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In honor of National Volunteer Week, Passaic County 4-H would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our amazing volunteers that continue to *Make the Best Better!*
Check out the NJ 4-H Thank You Volunteer Video:
<https://vimeo.com/698291834/c7332e467a>

A note from your 4-H Agent

Happy Spring!!!

So many things to celebrate this spring! This week we celebrate our Passaic County 4-H Volunteers during National Volunteer Week (April 17-23). 4-H would like to send a great big "Thank You!" to all our volunteers, including our 4-H Club leaders, our public presentation judges, fair judges, guest presenters, career panelists, and others who have continued to support the Passaic County 4-H Youth Development Program. Club families don't forget to take a minute and say "Thank You" to your child/ren's club leaders and other 4-H volunteers.

With Spring in the air it's time to start preparing for our annual Public Presentation Night!!! We are looking forward to all our club members' presentations. This is a very valuable experience for all who participate, don't forget to register.

It's great to see our club members learning new things at club meeting, making new friends, participating in service activities, and getting ready for more fun this spring. Looking forward to all that's to come this Spring! - Marycarmen Kunicki, 4-H Agent

"You can cut all the flowers but you cannot keep spring from coming." Pablo Neruda, 1971 Nobel Prize for Literature

Passaic County 4-H Happenings

Service in the New Year

Passaic County 4-Her's continue to impact their community in big and small ways.

In January, Passaic County 4-Her's and their families collected over 500 personal care items and over 70 toys and books. These items were donated to Passaic County Women's Center. This center is the lead domestic violence and sexual assault agency in the county, and among other services, provides emergency shelter to survivors, including women, men, and their children.

In February, Passaic County 4-H Clubs spread the love once again! 4-H club members, volunteers, and families made over 800 Valentine's Day cards for recipients of Passaic County Meals on Wheels. This is the 7th year in a row that Passaic County 4-H has created and donated these cards.



Donated toiletries



Valentine's Day cards

SERVICE RECOGNITION

New Year Better You 4-H Service Challenge

Service to the community for January 2022 - James F.

Service to the community for February 2022 - Isabella F.

Service to the community for February 2022 - Victoria F.



UPCOMING EVENTS IN PASSAIC COUNTY:

April

National Volunteer Week - 4/18 to 4/22

Passaic County Public Presentation Night 4/29 at 4-H Office (1310 Rte 23 North)

July

STEM Ambassadors Summer Science Week at Rutgers University 7/11 to 7/15

STEM Programming at Clifton Library - 7/18 and 7/25

August

STEM Programming at Clifton Library - 8/1 and 8/8

Passaic County Fair - 8/11 to 8/15

"The deep roots never doubt spring will come." Marty Rubin, Author

JUNIOR/TEEN COUNCIL

Junior/Teen Council started out this season in virtual meetings, but that didn't stop them from electing officers.

Ella C. was elected president.,Erin R. is the vice president, Jewlz L. is the treasurer Jocelyn L. is the secretary and Sara T. is the photographer / health officer. Congratulations to our newly minted officers!

For their March meeting, Junior/Teen Council met at the Wayne Library. Originally, the members were going to have a collection drive for deployed soldiers, but due to the breakout of the war in Ukraine, the club chose to collect supplies for Ukraine instead. They collected toiletries such as soap, toothpaste, shampoo and other personal care items. At their meeting, 4-Her's organized the items into groups and then bagged the donations for easier transport. The donations were dropped off at Ukranian Orthodox Holy Ascension Church in Clifton, N.J.



Donations for Ukraine



Donations for Ukraine



Junior/Teen Council stands with thier donations for Ukraine

“Where flowers bloom, so does hope” Lady Bird Johnson, former First Lady

PREAKNESS AGGIES



Aggies show off the flags they made during their February Olympics-themed meeting

Preakness Aggies had a virtual meeting in January. They learned about reusing old materials and up-cycling. Miss Sharon Gore from Mercer County taught our Cloverbuds how to make reusable bags out of old t-shirts.

In February, Preakness Aggies had an Olympics themed meeting inspired by the 2022 Beijing Olympics. The club was split into three teams that competed in several fun games including cup stacking and glider throwing. The Aggies also created flags for their teams.



Aggies compete in the cup stacking event.

Preakness Aggies worked on their public presentation skills this March! They each presented personal items that have a special meaning to them. They also used their imaginations to construct monsters out of Legos and presented their creations to the group.

For April, the Aggies have planned a park clean-up at Garrett Mountain in honor of Earth Day!



