

PURDUE EXTENSION TIPPECANOE COUNTY



The Tippecanoe 4-H Fair is more than an event, it's a collection of memories that shape who we are. Each moment tells a story of dedication, friendship, and tradition. These snapshots remind us why the fair holds such a special place in our hearts. It's where memories are made, celebrated, and cherished for years to come.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCE

PURDUE EXTENSION HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES PROVIDES EDUCATION TO INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES IN EACH OF INDIANA'S DIVERSE COMMUNITIES. WE BRING UNIVERSITY INFORMATION TO THE LOCAL LEVEL - BOTH IN PERSON AND ONLINE - TO HELP PEOPLE STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS, EAT SMART, IMPROVE HEALTH, AND ACHIEVE FINANCIAL WELLNESS.

AI WORKSHOP AT SNEB ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Brock presented a 3-hour Artificial Intelligence Hands-On Workshop at the Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior (SNEB) Annual Conference in Indianapolis. This session introduced nutrition and health educators from across the country to practical AI tools, demonstrating how emerging technologies can enhance their programming, planning, and community outreach efforts.

4-H FAIR JUDGING

As part of our local 4-H Fair, Brock served as a judge for Health Posters and Sports Posters. These exhibits showcased youth creativity and knowledge, and the judging process allowed our educator to engage directly with young participants and support their learning and development.

BLENDER BIKE AT THE COUNTY FAIR

Teaming up with the Community Wellness Coordinator, Brock brought the Blender Bike to the county fairgrounds. Fairgoers had the opportunity to pedal their way to smoothies while learning about calories, physical activity, and healthy recipes.



Brock judging the Health Posters and Sports Posters project at the Tippecanoe County 4-H Fair!
Photo credit: Amanda Graupner



Brock Turner volunteering at the Indianapolis State Fair at the STEM station located in the Purdue Extension Building.
Photo credit: Brock Turner

INDIANA STATE FAIR- STEM ENGAGEMENT

Brock traveled to the Indiana State Fair, working in the Extension Building to lead STEM activities for youth. These hands-on experiences sparked curiosity and encouraged problem-solving in a fun and interactive environment.

FALL PROGRAM PLANNING UNDERWAY

Behind the scenes, Brock dedicated time to preparing for two major health education programs launching soon: Be Heart Smart in September and Matter of Balance in October. Get on the list for these FREE programs ASAP!

COACHING YOUTH SPORTS

Promoting Physical Activity: In addition to Extension programming, Brock makes an important impact in the community by coaching youth soccer, flag football, and tackle football on weekends. These

volunteer roles promote physical activity, teamwork, and confidence among young athletes—highlighting the powerful connection between sports, health, and youth development.



Brock Turner and Betsy Coffing helping fairgoers pedal a fruit smoothie at the Tippecanoe County 4-H Fair.
Photo credit: Holly Sietsma

COMMUNITY CHILDCARE

PURDUE EXTENSION IS ENHANCING CHILDCARE SUPPORT BY ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF PROVIDERS, OFFERING RELEVANT TRAINING, AND FOSTERING CONNECTIONS WITHIN THE CHILDCARE COMMUNITY. THESE EFFORTS AIM TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF CHILDCARE, ACCESS TO RESOURCES, AND PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS. CHILDCARE PROVIDERS OFTEN WORK IN ISOLATION, FACING CHALLENGES IN IDENTIFYING AND UTILIZING AVAILABLE RESOURCES.

Purdue Extension Community Childcare Educators were thrilled to host a Lakeshore training on intentional outdoor play on July 12 for Tippecanoe County early childcare providers. Participants walked away with new strategies to enhance outdoor learning, and each received either a mud kitchen or a professional development stipend to take back to their programs!

To keep the momentum going, Tippecanoe childcare educators have launched a Facebook group, Tippecanoe County Childcare Providers, exclusively for local childcare providers. The group is designed to share professional development opportunities from Purdue Extension, highlight educational resources, and create a supportive space where providers can connect, share ideas, and ask questions.

