Hello! My name is Erin Holswade. I am starting as an AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) with the Passaic County 4-H program. While here I will be focusing on helping to organize, develop, and run science programming within the urban areas of the county. Growing up, I was involved in 4-H equestrian clubs in central Jersey, sparking my love for animals and the environment. Determined to conserve our resources, I went to Rutgers where I took a variety of science classes to complete my marine science degree. While in this position, I want to be able to show kids that science is more than just challenging; it can be fun, exciting, and interesting as well. This upcoming summer we hope to offer a Summer Science Camp for kids to be able to experiment with different areas in science from biology to chemistry to physics. Throughout this year, I hope to be able to create and continue fun activities so the youths of 4-H can explore the endless world of science as well as create bright futures for themselves and the world.

Hello! My name is Robert Salkowski and I am currently an AmeriCorps VISTA with the Passaic County 4-H Program. Throughout my time here, I will be focusing on the Healthy Living Program that will be available for youth in Passaic County. One of the projects I plan on initiating is Nickelodeon’s Day of Play. While working with 4-H, I will also be a Master of Public Health student at Montclair State University that is focusing on Community Health Education. My passion has always been to work with teens and advocate for their health. I hope to utilize the material inside the classroom and at 4-H to create programs that will spark youths’ interests in making health a fun activity! I’m really excited to be part of the 4-H team for 2013.
West Milford Autumn Lights Festival 2013

Another successful 4-H Fair at the 2013 West Milford Autumn Lights Festival. We would like to thank the West Milford Autumn Lights Festival Committee for their continued support each year. We would also like to thank everyone who helped out with set-up, displays, exhibits and just stopping by the tent to check us out.

We had over 100 exhibits on display by Passaic County 4-Her’s!

"All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them." ~Walt Disney
Club Update — West Milford Velveteen’s

Wow, it was a busy summer for the Velveteens at Windy Point Farm, our garden performed spectacularly. We could not count or weigh everything we harvested, but among the final tally was 80 pounds of beans, hundreds of tomatoes, scallions, sunflowers, nasturtiums, basil, bushels of peppers, 100 pounds of pears. We did have some failures as well. The zucchini, butternut squash and corn were planted too late and were munched on by a persistent groundhog. Overall, anyone who wanted to eat fresh organic food had the opportunity to do so. In 2014 we plan to learn how to take what we grow and turn it into dinner! Haley made 20 batches of pesto with all the basil and canned many of the beans. Matt and Murad have agreed to help the club with our nutrition goals in 2014. In October they became official 4-H Food and Fitness Ambassadors! They plan to teach what they learned. We are looking forward to good eats in 2014!

On the farm animal front, Haley’s quail and chickens grew up and every single hen she raised found a home. We learned it is much harder to place roosters. Despite winning the change in West Milford’s Chicken Ordinance, Brendon’s family still does not have his coop for the chickens he worked so hard to own, so his birds are on the farm. Brendan enjoyed meeting the Rockland County N.Y.4-H Dairy Princess, who taught him how to milk a cow recently. The fresh raw milk he brought back was delicious and many club-members who tried it said it was "amazing!"

This year’s Autumn Lights Festival/4-H Fair saw many exhibits, record books and chickens from our club. Later that week, we returned to the dam area and cleaned up the site from the 10,000 or so people that attended the ALF Festival. We are so proud of this year’s work in such a range of project areas. We attended the Sussex County Poultry Show, Halloween Happenings with the 4-H Lego Club of Sussex County and the International “Crop Walk”. A four-mile walk from I am so proud of Murad, Brendan, Rebecca, Mathew, and Amanda who completed the walk. The club raised $150.00 enough to meet the goal of sending livestock animals overseas.

On the business end, Mike’s Feed Farm is up and running with the Passaic County 4-H member 10% discount, but until some sort of ID card is in hand, you have to give the name of Celeste Hampton to be eligible for it. Mike’s Feed Farm has listed the Velveteens as a chick supplier, (Thanks Haley!) and is sponsoring the Velveteens first ever fund-raiser! We are hoping to have a micro-chipping event at Mikes Feed Farm in January, in conjunction with "Close to Home" dog rescue, who will be providing a vet technician to micro-chip any animal for $20.00. The club wants to have a bake sale in conjunction with this event to help raise money to attend 4-H National HQ in Washington D.C. next year.