Aggies give presentations during their March meeting

“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant.” Anne Bradstreet, Poet

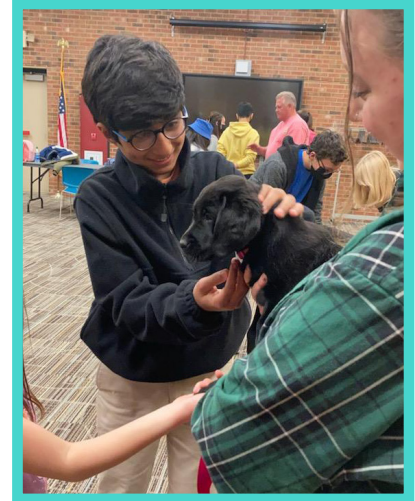
STEM AMBASSADORS/SCIENCE PATHWAYS

Hello my name is Christian and I am member of the Passaic County 4-H STEM Ambassadors Club. I have been a 4-Her for almost a year now and I have learned many things! I joined 4-H to better myself, and my future by learning about all the cool STEM activities and teaching youth about them! Things I have learned while being apart of 4-H are binary code bracelets, how to build a mini telescope, I even had the opportunity to code with Apple products. Some things I would like to do in the future with my 4-H club is to just learn about more STEM activities and explore new things. Thank you for reading this, have a great day!

By: Christian R.

In March, the STEM Ambassadors volunteered at the Clifton Library for Maker Day. They taught youth in their community to make Binary Bead Bracelets and Hoop Gliders.

In April, our 4-Her's were given a demonstration by the Passaic County I See For You Puppy Club. They were given the chance to meet 5 different puppies that will be Seeing Eye guide dogs when they grow up. The puppy raisers explained the process of raising a puppy for the Seeing Eye. They also demonstrated some of the skills the puppies need to know such as sit, lay down and rest (Seeing Eye's word for stay). After the demonstration, 4-Her's were given the chance to pet the pups.



Kabir pets Iris (8 week old Labrador Retriever)



Jonathan recives kisses from Wiggles (3 month old Labrador Retriever)



Valentine's Day cards at the February Meeting



Sophia says hello to Brittany (1 year old Golden Retriever)

"Don't wait for someone to bring you flowers. Plant your own garden and decorate your own soul." Luther Burbank, Botanist

EMERALD ARCHERS

I joined 4-H to expose myself to different experiences and opportunities. I wanted to have a more eclectic experience that would help me with leadership traits that would help prepare me for the future. I have learned much about time management, team work, leadership skills, event organization, and much more in the few years I have been in 4-H. 4-H has also taught me many personal skills from archery to taking care of animals, to teaching kids about the computer sciences. 4-H has been an invaluable resource in giving me life experiences and skills.

-Gabe M.

I joined 4-H so I could learn and grow in a friendly environment with people my age. I mainly joined because I was invited by my friend and 4-H has been a good way to socialize and branch out into new hobbies such as archery. It also taught me money management and working with other people since most decisions are made by the club members themselves. I especially enjoyed meeting new people and learning with them. Overall, 4-H has benefitted me by letting me experience working with others in new environments and picking up interesting new hobbies.

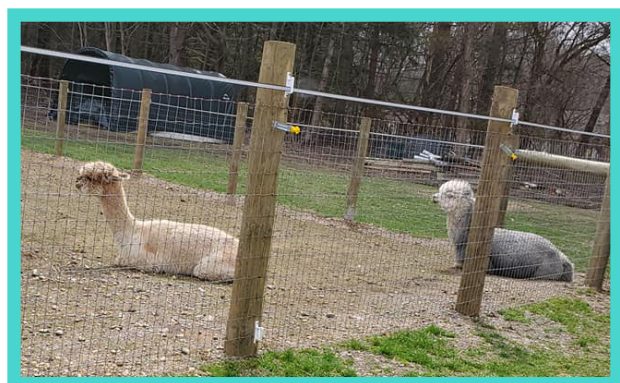
-Gabe D.

I joined 4-H because of my friends Luisa and Gabe. They were a part of the 4-H Emerald Archers and I figured if I joined I'd get an opportunity to meet new people, and have new experiences and opportunities.

I have learned leadership, responsibility, respect, friendship, and archery. Most importantly I've made lifelong friends and am so happy to be a part of 4-H and the Emerald Archers. Isabella F.

