A Note From Our New AmeriCorps VISTA

I’m Courtney, the new AmeriCorps VISTA for Passaic County 4-H this year. My focus area will be healthy lifestyles. I’m really excited to be working with you this year as I’m finishing up my Masters degree in nonprofit management. Since I started in July, I have really enjoyed getting to know more about 4-H and the different clubs in Passaic County. I’ve also had the chance to attend the Passaic County Fair as well as spend some time with the Teen Crusaders’ during Teen Community Service Week. I am currently planning an event for Worldwide Day of Play and planning some programming with different organizations in Paterson. Worldwide Day of Play is an annual event held by Nickelodeon. On Worldwide Day of Play all Nickelodeon programming goes off air for a few hours to promote physical activity in children. Worldwide Day of Play is on October 6th; if anyone is interested in volunteering please contact me. I am really looking forward to getting to know everyone here in Passaic County and being here to help out.

A Note From Our Program Associate

First I would like to take a moment to welcome our new AmeriCorps VISTA, Courtney to the Passaic County 4-H family. She will be a great addition. This summer has been very busy for all of us here in Passaic County. Summer camps, summer volunteers, fair, lots of fun events and an all around good time. Can’t believe it’s coming to an end. Now on to another very busy time of the year for us “Fall”. My favorite time of the year, the weather cools down and some of the most beautiful colors come out. Of course we can’t forget about my favorite holiday Halloween!!! Fall in Passaic County means it’s time again for the West Milford Autumn Lights Festival (ALF) and all our clubs are preparing their exhibits and demonstrations as I write this. We are anticipating the largest turnout of 4-H club members, family and friends this year. Please check out page 9 for more info on ALF! Most of our clubs have been meeting throughout the summer, but all clubs will be up and running full steam ahead in the next couple of weeks. Keep your eyes open for several volunteer opportunities that will be coming up. I will also be visiting each and every club throughout the next couple of months. Looking forward to seeing you all very soon!

“Summer afternoon—summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language.” - Henry James

RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF PASSAIC COUNTY

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.
Arts & Nature Day Camp

Passaic County 4-H held their first Arts & Nature Day Camp the last week in June at Goffle Brook Park in Hawthorne. During this week, campers learned and participated in numerous artistic and nature based activities. Twelve campers attended, ranging in ages from four to ten. Nine members of the Passaic County 4-H Teen Crusaders volunteered their services as counselors for the week.

During the week, camp had special guest volunteers leading different activities. Each day had a different theme which shaped the day's activities. The special guest volunteers offered activities such as potting and planting, seeing-eye dog demonstrations, puppet making, environmental awareness, physical fitness and more. Monday’s theme, the “World Around Us,” was an introduction to the camp and nature around us. Tuesday was “All About Bugs,” activities included bug performances, bug hunts, bug finger puppets, and bug education. Wednesday was “Gardening,” campers learned about plants and gardens. Thursday was “Animal Day” with a very special visit from the VelveT-EEN's club and many of their farm animal friends. Campers had the opportunity to pet and learn about farm animals and play animal games. On Friday, the I See for You Puppy Club paid a visit and campers learned all about seeing-eye dogs. We finished out Friday with some carnival fun; campers earned tickets while playing carnival games and were able to redeem them for prizes before they left us. Throughout the week campers went on nature walks, learned about water systems, insects, plants, animals, embarked on nature scavenger hunts, painted garden stones, tie-dyed t-shirts and even had an unexpected visit from the Passaic County Sheriff’s K-9 unit and two very special, hard working dogs. Overall, the week was a huge success and campers learned a lot.

“Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.” — Albert Einstein
Club Updates

Club Update — The Hoofers

The Hoofers have been busy at the last couple of meetings working on their projects for the Autumn Lights Festival. This year we are working with tiles to create mosaics. One more step and we’re finished!

Our horse star of the summer is club Treasurer and Safety Officer, Amy Pfeiffer. Amy has attended many equine shows helping out as needed, working with competitors on their routines and assisting with horse care. She began showing at Quarter Horse events with Karl and Deana Bauer last summer. All of her hard work and dedication has paid off and this year Amy is expanding her range in the show arena. She is not only riding Western, but has added English Hunt Seat to her repertoire. Amy is once again having a very successful show season. We are very proud of her. Way to go, Amy!

We would also like to wish one of our founding members, club Vice President, Natalia Dashnaw good luck as she heads off to college. Natalia is an accomplished saber fencer and a member of the Wayne Valley Varsity Fencing team. Her squad recently won the NJ HS State Sabre Championship. Natalia has also traveled extensively to compete in many national events. She will be attending Sacred Heart University in Connecticut and will become a member of their Division 1 fencing team. Best of luck, Natalia!

Power Paws

Passaic Power Paws are going strong!! Our club is now full with seven members. It is great to watch the dogs as they meet each other and see how they react. Some are afraid, others are nervous and some are just plain excited! We have been practicing rally outside in the warm weather and the dogs love it! We have also been showing our dogs how to skateboard! We always have so much fun teaching our dog’s new things!