It is with a heavy heart I announce that Lois has resigned from being the leader of the Cloverbuds, for personal reasons. Lucky for us both Samantha Forest and Elisabeth Scrimgour are stepping up to fill the slate for the 8 Cloverbuds meetings remaining. Lois has been a huge asset to this club and will be sorely missed, we might get other leaders, but we cannot fill her shoes.

Club Update— The Hoofers

Thanks to the efforts of Marycarmen, Kenny & the 4-H office, setting up flyers all over, we now have four new members! Not only that, Kyle and Michaela VanDerVelden's mom Debbie enrolled her triplets too! The new members are the triplets Evan, Zachary and Tyler. We also have Sierra and Savannah Bachmann, Angela Illuzzi, Nicole Swan and Laura Kendal. Welcome all!! We’re thrilled to have you join The Hoofers!!

Our first meeting was a tour of the barn. We checked out all the horses, the equipment and other items around the center. The next meeting we learned how to put halters on the horses and how to lead a horse the proper way.

Most of our members are a little wet behind the ears so I’ll be relying on my senior members Kyle and Michaela to give me a hand. New member Angela Illuzzi owns her own horse so I’ll be counting on her too. We’re looking forward to a fantastic year of learning, presentations and the county fair among other fun things with our new group of members!

"Always be a first-rate version of yourself, instead of a second-rate version of somebody else." ~Judy Garland
Club Update— Teen Crusaders

The 4H Passaic County Teen Crusaders kicked off the fall season with an eager desire to get back into action, and a busy schedule to fulfill. We give a warm welcome to our new members and congratulate our new club officers for their leadership commitments!

This past September, the Passaic County 4H Applebee’s Flapjack fundraiser put the Teen Crusaders’ waitressing skills to the test. The fundraiser was a great success and a memory to record in the book. This year’s Autumn Lights festival brought a myriad of displays to the exhibit table ranging from art to garden vegetables! After the exhibit, the Teen Crusaders remained active by entertaining younger children with temporary tattoos, sensory boxes, and prizes. Surrounded by different forms of art, activities, and fun, the Teen Crusaders returned home satisfied. The Geospatial Summit on GPS and GIS technologies gathered a few 4H’ers to the National Youth Conference Center, and Teen Crusaders Gianna and David were two of them. Gathered among young science enthusiasts, Gianna and David represented the state of New Jersey by participating in workshops and other science activities. Through the use of Latitude and Longitude, GPS units and different mapping tools, our 4H’ers were able to pick up interesting and informational content. On a spookier note, Halloween Happenings at the 4H camp was a fun-filled night of apple cider making, trick or treating, and pumpkin painting. Teen Crusader Abraham was painted into a zombie, and had the thrilling opportunity of scaring children in the hayride.

In just two months, the Teen Crusaders were able to experience the highlights of the season by fundraising, volunteering, and educating themselves through fun activities that edify their leadership, learning and communication skills. This auspicious beginning has only left the Teen Crusaders with enthusiastic attitudes for the upcoming events.

Club Update — Passaic Power Paws

We are having a lot of fun in Power Paws! Our club is growing - we have 4 new members and 2 new dogs, a Newfoundland and a Pomeranian. At one of our meetings we made homemade dog treats. We used our own recipes and entered them in the Autumn Lights Festival. At the festival we gave out fleece dog toys that we made out of strips of fleece. The dogs loved them! We also have been practicing with our dogs and are looking forward to our next dog show.

"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give." ~Winston Churchill
Roller coasters are the staple of theme parks and tend to draw large crowds, as they can be both scary and fun to ride. However, engineering an effective roller coaster is no easy task. Forth and fifth graders at Oasis Community Center and the New Roberto Clemente School (both in Paterson, NJ) have discovered how hard, yet entertaining, this task can be. Through hands-on group learning these students have had the opportunity to build and create different pieces of a roller coaster, such as hills, valleys, loops, spirals, and much more. After figuring out how do get a marble through all of these individual obstacles comes the hardest and most rewarding part of the challenge: building an entire roller coaster. To accomplish this the students had to use all of the knowledge they have gained through the individual sections of the activity. Tape must be placed in a way to cause the least friction. Tracks must be concave enough to keep the marble from jumping off. Hills must be high enough so that the marble has enough speed and momentum, especially over those tough loops and spirals! But at the end every student gets to experience the satisfaction and joy that comes with being able to overcome all of that and successfully engineer and create their own model roller coaster!

