



New Jersey 4-H Science Pathways Program

Think it. Learn it. Create it.



Teens and leaders at the end-of-year summit award dinner at Rutgers University

What is the Science Pathways Program?

The Science Pathways program is a leadership development program set in a Makerspace environment. Makerspace combines different fields of science and technology and delivers it through hands-on activities and workshops. By focusing on accomplishing Science, Engineering, and Technology (SET) goals and challenges, youth develop a strong skill set for their future.

Teens enter the program during their freshman year in high school and remain with the program throughout their high school career. The Science Pathways Program affords teens exposure to different fields of science and fosters more independence and trust in the teens to guide their own learning.



Science Ambassadors with Passaic Mayor Hector C. Lora after teaching-back to youth

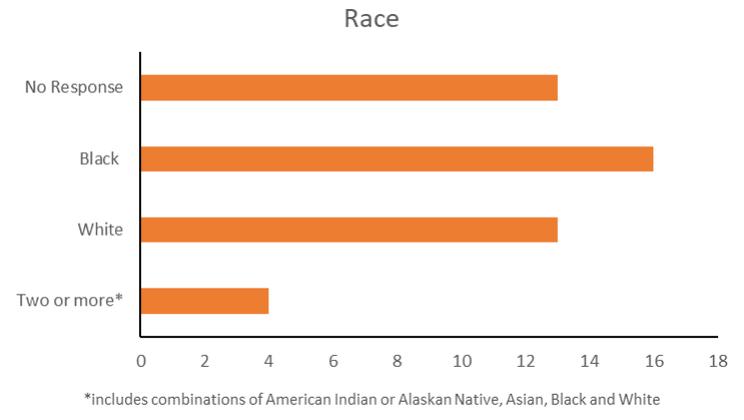
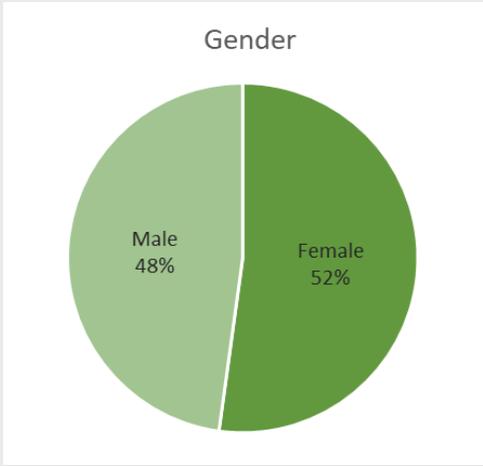
“I have learned how to not be afraid to speak in front of a large group”
— Justin (Paterson Site)

- ▶ 22 teens spent 33 hours teaching back to youth in their communities
- ▶ 85% of teens who spent a year or more in programming, report ease in using scientific terms to share results with others
- ▶ 76% of teens felt confident expressing their views in front of a group of people after one year of programming
- ▶ 89% of teens consider themselves able to create appropriate plans of action when it comes time to make an occupational or educational decision
- ▶ 88% of teens are assertive in their ability to develop ideas and plans for the future

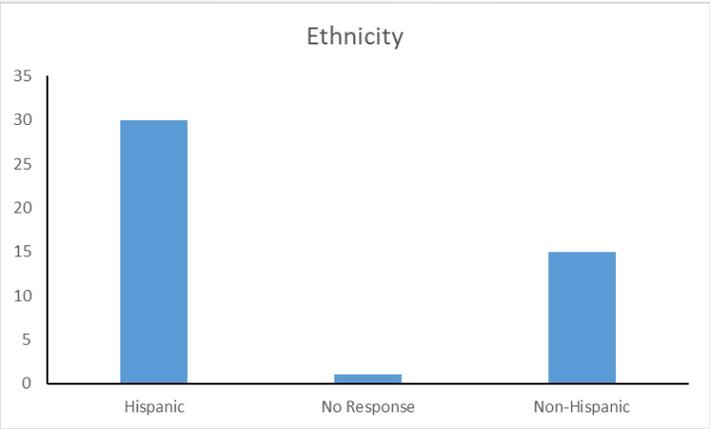
The Science Pathways Program is sponsored by the Children, Youth and Families at Risk Program (CYFAR) and is run by Passaic and Mercer County 4-H in conjunction with the Boys & Girls Club of Paterson & Passaic and Trenton.



The Science Pathways program is located in Paterson and Trenton, running out of local Boys and Girls Clubs. There are a total of 45 teens currently participating in the program: 8 participants in their third year (now high school juniors), 17 participating in their 2nd year (now high school sophomores) and 20 participating in their 1st year (now high school freshmen). Youth participate in hands-on science programming for up to four hours each week during the school year and teach-back hands-on science programs to younger youth throughout the year.



- *Teens have stated that they enjoy this program more than others including school because they feel like they are trusted more, can be more creative, there's more freedom and less stress, and there's more exposure to different areas in science.*
- *Teens feel that this program has helped to improve their leadership skills by giving them opportunities to teach other youth, share what they have learned with others, and participate in various community service events/activities.*



Teens scrub in to learn about careers in nursing at Rutgers University

**“The Science Pathways program allows me to be my most creative self”
— Stephanie (Trenton Site)**

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.