

# LAPORTE COUNTY

## 4-H Thursday Tidbit



## EDUCATOR NOTES



**“COMING TOGETHER IS A BEGINNING. KEEPING TOGETHER IS PROGRESS. WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS.”**

**HENRY FORD**

We are already into February! Time flies when you are having fun. January was busy with planning and getting details figured out so we can offer some fun and amazing opportunities. We hope that you will attend some of them and maybe try something new!

Pay attention to the details of upcoming events, workshops, and initiatives that cater to various interests within our diverse 4-H community. Whether you're exploring a new project or deepening your involvement in existing ones, February is a month filled with possibilities, and LaPorte County 4-H is here to guide you every step of the way.

We would again like to extend our gratitude to all of our 4-Her's, volunteers, and parents. Your passion, dedication, and enthusiasm contribute to the continually growing LaPorte County 4-H Program. Let's continue that growth, learn together, and create lasting memories that will resonate throughout the year.

Friendly reminder that the Small Projects Building was just painted! Please do your part and keep it clean, by keeping feet and hands off the walls.

*Kelsey Guadarrama*

Kelsey Guadarrama | 4-H Youth Development Educator | ksajdera@purdue.edu

Lauren Allison | 4-H Youth Development Educator | Inalliso@purdue.edu

Kelly Wozniak | 4-H Administrative Assistant | woznia11@purdue.edu

# EDUCATOR PROGRAMMING

Wednesday, February 7th | 6-7:30 PM | Volunteer Series- Financials & Fundraising | Extension Office

## 4-H Zoo Program

- April 13th 3rd to 5th grade - focus on wildlife
- April 20th 6th to 8th grade - focus on wildlife
- May 11th 9th to 12th grade - focus on vet science
- All Grades Invited to science fair June 15th from 11 AM - 2 PM, 11-Noon we will have supplies for you to add finishing touches to your poster with food. Then 1 PM - 2 PM you will be able to showcase what you have learned.

All days are from 1 to 3 pm at the Washington Park Zoo in Michigan City. Parents if you choose to stay you will have to pay the admissions fee. Parking will be free! Sign up now as space is limited to 20 people per session.

**COMING SOON!** Junk Bucket Challenge! Stay tuned for details.

## Spring Break Program

Kelsey, Lauren, and Chrissie (our HHS Educator) will be collaborating to host several spring break opportunities for kids in grades K-8. All spring break camps will provide learning opportunities in the areas of healthy living/cooking and STEM experiences. You must be enrolled in 4-H to attend. High School students interested in helping can email Kelsey or Lauren for more information.

4th-8th Grade Youth can join us for 3 full days (8:30am-3:30pm) at the LaPorte County Fairgrounds

- March 25th-27th or April 1st-3rd, Cost: \$45
- <https://lpcspringbreak24.4honline.com>

K-3rd Grade Youth can join us for 2 half days (8:30am-Noon) at the LaPorte County Fairgrounds

- March 28th-29th or April 4th-5th, Cost: \$15
- <https://lpcitsybitsyspringbreak24.4honline.com>

# 4-H VOLUNTEER ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are meeting and you are not enrolled you are not covered under our insurance and you are not in compliance with the our 4-H Policies. We appreciate you wanting to volunteer but until you enroll you cannot host club meetings, vote, or actively participate in activities.

Remember in order to receive fair passes, you will need to log 6 hours of professional development and/or youth programming opportunities. This does not have to be difficult or complicated, many of you are already doing this. Council and Committee meetings will count for 1 hour of professional development. Club meetings and workshops count for youth programing hours. We are not super stringent on what can count we just want you to be out there interacting with the awesome youth in the program. In order to log your hours, we need sign in sheets from club meetings or workshops. Committees, we need the minutes with those that attended listed within 2 weeks, sign in sheets are good but we need minutes anyway so we will save a step if you just send minutes.

**Want to host a workshop... Here is how!**

## MANUALS

Indiana 4-H and Purdue Extension has made the decision that they will no longer require the use of manuals for 4-H projects and will not carry any manuals in the Ed Store. It is the decision of LaPorte County that we will phase out carrying the manuals as well, as they no longer match with project guidelines. Manuals can still be found at the Shop 4-H store. The office has a small inventory of misc. manuals and once those are gone, they are gone.

