



Dear Chippewa County 4-H Families,

I am writing you today as the weather feels more like summer than it does a November day and thinking about my 4-H youth and families. I am confident they are continuing to “make the best, better” during this time, developing life skills, and taking advantage of this time to continue independent or virtual project work. While I tend to be a glass half-full person, I also need to be realistic that with cold weather approaching and more people being inside, some of our traditional winter programming is going to have to be transitioned to support a no-contact, virtual space. With no clear end in site, I am looking for your help to help me and the volunteers in Chippewa County to provide some input on winter programming.

The first area I'd like to ask for some help in providing input is the Shooting Sports program. The committee met in October and decided to create a survey to help them move forward in their planning for this winter. If your family plans on taking any Shooting Sports discipline this year, please fill out this survey: <https://forms.gle/Mrmks1JUfkLUX4Pm7> by December 1st. You will also receive an email reminder closer to that date. The more people who fill out the survey, the more the group can help provide opportunities during this time.

The second area I'd like to receive feedback on is Clover College. Erin Plombon and I sought out advice from the planning committee earlier this fall and we would like to gather some information from participants. Ideally, the plan would be to break up by age range over three Saturdays to offer project learning; however, we are exploring alternative options as we are unsure when it will be safe to meet again indoors. If your child is in grade K-6, please fill out the this survey about make and learn options for Clover College: <https://forms.gle/57jRkBZTscCN64nw8>. If we are able to meet in person and have a clear indication that we can by early December, that is the committee's first choice. We understand that youth are spending a lot of time learning virtually and want you to know that we hear you and want to have ample time to plan.

Clover University programming will be postponed or have options virtually in the next few months. If you are willing to lead a virtual project meeting (can include supplies or have youth get their own supplies) for youth in grades 6 and up, please let me know. We will work on providing as much as we can as our resources allow.

This past weekend, several youth and adult volunteers attended Wisconsin 4-H's Fall Forum and were encouraged to “try it on.” I encourage your youth, family, and club to try on learning in a virtual space when the opportunity comes. I understand having “another Zoom” isn't for everyone and you never know how much fun you'll actually have when you are doing hands-on learning on a Zoom. I am willing to meet with any club and offer education, if they are willing to try it on or this is a great opportunity for older youth to lead during this time! Please feel free to reach out to me via email or using my cell phone (715.307.4686) if you would like to talk more about 4-H during this time.

Best,

Heidi Vanderloop Benson

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