Our Community Childcare Team kicked off August at the Indiana State Fair, where they promoted HERO's Story Time with children and families. Educators read stories aloud, shared engaging books, and led fun hands-on activities that encouraged both learning and connection through play. Following the fair, extension educator, Wendy Collingwood, had the opportunity to present to 82 childcare providers at Right Steps Central location. The training focused on developmentally appropriate practices, giving providers practical strategies to support children's growth and learning in ways that align with their individual stages of development. Providers left with fresh ideas to bring



Community Childcare Director, Brianne Wrede, getting kids excited about books at the Indy State Fair!
Photo credit: Childcare Team

back to their classrooms and new tools to strengthen the quality of care in their programs.

To close out the month, educators partnered to offer Adult & Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED class for 17 local providers at no cost. This training not only gave participants the confidence and skills to respond in emergencies but also ensured that children

in our community are cared for by professionals equipped with critical life-saving knowledge. Through these events, our educators continued their commitment to supporting childcare providers and families with high-quality opportunities that strengthen classroom practice, child safety, and community connection. The Tippecanoe County Círculo de Cuidado reviewed the Work Ready Curriculum in Spanish. This is a curriculum that prepares high school students and adults for the work force. It has been available in English and has been recently translated to Spanish. If you work as a childcare provider in your home, a church, or in a center and have an interest in free childcare trainings, please reach out to extchildcare@purdue.edu. Available training courses currently include Adult and Pediatric CPR/First Aid/AED, Developmentally Appropriate Practices, Trauma Informed Care, Hero's Story Time, Professional Practices, Block Party, Intentional Play, Building Routines, Safe Sleep Matters, and Caring for Caregivers.



Tippecanoe County childcare providers gather for a training on Intentional Outdoor Play.
Photo credit: Childcare Team



4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



THE INDIANA 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT MISSION IS TO PROVIDE REAL-LIFE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES THAT DEVELOP YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WILL HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN THEIR COMMUNITIES AND THE WORLD.

The 2025 Tippecanoe County 4-H Fair was held from July 18th-25th with Pre Fair judging happening the week before. Over 1200 youth and families, 140 volunteers, and an awesome 4-H Team spent endless hours throughout the year making it a great success! Many thanks to the Tippecanoe County 4-H Exhibit Association for their time and dedication supporting our 4-H youth. The 2026 Tippecanoe County 4-H Fair will be held from July 17-25th with Pre Fair judging happening July 11th -17th. We are looking forward to seeing you then! In July, the Tippecanoe County Junior Leaders worked for two days setting out and picking up American Flags on the Veteran's graves in honor of Independence Day. Our group loves to give back to their community and this is one of their favorite ways to accomplish this!

After the Fair, Tippecanoe County 4-H Junior Leaders donated \$1000 and 2600 lbs of food to Food Finders. In the spring, Junior Leader President, Duncan Baitz, was granted a Yes! Grant through the Indiana 4-H Foundation to hold a "Canstruction" competition during the Fair. Local 4-H groups participated in this design and build competition to raise funds and food for the local organization. Thank you to everyone that participated or donated!

BECOME A JUNIOR LEADER!

Junior Leaders is a project that is offered through 4-H for any member that is in Grade 7 or above. Junior Leaders is based on community service opportunities, especially related to the 4-H program and the county fair. Junior Leaders also serve as mentors and role models for younger 4-H members by interacting with them and sharing their experiences with them.

In order to complete the Junior Leaders project, you need to gain 100 points or more. Junior Leaders earn points by volunteering at different events and attending meetings, approximately one hour of time equals 10 points. Additionally, if a Junior Leader earns more than 125 points, they qualify for the Junior Leader Achievement Trip.

If you or someone you know might be interested in this project, please reach out to our office at (765) 474-0793 to get involved today.