ALPACA PALS

This club is looking forward to getting back to meeting and working with the alpacas

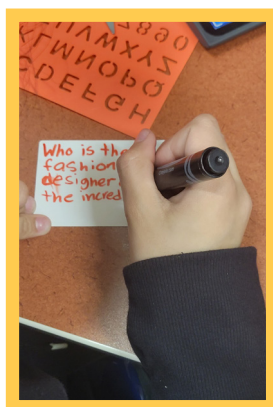


"No matter how chaotic it is, wildflowers will still spring up in the middle of nowhere."
Sheryl Crow, Musician

4-H STEM PROGRAMMING IN THE COMMUNITY

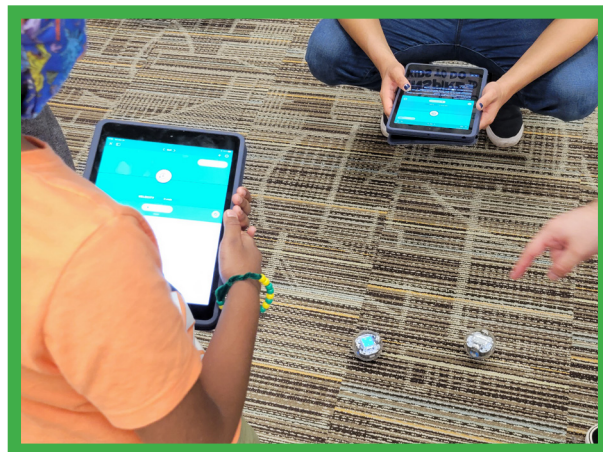
Hackensack Middle School

- In March, students at Hackensack Middle School learned how to create their own games using important STEM skills such as problem solving and creativity.
- In April, the students began learning about space exploration. 4-H Staff utilized the 2021 4-H STEM Challenge “Galactic Quest” and the 2020 4-H STEM Challenge “Mars Basecamp” to assist in teaching important topics about space exploration.



Oasis: A Haven for Women and Children

Through a grant with Apple, 4-H was able to administer computer science educational programming at Oasis in Paterson, N.J.



CAMP YDP

4-H Staff began after-school programming at CAMP YDP in Paterson this April. Youth will explore STEM topics ranging from computer science to physics to engineering. Youth participate in activities such as the Lego Design Challenge, Sinking and Floating, and even creating Oobleck.

Maker Day at Clifton Library



STEM Ambassadors along with 4-H Staff volunteered at the Clifton Memorial Library to lead STEM activities to youth. The activities included creating Binary Bead Bracelets and hoop gliders, as well as learning to code with Spheros. Over 40 youth from the community participated in 4-H activities throughout the afternoon.

“Spring is nature’s way of saying, ‘Let’s party.’” Robin Williams, comedian

UPCOMING STATEWIDE OPPORTUNITIES

April New Year Better You 4-H "Health" Challenge

We challenge you to focus on your physical AND mental health this month. Challenge yourself to try new healthy recipes, be more active or try a new physical activity. Practice mindfulness yoga or anything that makes you feel good about yourself! Record what you learn at tinyurl.com/NJ4HHealth

NJ 4-H Conflict Resolution Series

For volunteers, teen leaders, parents and staff
April 5th, April 27th and May 19th from 7:30 to 8:30 pm
Session 1: Understanding conflict and how to assess/manage situations
Session 2: Strengthen conflict resolution style through communication
Session 3: Solidify your plan of action as a 4-H team
Register at tinyurl.com/4hconflictseries

Words Words Words WorldWideWriters.Ink Contest

WorldWideWriters.Ink - the writing and illustration arts club from Somerset County - announces its latest Story Writing Contest. Enter any one of the subject categories listed on [the attached form](#), using one of the following word count: 6, 10, 17 or 25 words
Submissions sent to info.worldwidewriters.ink@sc4-h.org
Deadline is April 29th

CELEBRATE YOUR PARK

Passaic County is hosting a contest for amateur photographers highlighting our county parks.

Contest runs April 26th through June 30th
For Ages 18+

Winners will be announced July 31st
Top 10 winners will have their photographs
Displayed at the Passaic County Arts Center in Fall 2022

To register, please use the QR code
or call 973-706-6640 ext. 1152

See Passaic County New Jersey
OLMSTED 200
CELEBRATING PARKS FOR ALL PEOPLE

“Deep in their roots, all flowers keep the light.” Theodore Roethke, Poet



The NJ 4-H Photo Corps is open to youth in grades 4-13 (one year out of high school). You do not need to be enrolled in 4-H Photography Project to join Photo Corps. There is no cost to join or participate in the program.

To sign up, go to:

<https://nj4hphotocorps.fairentry.com/Fair/SignIn/15369>

Theme for April 2022:



April's theme invites you to share your perspective. Show us how you see the world or use your subject to ask the question. Submission due by 4/31/2022



4-H Summer Camp 2022

Session 1: July 4-9th

Session 2: July 11-16th

Session 3: July 18-23rd

Session 4: July 25-30th

Session 5: August 3-20th

For more information, contact the camp at 973-948-3550 or email them at 4hcamp@njaes.rutgers.edu

Visit their website: <https://nj4hcamp.rutgers.edu/>

The Lindley G Cook 4-H Camp is located at 100 Struble Road Branchville, NJ 07826

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New Jersey 4-H Facebook: www.facebook.com/NewJersey4H

Passaic County 4-H Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Passaic-County-4-H



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

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