Parasites and How They Got That Way—February 15th 2014

Be prepared to be grossed out! In this program we will work to explore the ecology and evolution of animal parasites. We will look at the diseases they cause and how it impacts the ecological community. Forms due by February 8, 2014.

Spy Technology—March 29th, 2014

In this program we will explore the world of spys. Join graduate students from the Engineering program at Rutgers University to do exciting hands on activities building security systems, exploring face recognition technology, and much more! Forms due by March 14, 2014.

To learn more about these programs check out: http://4hset.rutgers.edu/set-programs/

*Students in Grades 5—9
**Upcoming Events**

**December**

* December 24th — Christmas Eve, Office Closed (1/2 day)
* December 25th — Christmas, Office Closed
* December 31st — New Years Eve, Office Closed (1/2 day)

**January**

* January 1st — Office Closed
* January 11th — NJ 4-H Goat Extravaganza, Hunterdon County Senior Center
  * January 10th — 12th Passaic County Teen Winter Camp, 4-H Camp, Stokes State Forest, Branchville
* January 15th — 4-H Science of Soil Youth Summit, Rutgers, New Brunswick
  * January 20th — Martin Luther King Day, Office Closed
* January 25th — State 4-H Model Horse Show Middlesex County 4-H Center East Brunswick

**February**

* February 15th — 4-H Rutgerscience Saturday—Parasites and How They Got That Way
  Rutgers, New Brunswick
* February 15th — State 4-H Horse Bowl, Bridgewater
* February 15th — State 4-H Equine Show Bridgewater,
  * February 17th — Presidents Day, Office Closed
Save the Dates...

Passaic County Teen Winter Camp
January 10th - 12th, 2014

☆ Its almost that time of year again! Time for Winter Camp!
☆ Join us for a fun weekend at our 4-H camp in Stokes State Forest!
☆ Reconnect with 4-H'ers from around the state!
☆ All forms are due in to the 4-H office by Friday December 27th!
☆ Club Members in high school, grades 9-12!
☆ Be prepared! Bring cold weather clothes, boots, scarves and hats. The cabins are heated but you have to bring your own blankets and pillows.

North Jersey Teen Conference
4-H Goes Back To The Future!

NJTC March 7th — 9th, 2014

☆ Held each spring, the North Jersey 4-H Teen Conference is an annual event which brings 4-H members in grades 8–13
☆ The theme for this years conference is 4-H goes back to the future!
☆ This year NJTC will be at the Regency House Hotel, Pompton Plains, NJ
☆ All forms for NJTC due into the office by January 24th, 2014
☆ NJTC Workshops Include,
☆ opportunity to meet teens from other counties
☆ Saturday afternoon special program
☆ Saturday evening dinner dance
☆ Sunday morning motivational program,
☆ Fun and much more!

For more information on NJTC please contact the Passaic County 4-H office.

Look for the Winter Issue of 4-H Happenings in February
READY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

It’s never too late to help. We are now seeking motivated individuals who are committed to making a positive difference in the lives of youth. To learn how you can help please contact:

passaic4h@rce.rutgers.edu or call 973-684-4786

How Can You Join the Revolution of Responsibility?

- Sign up to receive email updates at 4-h.org/revolution
- Follow 4-H on Twitter @ 4H and become a fan of 4-H on Facebook at Facebook.com/4-H
- Share your Revolution of Responsibility stories on your website or blog
- Download the videos and materials in the Brand Toolkit at 4-H.org/revolution

4-H Passaic County Newsletter

Marycarmen Kunicki
Passaic County 4-H
Senior Program Coordinator

Kenneth Faillace
Program Assistant

Erin Holswade
Americorps VISTA

Robert Salkowski
Americorps VISTA

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Passaic County
4-H Youth Development Program
1310 Route 23 North
Wayne, NJ 07470
Phone: 973-684-4786
E-mail: Passaic4H@acsop.rutgers.edu
Website: passaic.njaes.rutgers.edu

New Jersey 4-H: http://www.nj4h.rutgers.edu

RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF PASSAIC COUNTY

The 4-H Youth Development Program is part of Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension. 4-H educational programs are offered to all youth, grades K-13, on an age-appropriate basis, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. For additional information, contact 973-684-4786 or nj4h.rutgers.edu. Cooperative Extension encourages individuals with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you need special accommodations, have questions about physical access, or require alternate means for program information, please contact your local Extension Office. Contact the State Extension Director’s Office if you have concerns related to discrimination. 848-932-3583.

Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.