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**A note from your 4-H Community Assistant**

Happy New Year to our amazing Passaic County 4-H families and volunteers! There have been some large changes in the county over the past few months and I am very thankful to have you all with me along the way. We have a lot of exciting events and projects coming up in the new year and I am looking forward to working with all of you. Please know that I am here to help with anything you may need. I wish you all a warm, happy and healthy New Year!

**A Fond Farewell**

It is with a heavy heart that we bid goodbye to Ms. Marycarmen Kunicki. After 12 years of service to Passaic County 4-H, Ms. Marycarmen is moving on to the next chapter in her life. Over the course of the past 12 years, she has been the beating heart of this community. She has impacted a countless number of lives in immeasurable ways, and she truly has made the best better. On behalf of Passaic County 4-H, I wish Marycarmen the best in her future endeavors and to remind her that she will always have a family in 4-H.



“You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.” - C.S. Lewis

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**January 27th to 29th**

Winter Camp at L. G. Cook Camp (for teens in grades 7 to 13)

**March 5th**

Sciencesational Day at the Clifton Public Library from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm

**April 21st**

Passaic County 4-H Public Presentations at Public Safety Academy from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

For other state-wide virtual programs, activities, and clubs please check out:

<https://nj4h.rutgers.edu/>

## AWARDS NIGHT 2022



Emerald Archers



Preakness Aggies



Junior/Teen Council



NJ Delegate to 2022 4-H Congress,  
Bella F.



STEM Ambassadors

On December 2nd, Passaic County 4-Hers had their annual Awards Night at the Public Safety Academy in Wayne, N.J. This was the first Awards Night since before the pandemic. We had a wonderful showing of 4-Hers and their families. Congratulations to all our recipients!

Thank you to our amazing emcees for keeping the night going: Veronica L., Jaqueline L., Carissa M., Ella C., Erin R., and Megan R.

“You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.” - Martin Luther King Jr.



# PREAKNESS AGGIES

The Preakness Aggies started off their club year with a rainy open house in September at the Wayne Museum. Despite the bad weather, the club members made the most of it!



Ms. Anne teaching the Aggies about compost

In October, the Aggies broke the ice by playing games to get to know one another. They also painted pumpkins to get into the spooky spirit.



Exploring some compost!

Preakness Aggies had a very special visitor for their November meeting. Ms. Anne Kahwaty of the Passaic County Master Gardeners taught the Aggies all about the superstars of the composting world, earthworms! The Aggies were given the opportunity to dig into samples of compost made by the earthworms and observe the red wigglers up close using hand lenses. They also learned what to and not to compost.



For the final meeting of 2022, the Aggies created snowman door hangers out of popsicle sticks. They also decorated sugar cookies and had a cookie swap. Each member was asked to bring homemade cookies so they could trade them at the end of the meeting. The Junior Teen Council assisted at this very busy meeting.



Using a plate to fan his craft dry!

Club meeting on the 3rd Saturday of the month will take place at the 4-H Office in Wayne

Club Meeting Dates:

- January 21, 2023
- February 18, 2023
- April 15, 2023

"You know how I always dread the whole year? Well this time I'm only going to dread one day at a time."

- Charlie Brown

# JUNIOR/TEEN COUNCIL



Junior/Teen Council started the club year with a morning of service at the High Tunnel in Totowa, NJ with the Passaic County Master Gardeners. They assisted in removing tomato plants, laying fresh hay down, and harvesting sunflower seeds. They also held elections for club officers.

Congratulations to our club officers!

President - Ella C.

Vice President - Erin R.

Secretary - Julia H.

In November, Junior Teen Council learned the basics of first aid training from Ms. Caitlyn Jones, a certified EMT and First Aid Instructor. They learned how to behave in emergency situations as well as how to handle medical emergencies while waiting for emergency response workers.

In December, members of Junior/Teen Council assisted with the club meeting for the Preakness Aggies. They helped the Aggies create snowman doorknob hangers out of popsicle sticks. They also assisted the Aggies with cookie decorating.



Junior/Teen Council will be meeting at the 4-H Office in Wayne on the 3rd Saturday of the month for the 2022-23 Club Year.

Club Meeting Dates:

- January 21, 2023
- February 18, 2023
- April 15, 2023

“No matter how hard the past, you can always begin again.” - The Buddha



## EMERALD ARCHERS

The Emerald Archers had their first club meeting in November. They started the club year by going through the safety rules and regulations of shooting sports. They then elected club officers.

In December, the Emerald Archers practiced their aim and refined their shooting skills. They also had their last meeting at the High Mountain Presbyterian Church. The club will now be meeting in Lyndhurst



Emerald Archers will be meeting in Lyndhurst on the 1st Saturday of the month for the 2022-23 Club Year.

Club Meeting Dates:

- January 7, 2023
- February 4, 2023
- March 4, 2023



This program has been and continues to be an amazing opportunity for growth. I've grown to have more confidence in my abilities, learned to voice my opinions, and have learned to try new things. I've had opportunities to give back to the people, show my growth in leadership, and am constantly learning. This club has brought me friends I can count on and a place where I can have fun. - Luisa V.

Congratulations to our club officers!

President - Luisa V.

Vice President - Nick H.

Secretary - Jack M.

Treasurer - Chris H.



"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams." - Henry David Thoreau



# STEM AMBASSADORS

The 4-H STEM Ambassadors is a very special club offered for youth in grades 6-13, and it offers many great opportunities for its members. 4 main ideas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics are all incorporated in this club throughout lots of team-building and hands-on activities, volunteering, teaching back to the younger youth, and club meetings. Our monthly club meetings typically consist of going over new business, old business, upcoming events/volunteer opportunities, and an interactive activity which are kept in check by our club officers.

