, and showing, exemplified by caring for one or more animals of the following species: alpaca, beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, swine, and goats.
Livestock Auction Program	For building knowledge and experience in sustainable husbandry practices to produce healthy livestock for the local meat market by raising animals to be auctioned during the Wayne County Fair.
Outdoor Education & Recreation	For the development and sharing of knowledge, skills, and safe practices in resource-based recreation such as wilderness camping, foraging, hiking, orienteering, outdoor cooking, snowshoeing and more.
Photography & Visual Arts	For acquiring skills and creative abilities by taking, editing, and/or developing pictures, as well as video production, graphic design, and multimedia projects.
Public Speaking	For excellence in public speaking gained through Public Presentations, Teen Ambassadors, and/or other 4-H work.

***Animal projects are species-based, with separate project pins for each individual species.**



Project Areas & Descriptions



Recycled Crafts	For the knowledge of repurposing (upcycling) of items to create something new and/or useful.
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 Mathematics principles, including aerospace and rocketry, computer technology, electricity, wood science, and more.
Small Animals*	For the understanding of small animal raising, production, management, and showing, exemplified by caring for one or more rabbits, cavies, or poultry.
Veterinary Science	For the knowledge of basic anatomy and systems, and elementary principles of disease in animals.

***Animal projects are species-based, with separate project pins for each individual species.**



Wayne County

Activities & Trips

Achievement Night (October)

This is the night that we celebrate the previous 4-H year. Staff hand out awards to youth and volunteers, followed by a fun activity and refreshments as a thank you for all your hard work and support.

Produced in New York (November)

This educational event gives youth an opportunity to showcase their food preparation and presentation skills. Participants learn how to select healthy recipes and ingredients to create well-balanced meals. The program also encourages youth to research where their food comes from so they may better understand their connection to local and global food systems.

Open House/Holiday Special (October)

This event is open to all new, current, and potential 4-H members to find out what Wayne County 4-H has to offer! Staff, club leaders, and teens lead holiday-themed crafts for kids to make and take home. A great way for kids to learn about programs and opportunities while creating handmade gifts for friends and family.

4-H Public Presentations (February)

A program for youth to gain experience with public speaking and presenting in front of an audience. They learn about the research process and the steps to organize information into an interesting, creative presentation. Participation in this event provides a unique opportunity for youth to develop a positive self-concept as poised, confident communicators. Presenters learn to express ideas clearly, respond spontaneously to questions, and demonstrate subject matter knowledge. Many 4-H members highlight Public Presentations as one of their most beneficial and rewarding experiences in 4-H.

Types of presentations include:

- Demonstrations and illustrated talks
- Impromptu speeches
- Horse communications
- College/job interviews (ages 15 and up)

Cloverbuds can participate as well — this is a great opportunity for them to start getting comfortable expressing themselves in front of a group. On Presentation Day, 4-H members give their presentations in front of a small audience of other 4-H'ers and parents, and are evaluated by a volunteer or staff member. Participants who excel on the county level may be selected for district and state levels!

Supervisor for a Day (April/May)

This event is open to any mature youth ages 12 and up who are currently enrolled in Wayne County 4-H. Participants will shadow a Town Supervisor and learn how local government functions. 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 allows 4-H members to experience cultural exchange with youth their age in other states. Involvement enables members to develop leadership skills, civic engagement, and appreciation of different cultures. It also provides an opportunity for members to share information about their local 4-H program and family culture.

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

Any youth age 12-19 (as of January 1st of the first program year for each exchange group) who is a current and ACTIVE Wayne County 4-H member may participate. Members should have a sincere interest in traveling, making new friends, working as a team, and fundraising, and should be willing to support all program 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.

4-H Camp Beechwood (July)

Each summer, Wayne County 4-H offers a 1-week day camp for youth ages 5 (completed kindergarten) to 12 at Beechwood State Park, on the shores of Lake Ontario in Sodus, New York. Camp Beechwood provides a safe and fun outdoor setting that gives youth the opportunity for physical and emotional growth. Campers learn about various environmental topics through guest presentations, group activities, and outdoor adventures that aim to strengthen teamwork, problem-solving, and creativity. We utilize teen counselors and coach them to help build leadership and job-readiness skills. The teens complete an application, develop a resume, and go through an interview process. Our counselors organize their own cabins, teach songs and games, plan crafts and activities, and oversee their campers under adult supervision.