Preakness Aggies

The Preakness Aggies will start meeting again this fall to start a new year of creativity and fun. Good Luck to Chelsea Semeraro in her first year at college.

“A single rose can be my garden... a single friend, my world.” — Leo Buscaglia
**Club Update — West Milford Velveteen’s**

The Velveteens have been quite busy! We’d like to welcome new members Jonathan Romeo, and Lydia and Sophia Souran. We have another possible new member referred by the Sussex County Fair, and also possibly a new leader, Gail, who is an expert in raising poultry and growing flowers. Welcome, all!

Our baby bunnies have nearly grown up. Most were sold as breeding stock, but we kept one doe. Progress on the farm has been extensive. The kids helped clear the land and most were present for bonfires at one time or another to help clear away some brush. The farmland has been leveled, but still needs to be raked with the John Deere, and the platform for the future chicken coop is already up. Next we will install fencing for a future animal compound. OK kids; expect to learn how to put up fencing!

The kids were invited to a horse clinic run by horse-whisperer Sonny Gargiulo at West Milford’s own Blarney Stone Gypsy Horse Farm. They got lessons in how to become one with a horse. They met Sonny’s wild mustang, Pickens, who had only been caught 5 weeks before. Ari, Becca and Bobbi got to groom him! Sonny invited us to the Extreme Mustang Challenge. Brendan, Bobbi, and Rebecca are going to witness this world-class competition on August 10 when they auction the trained horses off for charity. (Everybody in the club is rooting for Sonny and Pickens to win!)

At Bunny Boot camp Lois and Celeste entertained the little ones with a bunny anatomy chart, and the Velveteens had a blast being junior counselors for a day at the 4-H kid’s camp in Hawthorne. Travis gave a presentation on his tractor and all the wee ones got their picture taken sitting on it. Sofia and Lydia talked turkey, poultry, and horses. Jonathan gave a little demo on chickens, and Bobbi gave a talk on the life cycle of the tree frog and had numerous little Kermit’s and tadpoles. Rebecca bow-wowed the children about the importance of dog care and their uses on the farm. Every bah-bah-body enjoyed Arianna’s baby goats. There was a great chicken race after one of the roosters flew the coop. It took all the Velveteens to catch him, to the delight of the little campers.

Lois and Celeste attended the Passaic County Fair and set up a 4-H coloring booth and enjoyed letting children color farm pictures. Our bunny-garden was a success, and the kids hopped away with a full bag of lettuce and other produce. We are letting the garden go to seed and we might plant the seeds next year.

In early August Arianna competed in a goat show, and took 4th, 7th, and 8th with her critters. She learned all about dairy goats and products, and sold all her baby goat stock. This was hard since Rebecca and Celeste had been to see them within 20 minutes of them being born! Arianna is getting out of rabbit production altogether to concentrate on learning how to make goats profitable.

All the children got their record books and we are expecting some good reports. The Club has been invited to a horse nutrition clinic in September and has a chance to see a rare gypsy horse baby filly. Y’all come back in September, now, to get ready for Autumn Lights!

“Until one has loved an animal, a part of one’s soul remains unawakened.” — Anatole France
Club Update — Teen Crusaders

From July 9th through the 13th, four of us attended Rutgers University to participate the Rutgers Summer Science Program for our first time. For some of us it was the first time to actually room in a real college dorm. For five days we were able to get a first-hand experience with college life, and it was definitely a week full of events and activities. We had team building exercises, science related classes, and got the chance to meet many new and interesting people. We enjoyed learning all the new topics such as DNA, Engineering, Food Science and a great many others. Additionally, we got the chance to speak to college students and graduates, an entrepreneur, as well as an experienced and skilled scientist. This was a very big opportunity and we are all grateful that we took it because we left there with more knowledge, experiences, and friends. As a group, we all enjoyed different things. “I enjoyed everything, from the dorms to the classrooms! I really liked doing the hands on learning!”

Community service week was an extraordinary experience. I won’t forget the number of families that we helped just on the first day 1,112. The second day we created cards for the soldiers to give to their families. I picture the faces of the soldiers while writing these cards. I picture the flow of emotions from their hearts through a pencil onto a piece of paper. The kids serviced on our third day in the NJ food bank will be grateful. The girls set up packages of clothing to send to the children, and the boys helped organize the clothes in the warehouse. The fourth day we volunteered at Habitat for Humanity where we helped to build a home for a family in need. This experience touched me dearly because my mother wanted to buy a home but she couldn’t. The reason why is because she is a single mother raising two children and when she intended to purchase a home houses were too expensive. The fifth day we encountered a great experience at Dave & Buster’s. We did an ultimate quest team building activity. I felt the club just got closer as a family.

“No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor is given by what he gave.” — Calvin Coolidge
Check This Out

We Need Your Recyclables

The Passaic County 4-H office is looking for some recyclable household items to use during programming this upcoming school year. If you have any of the following items and are willing to donate them please contact the 4-H office to set a pick-up/drop-off.

