December Family Digest

 ***Lafayette County 4-H***



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## 4-H FAQs Related to COVID-19 – Update 8.7.2020

**This FAQ is also available on the Wisconsin 4-H website at:**[**https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-faqs-related-to-covid-19/**](https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/4-h-faqs-related-to-covid-19/)

# Update From The WI State 4-H Program On 2021 National 4-H Educational Travel Experiences

Due to the uncertainty regarding COVID-19, National 4-H Council, with support and guidance from national Extension leadership, including the 4-H Program Leaders Working Group, has decided that 2021 National 4-H Educational Travel Experiences will not be held in person. In addition to National 4-H Council’s announcement, Wisconsin has made the decision that Space Camp and the American Spirit Experience will not be held in person in 2021. See list for specific updates:

-2020 National 4-H Congress – Canceled

-Citizenship Washington Focus Presidential Inauguration – Canceled

-National Youth STEM Summit – Virtual

-National Youth Healthy Living Summit – Virtual

-National Youth Agri-Science Summit – Virtual

-National Youth Photography Summit – Canceled

-Citizenship Washington Focus – Virtual

-Leadership Washington Focus – Virtual

-National 4-H Conference – Virtual

-Space Camp – No Wisconsin Delegation

-American Spirit Experience – Canceled

-2021 National 4-H Congress – To Be Determined (Does Not Meet at National 4-H Conference Center and is held in November)

The timing of the decision was intended to provide clear direction for county and state programs in the promoting and planning stages and to allow National 4-H Council and their teams time to focus on creating high quality virtual experiences. Several important factors and considerations guided the decision to move from in-person to virtual:

 - Health and safety of youth, adults, staff and volunteers is a primary concern

 - Equitable access for all youth at national events; currently 50% of Land Grant Universities have

 restricted travel and many have indicated continued restrictions through Summer of 2021

 - Challenge of retrofitting the National 4-H Conference Center to meet social distancing requirements

 - Opportunity to invest in virtual capabilities and leverage innovation from Extension and youth.

 The Wisconsin decision that Space Camp and the American Spirit Experience will not be held in person in 2021 was based on the registration timelines, uncertainty of external vendors and partner services and resources needed to plan and facilitate safely based on information currently available. The decision was also made out of respect to 4-H members and leaders with regard to the time they invest in applying, fundraising and preparing for the experiences. Moving forward, committees will explore whether virtual options or other opportunities are possible. The Wisconsin 4-H Program is committed to work with youth leaders, adult volunteers and staff to reimagine educational experiences for 2021. A committee has already started to reimagine Youth Conference, and although we do not know if it will be on campus, we do know that we will offer an experience for youth leaders to engage, connect and learn with youth from around the state!

WI 4-H values educational travel experiences and the impact they have on participants; providing unique and special opportunities for leadership, citizenship and life skill development. We understand that this announcement will be disappointing for many and may raise a lot of questions and concerns. Although it is challenging, a commitment to providing safe, quality educational experiences for all young people is at the heart of all decisions being made.

# Wisconsin 4-H Foundation Kicks Off 2020-2021 Arts Contest

**The Wisconsin 4-H Foundation has kicked off their Celebrate the Arts Contest; challenging all 4-H members to explore and share their creativity.  The contest is open to any current Wisconsin 4-H member, with cash prizes totaling nearly $1,000. The contest will be held virtually, with photos of all entries submitted electronically. Entries are being accepted now through November 1.**

*The contest is broken into eight categories:*

1. Drawing Using Any Medium
2. Painting (acrylic, watercolor or oil)
3. Pottery, Ceramics or Clay
4. Photography
5. Paper
6. Fabric, Yarn or Fiber
7. Wood
8. Any Other Media (ex: digital, metalcraft, jewelry, leatherwork, wax, eggshells, taxidermy, etc.)

A winner will be chosen in each category with a Best of Show Award given to the top entry as chosen by the judging committee.  Category winners will be purchased by the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation for $100, with the Best of Show entry receiving an additional $150.  Entries will be accepted from Tuesday, September 1, 2020, until midnight on January 1, 2021.

