



WISCONSIN 4-H FOUNDATION

Wisconsin 4-H Foundation
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April 24, 2019

Elmer G. Biddick Charitable Foundation
Attn: Brian Nodolf, President
11623 State Road 80
Livingston, WI 53554

Dear Brian:

As a past supporter of the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, you have already invested in the positive development of our youth. Thank you for your commitment!

The Wisconsin 4-H Foundation works with partners, like you, to provide resources so 4-H can create cutting-edge, relevant programs for young people to learn real-world skills that will prepare them for the challenges of today and tomorrow.

As you are aware, the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation exists to provide essential support for the 4-H Youth Development program. You are an important partner in providing support for a network of Cooperative Extension staff and more than 20,000 adult and youth volunteers in shaping nearly 150,000 youth who take part in 4-H activities throughout the state.

4-H has been part of the Wisconsin landscape for more than a century but is as relevant now as in 1914. The four H's stand for Head, Heart, Hands and Health, and are a reminder that 4-H is more than a single project or activity. 4-H is about developing life-skills that are used to create a better place for everyone to live. Our 4-H clover, with its prominent Hs, is the visual reminder of the importance of learning, growing and reaching.

With your help, the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation supports regional and statewide leadership development programs like Wisconsin 4-H Youth conference where junior high youth explore career options and expand their leadership potential; STEM activities that encourage youth to use math and engineering to build robots, and safety programs that help young people to protect themselves and participate in programs safely. Your investment has allowed 4-H to provide and to expand programming across the state, and we would like to share some of the impacts your generosity has had.

This year we were able to award grants to statewide and multi-county projects that totaled nearly \$350,000; that total is double what we were able to do just two years ago. Your support provided stipends for 4-Hers travelling to national conferences and contests; for kids of military families to attend camp when family resources might be limited; and for arts and communications programming like ArtBEAT!, a weekend arts immersion for grades three through five, that features an introduction to a variety of arts programming including music, drama, visual arts and art in nature.

But it's not just about the programming. It's about results. Research shows that 4-H members are:

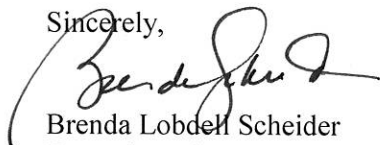
- TWO TIMES MORE LIKELY to get better grades in school
- TWO TIMES MORE LIKELY to plan to go to college
- 41% LESS LIKELY to engage in risky behaviors
- 25% MORE LIKELY to positively contribute to their communities

This impact is critical in a day when there are so many negative influences pulling on our youth. 4-H strives to equip our young people to make good choices, to embrace the concept of character and to understand their roles and responsibilities as young adults who will lead us in coming decades.

Wisconsin 4-H works to engage youth in leadership training, community-building experiences and experiential-learning opportunities to better their own lives and the lives of the people around them. Your support allows this to happen.

I'm proud of our 4-H youth and hope you will join me by continuing to support 4-H so we can continue to grow true leaders.

Sincerely,



Brenda Lobdell Scheider
Executive Director

PS: We value your support and look forward to working with you in 2019! Your gift makes a difference. Just read a note I received from one many 4-H youth you supported with your generous contribution:

Dear Ms. Scheider,

With my teammates, I had the chance to participate in the National 4-H Livestock Skillathon Competition in Louisville, Kentucky. Skillathon is a competition that requires a team to be well-versed in all aspects of the livestock industry. Competitions have various tasks that test livestock knowledge including breed identification; meat quality assurance; mathematical equations used in production; feed and management practices and equipment, and more. Wisconsin finished in the top ten, and I was honored to place 18th and receive All American honors.

About six years ago I was approached by a family friend asking if I would be interested in participating in some of the first livestock skillathon and quiz bowl contests in my county. Fast forward through many hours of practicing and competing, and I am proud to report that I have had the privilege to represent Wisconsin at three national contests. I know that the local and state contests, as well as the national competition delegations, are supported by the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation and the donors who provide the resources. And I am grateful for that support.

The contests have allowed me to realize my passion for agriculture and education. Through these competitions I have developed life skills that will help with future endeavors. I know that I am a better communicator and decision-maker because of training to create and deliver oral reasons. I use time more effectively because of the time constraints on many parts of the contests. And I understand the value of working and training toward a goal because of the preparation needed to be a competitor at the national level.

I would not be who I am today without the knowledge and skills that I have gained in these contests. Most importantly, the people I have met will be important parts of my life forever. I was privileged to work with dedicated adults, who helped me gain confidence and resiliency. I hope to be the same kind of positive role model and mentor to youth in the future.

Thank you so much for helping me attain my goals and develop my skills. Without generous sponsors like you, I, and other Wisconsin 4-H members, would not have these opportunities. Your kindness and support are impacting all of us.

Sincerely,

*Morgan Fitzsimmons
Iowa County 4-H Alumna*

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Generating resources to invest in the positive development of 4-H youth.

A 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Federal tax identification number 39-0914868.

Contributions to the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation are deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law.