4-H Gardening and Cooking Camp (July)

Wayne County 4-H offers a 1-week day camp for youth ages 8-12 at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Office for kids to learn basic gardening and cooking skills. Gardening & Cooking Camp has a strong focus on the importance of nutrition, physical activity, and connection to food systems and the environment. We utilize teen counselors and coach them to help build their leadership skills and job-readiness. Teens complete an application, develop a resume, and submit a letter of reference. Counselors lead campers in crafts and activities under adult supervision. Registration opens May 1st.

Wayne County Fair (August)

The Wayne County Fair is the culmination of each program year, and provides our local 4-H members with an opportunity to showcase their projects for the public. Everyone is invited to come and see all the amazing things that our youth have accomplished! Highlights of Fair Week include livestock shows, project displays in the Youth Building, and delicious ice cream from the 4-H Dairy Booth! Any 4-H projects must be submitted to the 4-H Office through FairEntry by the date listed in the 2027 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. Program participants who raise livestock (chickens, turkeys, meat rabbits, meat goats, market lambs, steer, and pigs) will sell their animals during the 4-H Livestock Auction 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

This program provides the opportunity for youth to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in Animal Science in a competitive setting. Youth ages 8-19 who have a serious interest in learning more about horses and dairy cattle will 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 variety of animal species. Members compete as a team, and for individual placings. Teams who place well in county and district competitions have the opportunity to compete at the state and national level!

Dairy, Livestock, and Horse Judging

4-H Judging allows youth ages 8-19 to be the judge of a class of animals. Members work in a team of 4 to judge a group of animals based on their conformation. Youth have the opportunity to place as a team and individually in state and national competitions.

Shooting Sports Program

The 4-H Shooting Sports curriculum educates youth on the safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment for hunting, recreation, and competition. Guided by NYS 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Instructors, members develop skills and confidence in several shooting sports disciplines, with emphasis on connection to their community and the natural world. There is an additional fee to participate in the Shooting Sports program, and specific age restrictions apply to each discipline.



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 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

Activities & Trips

4-H Agri-Business Career (ABC) Conference

This career exploration conference is held annually in October at SUNY Cobleskill. The ABC Conference is open to all youth ages 14 and over who wish to become more aware of opportunities within agriculture, and the academic requirements for career paths in the various agri-businesses. It features mini-tours to farms and businesses in the Cobleskill area as well as seminars, guest speakers and guided tours of the SUNY Cobleskill agriculture facilities.

4-H Career Explorations

4-H Career Explorations aims to expand possibilities for youth by connecting them to Cornell University; sparking interests in careers and career pathways; developing academic, leadership, and life skills; and providing opportunities to experience college life. Typically held in June, this 3-day conference is open to all NYS youth entering 8th grade and up. It includes two program tracks –

- **University U:** For teens entering 8th grade and up. Youth are introduced to Cornell through campus tours and explore a variety of topics in six different departmental workshops. Youth are randomly assigned to these UU programs.
- **Focus for Teens:** For teens entering 10th grade and up. Youth spend 2 days with a specific department. Youth select their Focus for Teens programs and programs are filled first-come, first-serve.

State Teen Action Retreat (STAR)

STAR is a premiere youth voice opportunity, open to youth ages 13-19, modeled after the National 4-H Conference. 4-H teen leaders apply to serve as a planning team member, then select an adult partner and help to plan the STAR event. STAR is a fun-filled weekend which helps to invigorate 4-H programming across NYS and showcases positive youth development, experiential learning, agriculture, sustainable food systems, STEM, and civic engagement workshops. Roundtables are modeled after the 4-H pillars and encourage youth to engage with these topics outside of the hands-on workshops. There is also a community service portion, keynote speaker, dinner/dance, and ice cream social.

For more information on NYS and National 4-H events and opportunities, visit nys4-h.org.