Junior Leader crew getting ready to serve up some delicious food at the Tippecanoe County 4-H Fair.
Photo credit: Dee Nicley



Junior Leader President, Duncan Baitz, presents Food Finders with a \$1000 check and 2600 lbs of food.
Photo credit: Baitz Family



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PALS campers and counselors playing a game of Turf Management Crab Soccer
Photo credit: Will Walls

Our 4-H Next Chapter Facilitator, Will Walls, was on campus a couple of times introducing Ag to Athletics to about 100 PALS (Purdue Athletes Life Success) campers this summer. The kids had the opportunity to plant grass seed and design their own soccer socks, which both they took home with them. The students would end their sessions with Will playing a game of Turf Management Crab Soccer. Will looks forward to returning as a session leader for PALS next summer. Will participated in the 2025 Summer 4-H "Advance" with other regional 4-H educators. This was a great opportunity for Will to learn from educators about successes and challenges happening with 4-H across the state, and refine his tool belt as an educator. The "Advance" got him excited to get students Beyond Ready for college and careers this school year.

As a part of the Next Chapter curriculum, Will helped chaperone the inaugural Summer Experience for Indiana 4-H. He and other regional educators took students to Purdue's College of Agriculture where they got a tour of the school and heard from the admissions office about how to prepare for college applications. They then took the students to Vincennes University, Vincennes Ag Center, and Vincennes Aviation Technology Center. The students enjoyed hearing about career possibilities in aviation and agriculture through Vincennes partnerships with Purdue and John Deere. Here the students also got to experience a taste of college life by eating in the dining hall and staying in dorm rooms.

Will is spending most of August working on curriculum creation and planning his Fall semester outreach schedule. So far, he will be introducing his Ag to Athletics programming to Big Brother Big Sister of Lafayette and The Good Samaritan Project.



Group photo of Next Chapter 4-Hers at Vincennes Ag Center.
Photo credit: Will Walls



PALS campers showing off the socks they designed.
Photo credit: Will Walls



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JOIN US!

BECOME A 4-H MEMBER IN TIPPECANOE COUNTY

Enrollment for Indiana 4-H begins October 1st and members are encouraged to be enrolled by January 15th to receive important updates. Drop/Add deadline for livestock and non-livestock projects will be May 15th.

The 4-H program fee is \$15 per child, and \$45 max per family. The program fees cover insurance, project curriculum development, and club enrichment activities.

The same enrollment dates will apply to Mini 4-H(K-2). However, there is no county program fee for Mini 4-H.

Please click on the following link for further instructions to enroll in 4-H for the 2024-2025 program year.

[Tippecanoe County 4-H Online Enrollment](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENTS FOR THE MONTHS OF SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

September

1st- OFFICE CLOSED

5th- Be Heart Smart (Must Register to Attend), Extension Office 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. (HHS)

12th- Be Heart Smart (Must Register to Attend), Extension Office 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. (HHS)

19th- Be Heart Smart (Must Register to Attend), Extension Office 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. (HHS)

23rd- Right from the Start: Developmentally Appropriate Practices for Your Program, Extension Office 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. (CC)

26th- Be Heart Smart (Must Register to Attend), Extension Office 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. (HHS)

29th- A Matter of Balance (Must Register to Attend), Extension Office 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (HHS)

October

1st- 4-H ENROLLMENT BEGINS!

3rd- A Matter of Balance (Must Register to Attend), Extension Office 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (HHS)

6th- A Matter of Balance (Must Register to Attend), Extension Office 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (HHS)

10th- A Matter of Balance (Must Register to Attend), Extension Office 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (HHS)

13th- A Matter of Balance (Must Register to Attend), Extension Office 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (HHS)

13th- OFFICE CLOSED

16th- Trunk or Treat, Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. (4-H)

17th- A Matter of Balance (Must Register to Attend), Extension Office 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (HHS)

18th- Sing, Dance, Create! Using the Arts for Social Emotional Learning, Extension Office 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. (CC)

20th- A Matter of Balance (Must Register to Attend), Extension Office 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (HHS)

24th- A Matter of Balance (Must Register to Attend), Extension Office 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (HHS)

Please call the Tippecanoe County Extension Office for any further information. (765)474-0793

Purdue University is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access University.



Extension

LET'S STAY TOGETHER.

**PURDUE EXTENSION
TIPPECANOE COUNTY OFFICE**

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