## RECORD SHEETS

Working with the 4-H Council, the Educators have decided this year there will be a general record sheet for most of the projects that are offered in LaPorte County. The record sheet will be turned in at the members' first project check-in and will be returned in their ribbon packets after the fair exhibition. Here is a list of projects that will still need to complete an additional project record sheet: American Heritage, Cat, Collections, Container Gardening, Dog, Horse & Pony, Horseless Horse, Poultry, Rabbit, and Small Animals. The record sheet is different than skill sheets. If you need help or need to know the difference do not hesitate to reach out.

## PROJECTS

There have been some additions to our project list this year and wanted to share a list so you are aware.

- Arts & Crafts: Candles and Holiday Decorations
- Construction & Architectural Replica: Other Building Materials
- Small Animals

## MISC. NEWS

In addition to the poster sleeves, the office will begin to carry the foamboard backing for a nominal fee. The 4-H Staff will NOT be replacing your backing this year, if your backing does not meet the requirements, it will get a white or green ribbon.

4-H Punch Cards - As an incentive program to encourage participation in all of the amazing workshops being offered by our volunteers and extension educators, all 4-H youth in grades 3rd-12th can pick up a 4-H punch card from the educators or from workshop hosts. Any 4-H youth who participate in 9 workshops + 1 club meeting can turn their completed cards in for a prize. If you are not associated with a club, reach out to 4-H Staff and we can help you!

## 4-H CAMP COUNSELORS

Calling all 4-H Camp Counselors! We are accepting applications. They are open now until March 1st, apply now! Camp is June 3rd to the 6th. We understand and recognize that it overlaps with LaPorte's last days of school but we will be as flexible as possible. <https://24quadcountycamp.4honline.com>

## CAMP COUNSELOR APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

Applications can be found on 4H Online



APPLICATIONS CLOSE MARCH 1

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## FRESH PAINT

The small projects building got a weekend refresh with a new coat of paint. As you use the space, please help keep it looking great so it's all ready for fair season! Thank you to all the volunteers who helped get the job done!

## LIVESTOCK UPDATES

Indiana 4-H Livestock Quality Care Dates have been set! Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care OR YQCA needs to be done by June 14th! Sign up in 4-H Online for Indiana 4-H Quality Livestock Care.

- February 22nd: 6 PM at the LaPorte County Extension Office
- March 28th: 1 PM at the LaPorte County Extension Office
- March 29th: 9 AM at the LaPorte County Extension Office
- April 4th: 1 PM at the LaPorte County Extension Office
- April 5th: 9 AM at the LaPorte County Extension Office
- April 18th: 6 PM at the LaPorte County Extension Office
- April 27th multiple times during the Workshop-a-thon
- May 13th: 6 PM LaPorte County Extension Office

Friday, February 23rd (2024) | Appointment Only | Beef Tagging | Fairgrounds

Saturday, February 24th (2024) | 9 AM - Noon | Beef Tagging | Fairgrounds

Rabbit Ambassador workshop has been rescheduled to February 24th from 10 AM - 2 PM in the Small Projects Building. Sign up on 4-H Online.

## STATE OPPORTUNITIES

Ag Equipment Diagnostics

4-H Consumer Decision Making

Kitchen Skillathon



# MINI 4-H CORNER

## MINI 4-H MONDAYS

We had a blast at our first Mini Monday with a full class! We already have 15 kiddos registered for February. Remember we can only hold 30! If at any point you need to cancel please let the office staff know. Registration will close when we reach 30 kids or on Feb. 5th. To register you can use this [link](#) or go to 4-H Online events tab.



## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: PHOTOGRAPHY

Do you like to take pictures? Capture some of your favorites and share your best pictures with us. Exhibit the following:

All Divisions:

- Pictures should be no smaller than 3 1/2 x 5" and no larger than 4x6".
- Pictures must have been taken by the Mini 4-H within the last year.
- Pictures should be mounted on a 16x20" horizontal poster that is covered with a plastic sleeve and has a backing of foam board.
- Keep an open space in the lower right corner for your exhibit tag.

Kindergarten & First Grade:

- Exhibit up to 4 color pictures. Number each picture and place a title at the top of your poster. The title may be of your choosing.

Second Grade:

- Exhibit up to 4 color pictures that tell a story about one topic. Number and label each picture according to what it tells about your topic. place a title at the top of your poster. The title may be of your choosing.

# COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

## LAPORTE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY & THE EXCHANGE

The LPCPL Exchange is full of opportunities that can help 4-H youth develop skills they can use on their fair projects this year. The library branches also have some great programming fun that you might be interested in. Check out upcoming events at their website:

<https://laporte.librarycalendar.com/events/upcoming>

### **Make a Friendship Bracelet: Crochet and Knitting for Beginners**

Kingsford Heights Branch

Tuesday, March 12th 3:30-4:30pm

Friendship bracelets are a popular way to show our friends how much they mean to us! Come and listen to a story about the importance of friendship and after, we will each make our own bracelets using simple knitting and crocheting techniques. Learn a new skill or advance your current talent! This event is for beginners and everyone is welcome.

### **Curious Kids Innovation Camp**

Library Exchange Classroom

March 28th 1:00pm-4:00pm (Register here:

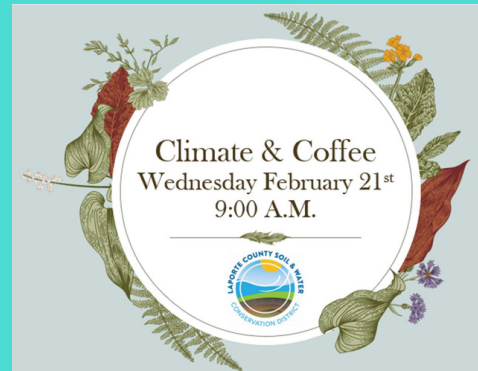
<https://www.laportelibrary.org/event/curious-kids-innovation-camp-7613>)

**\* OR \***

April 4th 1:00pm-4:00pm (Register here:

<https://www.laportelibrary.org/event/curious-kids-innovation-camp-7614>)

Some of the most important inventions were made by people who were curious, challenged rules, had wild ideas, and worked together. Get ready for silly challenges that will stretch your imagination. Purdue University Youth Development Extension Educator, Lauren Allison, will help lead us through activities from the Henry Ford Foundation Invention Convention program.



## LAPORTE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

**Breakfast with a Forester** | Arrow Head Country RC&D Forestry Committee would like to invite you to an informal breakfast with friends to discuss issues you may be having in your woodland areas. Foresters, including IDNR, Purdue, Consulting, and Industry Foresters, depending on the month, will be available for conversation and questions. Everyone is welcome - no reservations needed, just walk in sometime during that 1.5 hours and join us. No charge other than paying for whatever breakfast you order. Find more information on their [Facebook Page](#).

## LAPORTE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

**Pioneer Land Spinners** | February 10th from 11:00am-3:00pm, the spinners from Pioneer Land will be spinning yarn from natural fibers at the museum. They may even give you a try!  
<https://laportecountyhistory.org/event/>

## LAPORTE COUNTY FAIR

**Fair Dates: July 6th - 13th**

The first weekend will not have a carnival but will focus on 4-H and the exhibits we have.

Follow [LaPorte County Fair on Facebook](#) for more events and updates!

