



Extension Sheboygan County

4-H Youth Development

Sarah Tarjeson, 4-H Youth Development Educator and Linda Robson, 4-H Youth Development Program Coordinator

A New Way to Join 4-H: Sheboygan County Families Have Options

Starting February 1, 2019 Sheboygan County youth have two membership options to join the 4-H program. As always, youth may enroll in one of 29 strong “multi-project clubs” that our program supports. In addition, families and youth may now join 4-H through a **Special Interest (SPIN) Membership**. This new option is part of an effort to build membership and accommodate today’s busy and diverse families and children.

SPIN Membership allows youth to build friendships, master new skills, practice independence, and give back to their community through one of its county-wide projects. As a SPIN Member, a young person will enroll and select one, or more, of the county-wide projects to participate in. SPIN members will meet their needs for belonging and leadership through the county-wide project experiences rather than with a year-long club. The option of SPIN membership requires a less intensive commitment of time and still allows members the benefits of 4-H.

“New families are often overwhelmed by the 4-H Program,” said Nancy Brown, 4-H General Leader of the Madison All Stars 4-H Club. “This option allows them to get started at a more manageable pace and then, perhaps later, expand on their experience.” According to 4-H staff in Sheboygan County, the new option is designed to prevent the loss of members who want to participate but also want to be active with school clubs, sports, other youth programming, or even part-time jobs.

In addition to participating and completing all of the required countywide project experiences, 4-H SPIN Members must also:

1. Complete a 4-H Project Record.
2. Participate in a show, competition, demonstration or other event showcasing the content or skills learned throughout participation in the project. This may or may not be the Sheboygan County Fair.
3. 4-H SPIN Membership costs \$20 per member or \$50 per family payable to the Sheboygan County 4-H Leaders Association.
4. Agree to/follow all expectations and policies of the Sheboygan County 4-H Program.

During this pilot year of the program, SPIN Membership is only available for the following projects/groups in Sheboygan County:

- Sheboygan County 4-H Cat Project
- Sheboygan County 4-H Dairy Project
- Sheboygan County 4-H Goat Project
- Sheboygan County 4-H Horse and Pony Project
- Sheboygan County 4-H Livestock Project
- Sheboygan County 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Project
- Sheboygan County 4-H Shooting Sports
- Sheboygan County 4-H Youth Association/Youth Leadership (grades 7 and up only)

According to Sarah, “There are definitely pros and cons for both of these membership options, but both options provide young people an opportunity for belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity. Families need options and Sheboygan County 4-H will deliver!”



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SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

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IMPACT
REPORT

Community Development Education

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Kevin Struck, Community Development Educator

The January 17th *Random Lake Sounder* featured an article written by Kevin about [the challenge of supporting a full-size grocery store in the Village of Random Lake](#). The responses to a pair of questions on a community-wide opinion survey this past fall overwhelmingly showed that residents missed not having a grocery store.

“The 2007 survey my office did showed the same thing,” Kevin told a committee of local Random Lake officials. He then facilitated a discussion about the issue, and it became clear that attempts had been made to attract a grocery store without success. The group then explored some of the reasons why supporting a grocery store in a small village was so challenging, such as:

- Population/trade area too small to support a grocery store
- About half of all employed Random Lake residents work outside the Village, making it convenient to pick up groceries in West Bend, Sheboygan, etc. on their way home from work
- Gas stations have morphed into convenience stores, which now offer enough of the basics to tide people over until their next trip to a larger store
- Some people aren’t comfortable making certain purchases in a small town store

“These are all valid points,” Kevin acknowledged. “I’m concerned that the average resident may not know the history and the obstacles. Considering how many people took the time to fill out the survey and express their concerns about a grocery store, I think there needs to be some outreach to let residents know that Village officials have listened and have tried different things. Maybe an article in the *Sounder* expanding on our discussion tonight would be a good idea.”

With a little research help from *Sounder* editor Gary Feider, Kevin wrote the 1,100 word article and was gratified to see it appear on the front page. “Nice recap of store quest,” County Board member Bill Goehring, who is also a *Sounder* reader, emailed Kevin a few days after the article appeared.



Site of the former Z Market grocery store, one block north of downtown Random Lake.

Extension Sheboygan County

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Mike Ballweg, Agriculture Agent

Sheboygan County Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) are individuals who have an interest in horticulture and have taken Master Gardener training offered by UW-Extension. MGVs share their time and knowledge with others. It is the acquisition of knowledge, the skill of gardening and the giving back to the community that distinguishes UW-Extension MGVs from other gardening organizations.



2018 Sheboygan County Master Gardener Volunteer Level 1 Class

The **Master Gardener General Training (Level 1) Program** consists of 36 hours of in-depth training on a variety of horticultural topics. Classes are delivered using a combination of online learning and classroom instruction.

Level 1 training ran for twelve weeks beginning September 11, 2018 and included the following topics:

- Botany, Herbaceous Plants, Backyard Wildlife, Entomology, Plant Pathology,
- Soil and Composting, Landscaping, Vegetables, Native Plants, Weed, Pest Control and Phenology,
- Fruit for the Home Gardener, Lawn Care, Master Gardener Volunteer Program

To become a certified Master Gardener, participants must:

- Authorize a background check, since Master Gardeners work with children through senior citizen age groups
- Complete the General Training Level 1 Course
- Achieve a 70% or better score on the final exam
- Complete 24 hours of volunteer service

2018 Highlights and Outcomes

1. Twenty-five people successfully completed the 2018 MGV Level 1 training in December of 2018. 100% of survey respondents rated the Level 1 Class as either Excellent or Good. Comments included:
 - Lots of learning and fun—and not stressful!
 - I learned so much! The class was engaging and also informative.
2. In 2018, Sheboygan County Master Gardener Volunteers reported 3,328 hours of community service, worth a value of over \$79,872.
3. There are currently 102 members in the Sheboygan County Master Gardener Association.

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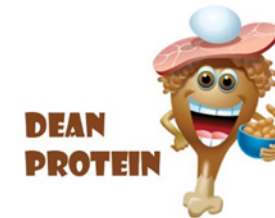
Family Living and FoodWise

Amanda Miller & Janeth Orozco, FoodWise

Kindergarteners “Discover” MyPlate



**REGGIE
VEGGIE**



**DEAN
PROTEIN**



**FARRAH
FRUIT**

“Because of this class, my son
loves to eat fruits and veggies!”
- Parent of Kindergarten Participant



**JANE
GRAIN**



**MARY
DAIRY**



Parent Evaluations indicate:



Child seems **more willing** to taste new foods or foods that he or she **usually doesn't eat.**



Child asked parent to buy a fruit or vegetable that they **don't usually buy**