- 2 liter soda bottles
- Empty shoe boxes
- Coffee cans
- Old calendars
- Old magazines
- Cereal boxes/ breakfast food boxes

Check out the website “My American Farm”. Learn where your food comes from and how those products get from the farm to their dinner plate. *My American Farm* is an online educational game teaches about agriculture while having fun.  

http://www.myamericanfarm.org/

---

Looking for a Few Good Teens

*North Jersey Teen Conference (NJTC) —Conference Planning Committee*

Looking for a few good teens who would be interested in representing Passaic County 4-H on the NJTC Conference Planning Committee. Planning committee members meet once a month. NJTC will be held sometime in March. The committee of teens and adults work hard through the year to create a fun and educational weekend for teens in Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Middlesex, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren counties. If interested please contact passaic4h@njaes.rutgers.edu or 973-684-4786.
Upcoming Events

September

- September 3rd — Labor Day, Office Closed
- September 8th — NJ State 4-H Rabbit, Small Animal, Cavy, Herpetology and Poultry show
- September 8th & 9th — Warren County 4-H Renaissance Faire, Harmony Twp., NJ

October

- October 6th — World-wide day of play (More Info TBA)
- October 6th — Essex County Harvest 4-H Fair, Essex County Environmental Center, Roseland, NJ
- October 7th - 13th — National 4-H Week
- October 8th — Columbus Day, Office Closed
- October 13th — Passaic County 4-H Fair, West Milford Autumn Lights Festival, West Milford, NJ
- October 20th — Halloween Happening at LG Cook 4-H Camp, Stokes State Forest

November

- November 6th — Election Day, Office Closed
- November 12th — Veteran’s Day, Office Closed
- November 22nd & 23rd — Thanksgiving, Office Closed
- November 23rd-27th — National 4-H Congress, Hyatt Regency, Atlanta, GA

Rifle Camp Park — Nature Center

Located adjacent to Garret Mountain Reservation, Rifle Camp Park is a major recreational component of the Passaic County park system. For information & directions Call 973-523-0024

Public nights at the Astronomical Observatory

- Mars, Saturn?, Alberio — September 7th
- Moon, Mars?, Alberio — September 21st
- Jupiter late, Alberio, Andromeda Galaxy — October 5th
- Moon, Jupiter, Alberio, Pleiades — October 19th
- Moon, Jupiter, Pleiades — November 2nd
- Jupiter, Pleiades, Orion Nebula — November 16th

Children’s Workshop

- Birds — Saturday September 22, 2012
  1:00pm — 3:00pm
- Astronomy — October 13, 2012
  6:00pm — 9:00pm
- Kaleidoscope — Saturday November 3, 2012 1:00pm — 3:00pm
Save the date — September 8 & 9, 2012

Warren County 4-H Renaissance Fair

Step back in time when a cultural movement known as the Renaissance evolved; a time when da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Galileo transformed the world with their art and science. When Shakespeare’s romance flourished with tragic results; and when advances in agriculture transformed the backbone of society.

Join revelers, knights, nobles, greyhounds, and more at the 3rd annual Renaissance Faire at the Warren County Fairgrounds!

Saturday Hours: 11am-6pm, Sunday Hours: 11am-5pm

Admission: $10 per adult • $5 for children ages 5-12 • 4 and under free

For more information:
Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Warren County http://www.warren4-hrenfaire.org/
Save the Date — Saturday October 13, 2012

West Milford Autumn Lights Festival

☆ Come one, come all this festival has something for all ages; live entertainment interactive games, great food and so much more.

☆ Please join us at the 18th Annual West Milford Autumn Lights Festival Saturday October 13th.

☆ 10:00 am till 5:00 pm at Union Valley Road from Shoprite to Bearfort Plaza West Milford, NJ.

Enjoy

☆ Fun games & activities for children.

☆ Displays and exhibits from all of our clubs, come check out what our young leaders of tomorrow are working on right now!

☆ Demonstrations from our 4-H clubs.

☆ Exhibits from Passaic County Master Gardener Association. Get all your lawn and garden questions answered or find out how you can become a Master Gardener!

Donate

☆ Please bring non-perishable foods to support Rutgers Against Hunger. Help Rutgers fight hunger!

Rutgers Against Hunger (RAH) is a university wide initiative working to address the issues of hunger across the state of New Jersey.

Look for the Fall issue of 4-H Happenings in November
JOIN THE REVOLUTION OF RESPONSIBILITY

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@njaes.rutgers.edu or call 973-684-4786

Other Ways to Connect With 4-H
National 4-H Website: http://4-h.org
New Jersey 4-H: http://www.nj4h.rutgers.edu
On Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/4-h
On Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/4H

4-H Passaic County Newsletter

Marycarmen Kunicki
Passaic County 4-H Program Associate

Kenneth Faillace
Program Assistant

Courtney Sutton
AmeriCorps VISTA

Azaria Cunningham
Jhoangel Polanco
Vanessa Vargas
AmeriCorps - Summer Volunteers

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Passaic County
4-H Youth Development Program
317 Pennsylvania Ave., Room 204
Paterson, NJ 07503

Phone: 973-684-4786 Fax: 973-754-9812E-mail: Passaic4H@NJAES.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. Rutgers Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity program provider and employer. Contact your local Extension Office for information regarding special needs or accommodations. 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.