



Dane County 4-H Program

Provides positive youth/adult relationships, a welcoming atmosphere, and a place for youth to explore their interests and passions – their sparks!



Situation: The 4-H Thriving model predicts that youth who participate in 4-H programs that provide a high quality developmental context will thrive, and thriving youth achieve key developmental outcomes, including vocational success, civic engagement, economic stability and well-being. Dane County 4-H Members between the ages of 13-19 complete a Thriving Survey annually. The Program Quality scores confirm high quality programming with an average score of 5.6 on a scale of 1-7. Sparks had the lowest score of 5.1 and the most opportunity for growth.

Response: Dane County 4-H staff developed collaborations with a variety of UW-Madison colleagues to provide youth with opportunities to visit campus and spark interest in new areas of learning. Program highlights include a mock disease outbreak scenario at the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, science experiments at the Biotechnology Center, engaging Fright Night STEM activities and a radio astronomy workshop at UW Space Place, hands-on animal activities at the School of Veterinary Medicine, and a visit to the Babcock Dairy Store.

Results: 160 youth visited UW-Madison campus facilities through participation in these events and reported:

- They learned something new
- They felt welcome and included
- They connected with UW-Madison faculty and staff members

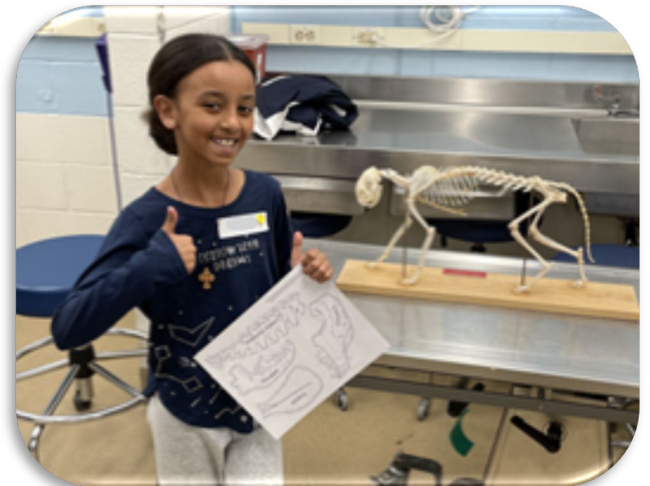
Dane 4-H & UW Madison Collaborations

- UW Biotechnology Center
- UW Neuroscience Training Program
- UW Radio Astronomy Department
- UW School of Veterinary Medicine
- UW Space Place
- Veterinary Medical Outreach Organization
- Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostics Laboratory

Extension prepares the youth of today to become the effective, empathetic adults of tomorrow. Our research-based youth enrichment programs build youth and adult capacity and partnerships that help both sides grow. 4-H clubs, camps and afterschool programs give young people the hands-on experiences they need to develop an understanding of themselves and the world.



Clarity, a Dane County 4-Her, worked with UW-Madison Biotechnology Center and Animal Science faculty to create a PCR chicken sexing test and presented her findings locally at Small Animal Education Day and at Summer Academy, a state-wide 4-H conference.



To learn more about Dane County 4-H visit: <https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/13983-2/>



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