# ROBOTICS SPARK CLUB

## Upcoming Meetings

Mon Feb. 12

Tues Feb. 20

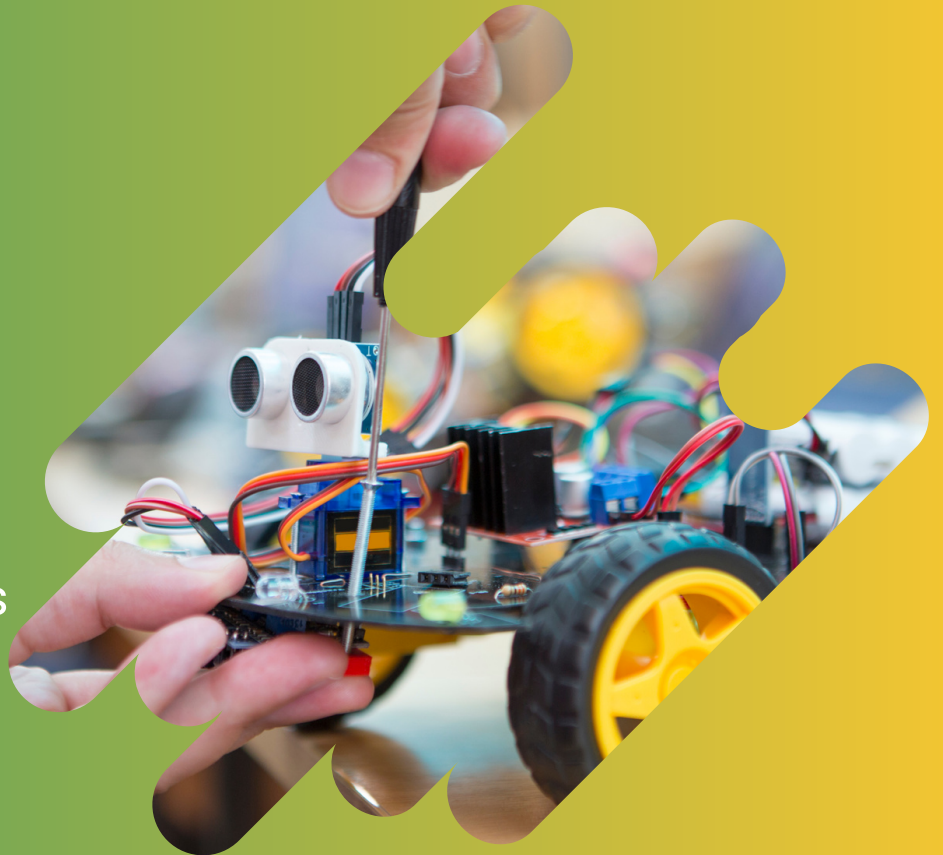
Mon Mar. 25

Tues Apr. 2



Available to all 3rd-12th graders  
Meet @ the Exchange classroom  
from 6:30PM - 7:30PM

For any questions, please contact the Extension Office at 219.324.9407





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★ **AMERICAN HERITAGE PROJECT** ★  
**WORKSHOP**

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**LOCATION: LAPORTE COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM**

**TIME: 9:30AM-10:30AM**

**2405 INDIANA AVE, SUITE 1  
LAPORTE, IN 46350**

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**FEBRUARY  
17  
SATURDAY**

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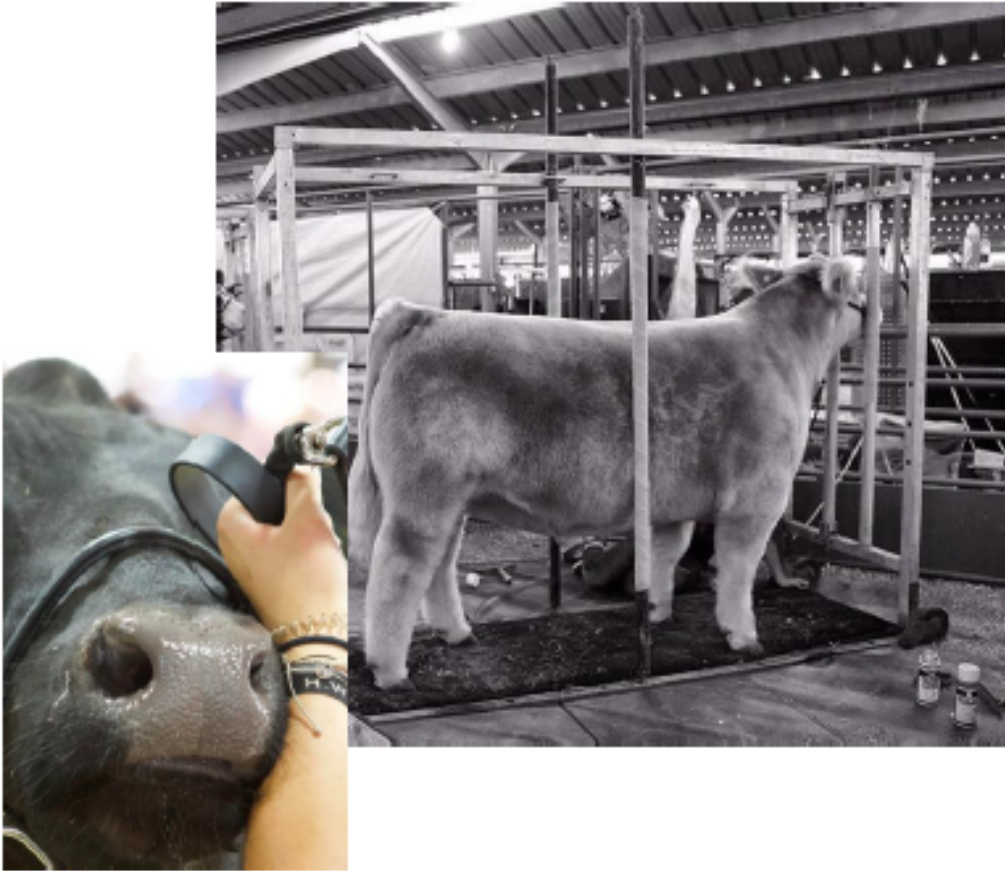
Take a tour of the museum with Museum Director and American Heritage project superintendent Danielle Adams. See some of the items that have been restored for museum exhibition and talk with Danielle about possible ideas for your 4-H Project.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CONTACT:  
LAUREN ALLISON  
LNALLISO@PURDUE.EDU**





**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup> AT 1PM**  
**4-H BEEF**  
**WORKSHOP**

**Hosted by the Porter County 4-H Beef Project  
& Richey Show Steers**

Join us for a hands-on workshop focused on helping 4-Hers learn about feeding and nutrition options as well as daily hair care to prepare for the upcoming show season.

