

MERRILL FOCUS

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Youths learn about 4-H opportunities

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FOR MERRILL FOCUS

Lincoln County 4-H celebrated National 4-H Week from Oct. 3 to 9 with a bowling event, displays around the county and a poster contest.

To wrap up and continue the promotion of 4-H, Lincoln County 4-H and UW-Extension hosted Project Discovery Day on Oct. 9 at St. Stephen's Church in Merrill. Project Discovery Day is a time for 4-H and other community youths to learn new skills and have fun exploring the many opportunities the 4-H program in Lincoln County offers.

Twelve adult and youth instructors shared their knowledge with 39 youths and three adults. Instructors and assistants for the day were Jack Burkam, Marge Burkam, Norm Haskins, Celina Hawker, Julie Hawker, Totsy Kleinschmidt, Janet Kluttermann, Amanda Kostman, Jane Schulz, Joanna Skluzacek, Mary Sosnovske and Lisa Woelbing. Eight 4-H members brought 10 friends to the event so they could learn about 4-H and the various project opportunities available.

Topics covered a wide



Mary Sosnovske, 4-H volunteer leader, gives directions to participants in the "Sun Catcher Wind Chime" workshop.



variety of subjects including acting, introduction to the dog project, weaving a heart or tote basket, creating a glass block light, learning about early airplane history and flight basics through experimenting with various airplanes, creating sun catcher wind

chimes, exploring wind as an alternative power source, and making a dream catcher key chain.

Project Discovery Day is designed to increase participants' knowledge about various 4-H projects, provide an opportunity for youths and adults to work together, and encourage participants to share what they learned with their club or other project members. This event is a great example of youths learning important life skills such as decision making, problem solving, communication, teamwork through their 4-H projects and other opportunities.

This event was a great success and provided a fun-filled day of learning to end National 4-H Week. Watch for more information about a second Project Discovery

Day to be held in February or March in Tomahawk.

Lincoln County 4-H is open to all youths in kindergarten through one year after high school graduation, regardless of where they live. Becoming a 4-H member is free with minimal costs for participating in countywide activities; some individual clubs require dues.

For more information about joining 4-H, call the Lincoln County UW-Extension at 715-539-1072 or visit the website www.lincolncounty4h.com.

Debbie Moellendorf is department head for 4-H Youth Development at Lincoln County UW-Extension.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Celina Hawker, 4-H dog project member, standing, helps participants make their own dog treats as part of the "Dog Project Introduction" workshop. Celina provided an introduction to dog agility, obedience and showmanship portions of the dog project.



Chase Stahnke tries out the model airplane he built during the "Early Airplane History and Flight Basics" workshop taught by Jack Burkam and Norm Haskins, 4-H volunteer leaders.