**For official contest rules and requirements and how to submit photos of artwork, please visit**[**Wis4HFoundation.org/events/celebrate-the-arts/**](https://wis4hfoundation.org/events/celebrate-the-arts/)**Winning entries become the property of the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation.  The Foundation will sell the art in an art auction to be held in the spring of 2021.  Proceeds from the Celebrate the Arts auction will be split with half invested in the Talen Endowment for 4-H Arts Programming for future program needs and half used for arts programming in the next 4-H program year.**

**If you have any questions and/or need any additional information, please reach out to Amber Rehberg, WI 4-H Educational Program Specialist at****amber.rehberg@wisc.edu****or 608.294.8131.**

# What Has Your 4-H Club Been Doing?

We would like to know what your club members have been doing! Please submit photos, or stories about club activities. We will put these into our January Newsletter! Email them to lori.wick@wisc.edu. Thanks! Leaders – if you need a nudge of inspiration, please remember to attend the “last” of the Annual Leaders Training (on December 10th). Registration link can be found on the Extension Web Site: <https://lafayette.extension.wisc.edu/2020/11/06/4-h-annual-leader-training/>

# Another Idea for 4-H Club Work During a Pandemic

Create a contest for your 4-H club members, come up with a small prize, have members submit photos, create a google form for voting, and choose a winner. One club recently held ajack-o-lantern carving contest and now they are holding a contest for the “best hand turkey for Thanksgiving.” Youth are excited to share what they create and it builds a sense of belonging. The parents even wanted a category for themselves. If your 4-H club or group has an idea to share, please get the information to Lori Wick and it will be shared out to others who are looking for ways to keep the 4-H Clover growing.

# 4-H Clubs Ringing Bells for the Salvation Army Continues To Be A Community Service Option

By MATTHEW C CALVERT, Wisconsin Positive Youth Development Institute Director.

There have been some questions about whether 4-H clubs and groups selecting bell ringing for the Salvation Army would be in conflict with our policy, which states we are focused on education and not advancing a particular religion (you can find this information pasted below). In this case, the Salvation Army states as its goal to meet human needs without discrimination. 4-H members choosing to participate in bell-ringing as a community service option would be allowable within our current policy. These are challenging questions to navigate, as they involve many factors to consider, including member choice vs. requirements, clear roles in fundraising for other organizations, and non-discrimination policies of partners. Please continue to reach out for guidance as you run into questions about policy interpretation and about practices that may hinder an inclusive program environment. This is also an opportunity to emphasize service-learning and the alignment of club activities with our shared goals.

•Youth Voice and Leadership: Are youth leaders involved in identifying issues they want to address and planning the response?

•Supportive Relationships: Do service-learning opportunities create opportunities for building ongoing relationships with other youth and adults in the community as well as creating opportunities for bonding within the group?

•Post-Secondary Pathways: How are youth learning about career and lifelong service opportunities?

•Expanding Access: How do service opportunities create opportunities for others to participate in 4-H? How do we remove barriers to all youth benefitting from service-learning opportunities?

**Policy: Religion and Wisconsin 4-H** As a program of the University of Wisconsin –Madison, Wisconsin 4-H prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or family status. As a result, 4-H programs are focused on education and must not advance a particular religion. Explicitly or implicitly requiring religion or religious practices as a condition for participation in 4-H club meetings creates a barrier for participation and is prohibited.

# Lafayette County Fair Beef Weigh-ins – December 19, 2020

Please visit this link for more information. If you have questions, please contact Peter Whitcomb or Kari Ruf.

<http://www.lafayettecountyfair.org/BeefWeighIns2021.pdf>

# Extension Program Guidance & Approval Forms for Face to Face Gatherings:

Whenever people are gathering in the name of 4-H, there needs to be an approved plan. 4-H members and leaders may be allowed to hold face-to-face gatherings in pods of 10 people or less and up to 50, but only if pods of 10 or less are arranged for. To accomplish this and receive approval, the following steps MUST be taken BEFORE the gathering occurs. Please contact Lori Wick for a “checklist” to fill out for program approval. Once approval is received, the gathering may proceed. Following the gathering, a contact log must be submitted with names of all who were in attendance. Contact Lori to get an approval checklist form, please. Lori.wick@wisc.edu or cell: (608) 482-2215. Thanks!

# The Wisconsin 4-H Movement

This fall 4-H youth from across the state were encouraged to submit drawings of what belonging, independence, generosity, and mastery look like to them in 4-H. Amy Mangan-Fischer, Washington County 4-H Educator, facilitated the contest. Youth from Barron, Columbia, Dodge, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Jefferson, Outagamie, Racine, and Washington County participated. The coloring book can be downloaded free of charge and can be found here.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1E7RrWP3MpTkb51ZDdDo0pz4iV_S8NVxq/view>