- SULLIVAN SUPPLY trailer will be onsite with grooming supplies and equipment available for all species
- Prizes and giveaways

**4-H'ers from any county are welcome to  
attend this free workshop!**

\*\*the SULLIVAN SUPPLY Trailer will be on site from 10AM-3PM this day. Anyone with any species is welcome to shop at the trailer during this time. Equipment can be ordered ahead of time for pickup this day as well\*\*

**Key Speakers:**

**Wess Richey**

**Shane Richey**

**Topics include  
Feeding, Nutrition,  
& Daily Hair Care**

**Sullivan Supply  
trailer will be  
onsite**

**Complementary  
food and  
beverages will be  
provided!**

**LOCATION:**

**MORGAN TOWNSHIP  
SCHOOL - AG BUILDING  
299 East St Rd 49  
Valparaiso, IN 46383**

**DATE:**

**Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>  
Starting at 1PM**



# **Wearable Art Workshop**

**Tuesday February 27 from**

**6PM - 7PM**



**@ the Extension Office**

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**Bring fabric/clothing item  
or purchase an item with  
us for \$2**



# FORCES Of Nature

**\$ 35**

**January**  
Join us as we kick-off our Forces of Nature SPARK Club! We will be taking a deeper dive into the Wildlife and Soil & Water Conservation 4-H Projects. Come to the Goose Pond FWA property to learn about and see a restored wetland, migratory birds, and the flora/fauna of this unique Hoosier property!  
January 17th - Virtual Session 7pm-8:30pm  
January 20th - Goose Pond Fish & Wildlife Area 10am-3pm

**February**  
Join us at IU's Geology Learning Lab! One part each museum, lab, and classroom, you can compare thousands of rocks, minerals, and fossils, create art, and participate in interactive activities. 450 million years of Hoosier history will be at our fingertips as we explore Geology, Weather & Climate Science, and more!  
February 21st - Virtual Session 7pm-8:30pm  
February 24th - Indiana University Geology Lab 10am-3pm

**March**  
Join us as we learn more about Forestry and Weather & Climate Science! We will use tools to help with tree identification, learn about producing maple syrup, the role of slopes in microclimates and even learn about sandstone geology at Turkey Run State Park. We will also discuss career opportunities in both of these fields of study.  
March 13th - Virtual Session 7pm-8:30pm  
March 16th - Turkey Run State Park 10am-3pm

**April**  
Exploration of benthic macroinvertebrates like what is the significance of a left or right handed snail for water quality? Local limestone geology and soil formation will be discussed. From the Indiana 4-H soil and water science project curriculum, we will conduct the clod comparison activity and learn about soil health.  
April 3rd - Virtual Session 7pm-8:30pm  
April 6th - DePauw Nature Park 10am-3pm

**Lots of Ways to Participate!!**

- 1 Go all in! Attend all 4 virtual sessions and all 4 in-person sessions
- 2 Attend whatever sessions that fit into your schedule!
- 3 Busy, but still crave the knowledge? All virtual sessions will be recorded & you can watch them at your leisure

**REGISTER NOW**  
FORCESOFNATURE.4HONLINE.COM

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# AG WOMEN 2024 | ENGAGE CONFERENCE

YOUNG LADIES IN AG FORUM

**February 21, 2024**

Open to Young Ladies Grades 8-12 & College

**Grand Wayne Convention Center  
Fort Wayne, IN**

**Register Now!**

February 21, 2024  
12:30- 8:00 PM EST

2024 Young Ladies in Ag Forum  
Grand Wayne Convention Center  
Fort Wayne, Indiana  
Open to all Young Ladies  
Grades 8-12 & College!  
Register Now:  
[purdue.link/YLAF2024REG](https://purdue.link/YLAF2024REG)  
Cost : \$25 per person  
Dinner Included

**Sessions Include**

- Interviewing Skills
- Jobs in Agriculture
- Business Professional Dress/ Meeting Etiquette and Attire
- Exploring Your Next Steps: University Panel
- Exploring Your Non-Traditional Next Steps : Trade Schools/ Apprenticeships Panel
- Indiana State FFA Officer
- Entrepreneurship Keynote: Dirt Darlin' Emily Stewart

# State 4-H Poultry Workshop

Saturday, February 17th, 2024  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Community Building  
Bartholomew County 4-H Fairgrounds, Columbus, Indiana  
Location: 750 S 200 West Columbus, IN  
On Hwy 11 South, about 3 miles from Exit #68, I-65  
Go to [www.bartholomewcountyfair.com](http://www.bartholomewcountyfair.com) for directions.

