



## ***Ideas for Educational Speakers and Trips***



*Camryn Krause, VISTA, UW-Extension, Fond du Lac County 2012* The University of Wisconsin-Extension does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender/sex, creed, disability, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital or prenatal status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs or activities, or in the provision of services.

## **Ideas for Educational Speakers and Trips**

Clubs are always looking for new ideas for fun and educational things to do. A great way to keep people engaged in 4-H and club activities is to host a speaker at a meeting or take a trip as a club.

In order to make sure that all members are included and engaged, it is good to incorporate a variety of areas of interest when scheduling speakers and trips. Maybe you can invite someone to speak to the club about meteorology and take a trip together to a local dairy farm. All members might not be equally engaged in each activity, but more members will have their interests met if you keep mixing it up.

Ask members and families if they have ideas for speakers or trips. Family members can be a great and accessible resource. Retirees are also great people to consider contacting. Many people are able to devote more time to a hobby or passion and are eager to share their knowledge. They may have a more flexible schedule, too. Local businesses and organizations are more often than not willing to help out groups that serve kids. It helps them spread awareness about what they do, and helps educate youth.

*Keep these things in mind when trying to come up with educational opportunities for your club:*

Get ideas from other clubs

Collaborate with other clubs to lower costs and spread knowledge

Look outside the county

Utilize club and community resources

*And, most importantly:*

Think outside the box

Don't be afraid to ask!

### **Things Clubs in Fond du Lac County Have Done in the Past:**

Learned about living in another country – contact high schools, colleges, or universities in the area to see if there are any exchange students who could come in and speak to your club about their home country.

Learned about model and remote-controlled airplanes – ask project leaders to present on their area of expertise or an area of interest.

Held a club picnic at a local park – try holding an outdoor meeting with games and/or hiking afterwards.

Learned about healthy eating – invite a dietician, or other health expert.

Toured a local manufacturing facility – learn how things we buy are made, at a local center of business.

Visited to the NEW Zoo in Suamico – look outside the county for interesting and fun trip ideas.

Went to the YMCA – check for group discounts at local places with great facilities.

Held a meeting at a roller skating rink – conduct the business of the meeting and then have fun as a club. Try other places like ice skating rinks or bowling alleys.

Went to a Timber Rattlers game – bond as a club and get great seats to a great American tradition. Check for group discounts and see if you can coordinate with other Fond du Lac County clubs.

Held a meeting at a member's farm – learn more about families in the club and learn from them, too.

Went to Madison to see the UW Band perform – enjoy some music and tour the state capitol.



### **More Ideas**

***The following local organizations and businesses have expressed interest in speaking to or hosting a 4-H club. Use this list to generate ideas for other businesses and organizations that you could contact. Be creative and don't be afraid to ask!***

#### **Alliant Energy**

*SpeakersBureau@alliantenergy.com*

They are available to talk about electricity, energy conservation and renewable energy topics and possibly accommodate other energy-related topics on an ad hoc basis if requested.

#### **Agnesian HealthCare**

*Contact Terri St. Lawrence (920) 926-4961*

Agnesian is proud to offer two educational opportunities to the community for consideration: Journeys: a health resource center: Agnesian HealthCare offers a wide variety of educational classes at St. Agnes Hospital, Ripon Medical Center and Waupun Memorial Hospital. At any time, you can view what our upcoming offerings are by visiting [www.agnesian.com](http://www.agnesian.com) under Classes & Events, then Community Calendar.

Speakers Placement Service: Agnesian HealthCare also offers a free speakers placement service that provides a wide range of topics and presenters that come directly to a meeting or other function.

#### **Marsh Haven Nature Center**

*Contact Renee Wahlen Tillema at [director@marshhaven.com](mailto:director@marshhaven.com) or 920.324.5818*

Marsh Haven is located at the north end of the famous Horicon Marsh, just 3.5 miles east of Waupun, Wisconsin on Highway 49. Our all-volunteer, community supported center features displays and exhibits that help depict the history and wildlife of Horicon Marsh.

Marsh Haven Nature Center offers unique environmental education programs with a focus on experiential, hands-on learning. The goal at Marsh Haven is to provide quality environmental education to children and adults, individuals and organizations. With ideal indoor and outdoor facilities, Marsh Haven is able to provide programs lead by the resident naturalist, or offer opportunities for self-guided programs.

#### **Fond du Lac Humane Society**

*Contact Renee Webb at [petcare@fdlhumane.net](mailto:petcare@fdlhumane.net) or 920-922-8873*

Fond du Lac Humane Society is happy to offer tours of the shelter in conjunction with dog safety and bite prevention education for youth groups of all ages.

**Glacier Ridge Animal Farm**

Contact [glaciterridgefarm@aol.com](mailto:glaciterridgefarm@aol.com) or 920.688.3488

Glacier Ridge Animal Farm is a bison farm in Van Dyne and home to over 30 different kinds of animals. They also provide homes to farm "pets" that for whatever reason can no longer be cared for or kept in their current situation. They are open to the public May through October and have a 14 acre animal park with groomed trails.

**Free SPIRIT (Special People In Riding Therapy) Riders**

Contact Mary Narges at [mnarges@me.com](mailto:mnarges@me.com) or 920-924-9920

Free SPIRIT Riders was founded in 1987 with a commitment to enriching the lives of children and adults with disabilities through safe, therapeutic interaction with horses. They are uniquely qualified and prepared to offer sport and recreation to those whose challenges prevent them from engaging in activities so readily available to others.

**Marigold Yoga, LLC**

Contact Jenny Tumas at [jenny@marigoldyoga.com](mailto:jenny@marigoldyoga.com) or 920.858.1078

Jenny Tumas at Marigold Yoga, LLC in Ripon would be happy to share info with a 4H group about yoga's health benefits and stress reduction benefits.

**B-104.7**

Contact Marty [Schibbelhut](mailto:marty@b104online.com) at [marty@b104online.com](mailto:marty@b104online.com)

B-104.7 #1 For Hits and Fun would be happy to speak to a 4-H club about radio broadcasting and may be able to set up a visit.

**Just Fare Market**

Contact Carol Smith at [info@justfare.org](mailto:info@justfare.org)

Just Fare Market has a Youth Ambassador program and they are able to present programs about Fair Trade to youth groups. A field trip experience of our Fair Trade market for a group of 10-12 individuals is also a possibility for smaller clubs.

**Ripon Land Surveying, Division of D.M. Green and Associates, Inc.**

Dennis M. Green at [dennis@riponls.com](mailto:dennis@riponls.com)

Ripon Land Surveying is built on the principles of providing reliable professional engineering and land surveying services. The company provides all types of commercial and residential surveys including: boundary surveys, certified survey maps subdivision plats, cemetery plats, building design, and environmental assessments. The surveying field is very interesting and important and someone would be glad to speak to a 4-H club about their work and services.