



Positive Youth Development Programming: October-December 2025



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Needs Assessment

- Youth have an opportunity to explore their spark(s)
- Mentorship programs where older youth (ages 15-24) can mentor or volunteer for younger generations.
- Youth engagement increases in county level programming

Updates from the community needs forum:

- Attended the Dodge County Benefits and Wellness Fair. We had a display of Extension programs and offerings for the county employees. Shared an educational coloring book for families with young children to talk about mental health issues with their children.
- Attended sessions at the National 4-H Educators conference to learn about partners and resources for teaching youth about mental health.

National 4-H Week:

National 4-H week is a great week to promote what happens in the 4-H program.

- Created several news releases that were sent to the media, a club participated in the community service which was promoted in the newsletter and on Facebook,
- Did a 40 minute live stream program on Hometown today Hometown today program on WBEV radio streaming live at <https://dailydodge.com/audio/hometown-today-audio/> on October 9, 2025
- Asked for participant feedback on the Dodge 4-H Facebook and Extension Facebook. Prizes were given to the people who responded to Facebook prompts on the 4-H and Extension Facebook page.

Club Officer Training:

An officer training session for 4-H youth club officers, where 22 participants—ranging from grades 3 through high school and including a few adult leaders—engaged in role-specific workshops and a general leadership session. Participants learned key skills such as parliamentary procedure, meeting facilitation, financial management, and teamwork strategies. **To build confidence, strengthen club operations, and empower youth to take active leadership roles in their clubs.**

Participant Feedback Highlights:

- **Skill Development:** Youth reported learning how to write and present secretary reports, manage club finances responsibly, and use parliamentary terminology effectively.
- **Teamwork & Communication:** Many noted the importance of working together, speaking up, and using icebreakers to engage shy members.
- **General Session Impact:** Participants appreciated learning how teamwork improves club dynamics, how to resolve conflicts, and how to make meetings more inclusive and productive.
- **Overall Experience:** Comments included “really fun,” “helpful and fun,” “good session,” and “this helped me quite a bit,” reflecting strong engagement and satisfaction.

Sparks Research and Teaching

- Continuing to work with a couple of colleagues on Sparks Lesson plan to share statewide to help youth identify their sparks.
- Focused the Fall Cloverbud series on Sparks for youth to try out some of the different 4-H project areas.

Current Projects:

- Achievement
- Member Experiences Application and Interviews
- Re-enrollment
- New Family Gathering