Food and Drinks available for purchase throughout the workshop  
Exhibition type birds and standard-bred chicks will be available for purchase.

Check-in begins at 9:30, please use the link below to register. For questions or more information contact: Matt John – 812.603.7722 or [mjohn2@ivytech.edu](mailto:mjohn2@ivytech.edu)

**Workshop Topics**

- Exhibiting Poultry from a Judges Perspective
- \*Hands on experience for 4-H members – **Do not bring your own poultry**
- Nutrition and Feeding for Exhibition Poultry
- Protecting Your Poultry
- Parent/Leader/Superintendent Round table discussion

Use the link below to register by Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>. Registration is required and will help our club plan for food.

[https://2024state4-hpoultryworkshop.4honline.com/#/public/ins\\_o/evt\\_1gw](https://2024state4-hpoultryworkshop.4honline.com/#/public/ins_o/evt_1gw)

# INDIANA 4-H NEEDS YOU TO BE A BROADBAND INFLUENCER

**What is an Indiana 4-H Broadband Influencer?**

- 1 Checks your internet speed [pcrd.purdue.edu/speedtest](http://pcrd.purdue.edu/speedtest)
- 2 Validates it on the FCC website [broadbandmap.fcc.gov](http://broadbandmap.fcc.gov)
- 3 Share what they've done with others
- 4 Reports work in the Broadband Influencers event in 4-H Online

Once you have completed all 4, you will receive your Broadband Influencer Pin and be eligible to win an iPad!

**Why should I be an Indiana 4-H Broadband Influencer?**

There are a lot of different ways to connect to the internet. Some of them are very fast, and some of them are very slow. We would like everyone in the state of Indiana to be able to use the internet at fast speeds. While it might help you play games and watch videos more easily, it also can help people who are looking for jobs or trying to communicate, do business, or do schoolwork.

The FCC, or Federal Communication Commission, can't help everyone get fast internet unless they know all the places the internet is installed and how fast it is in each location.

**I have more questions!**

For more information contact your county extension 4-H educator OR email: [state4hleader@purdue.edu](mailto:state4hleader@purdue.edu)

Indiana 4-H Broadband Influencers will be asked to write a short essay about their experience. The Broadband Influencer Program is a Purdue Broadband Team initiative.

# Indiana 4-H STEM Showcase

March 9  
Indiana State Museum

## Indiana 4-H Robotics Competition



Robotics teams and clubs can compete in the spring Indiana 4-H Robotics Competition using any brand of robot. Review the new challenges on the [Indiana 4-H Robotics page](#). Contact your county 4-H Extension Educator about volunteering to lead a team or joining a team.

Register teams via [4-H Online](#).

## Do You Want To Learn More About 4-H STEM Programs?

Even if they are not competing, 4-H members can bring their families and friends to the Indiana State Museum for the STEM Showcase to celebrate and explore 4-H STEM programs. Check out the Invention Convention and Indiana 4-H Robotics competitions in the Great Hall and learn how to get involved with these programs. Engage in hands-on STEM activities. Explore the Indiana State Museum galleries and exhibits, including the Towers of Tomorrow LEGO® Bricks exhibit.

Register 4-H members via [4-H Online](#).

## Indiana 4-H Invention Convention Competition

Invention Convention is a global K-12 invention education program that activates STEM + Invention + Entrepreneurship (STEMIE) learning to instill problem identification, problem-solving, and creativity skills for life. Student inventors can present their inventions to a panel of expert judges and engage with other student inventors at the first Indiana 4-H Invention Convention State Competition. Exceptional projects may be eligible for awards and advancement to the RTX Invention Convention U.S. Nationals at The Henry Ford in Dearborn, Michigan. Learn more about this program on the [Indiana 4-H Invention Convention page](#).

Register inventors via [4-H Online](#).



INDIANA 4-H  
iNVENTION  
CONVENTION