In my 2 years of being apart of the club, I have had many great experiences with the club and gained more knowledge about STEM then I ever could imagine. This is partially due to the STEM week down in Rutgers New Brunswick during the summer in which we learned about the main 4 ideas in a college environment while meeting new people and staying in real college dorms. This was a great experience for me, and many other people I met and I can't wait to go again this year. The STEM Ambassador club is amazing and if your looking to be a part of a caring community definitely consider this club!!

- Kabir H.

*STEM Ambassadors Vice President*

Congratulations to our club officers!

President - Christian R.

Vice President - Kabir H

Treasurer - Zanna S.

Secretary - Annie C.

Health Officer - Chris H.



The STEM Ambassadors will be meeting at the Wayne 4-H Office on the 2nd Wednesday of the month for the 2022-23 Club Year.

Club Meeting Dates:

January 11, 2023

February 8, 2023

March 8, 2023

April 12, 2023

"Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go. They merely determine where you start"

- Nido Qubein

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## Explorers of the Deep at the Clifton Library

Youth at the Clifton Public Library took part in the 2022 STEM Challenge *Explorers of the Deep* which was created at our very own Rutgers University. In the first part of the challenge, youth learned to ballast ocean gliders just like the oceanographers and scientists at Rutgers University. The challenge is to get the glider to balance just below the water line. The gliders are miniature versions of the gliders used to explore the depths of the ocean. They have radio transmitters on them to transmit the data they collect from all over the world back to their home in New Jersey.



**Approximately how much of Earth is covered by water?**

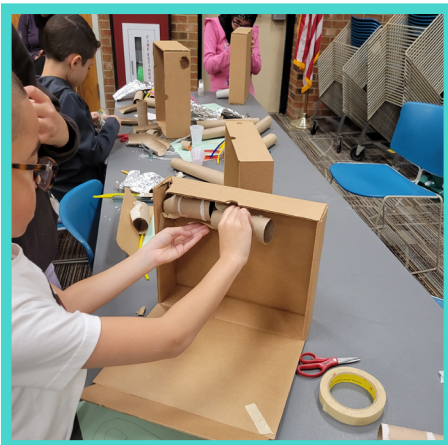
- .....
- A. 10%
  - B. 25%
  - C. 70%
  - D. 90%

Answer on Page 9

In the second part of the challenge, youth made their way through the board game *Ocean Expedition*. They were challenged with trivia questions along the way about the many mysteries of the ocean. An example trivia question is to the left. The answer can be found on Page 9.

For third part of the challenge, youth are given the chance to make a public service announcement about the many issues facing the ocean.

They were encouraged to create a call to action in the form of a poster, social media post, or a letter to the editor. Some topics they could choose include plastics in the ocean, oil spills, and overfishing.



## STEM Programs at the Clifton Library

Youth at the Clifton Public Library learned about the physics of motion by designing and building their very own marble runs. They were tasked with brainstorming, designing, creating, and troubleshooting these marble runs. With the assistance of family and 4-H staff, youth were able to create these marble runs using, boxes, paper towel rolls, tape, glue, and just a touch of patience. Over 15 families participated in this event.

"It is not in the stars to hold our destiny but in ourselves." - William Shakespeare



## Apple Education at Boys and Girls Club of Passaic



4-H Staff utilized iPads provided through the Apple Education Initiative to introduce youth to the world of computer science. About 20 youth at the Boys and Girls Club of Passaic learned how to design their own apps, learned about binary code, and they started to learn how to code with the coding language Swift. Youth were taught by STEM Educators who are Rutgers undergraduate students.



**We R 4-H**

**BE A HUNGER HERO**

**4-H FROM HOME STEP CLUB**

**JOIN THE 4-H FOOD SECURITY COALITION**

**OPEN TO GRADES 9-12**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME - YOU DON'T NEED TO BE IN 4-H!**

**LEARN ABOUT GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY ISSUES**

**BUILD YOUR RESUME**

**WORK WITH A MENTOR TO WRITE A RESEARCH PAPER**

**HONE YOUR RESEARCH SKILLS**

**PARTICIPATE IN THE RUTGERS WORLD FOOD PRIZE YOUTH INSTITUTE**

**OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE TO THE GLOBAL YOUTH INSTITUTE**

**THURSDAYS**  
**JAN. 5 – FEB. 2**  
**7 – 8 PM**

**RUTGERS YOUTH INSTITUTE**  
**MARCH 3**

**REGISTER:**

[go.rutgers.edu/4c0qthq5](https://go.rutgers.edu/4c0qthq5)





## Imagine. Immerse. Ignite.

**March 9-12, 2023  
in Washington D.C.**

Join us for a 4-day experience where high-school aged teens connect, make memories and find their spark by exploring the best 4-H has to offer in STEM, Agriscience, Healthy Living, Career Readiness and Emotional Well-being. Partial scholarships available for Passaic County youth!

**Applications due by January 10th!**



To apply go to  
<https://tinyurl.com/y5pm2vuk>  
or scan the QR Code



## Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Passaic County

**Jennie Thomas**  
Passaic County 4-H  
Community Assistant



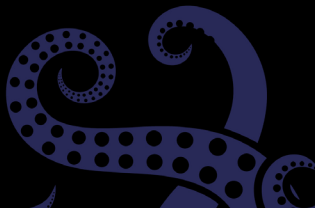
Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Passaic County  
4-H Youth Development Program  
1310 Route 23 North  
Wayne, NJ 07470

Phone: 973-684-4786 Fax: 973-305-8865  
E-mail: [Passaic4H@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:Passaic4H@njaes.rutgers.edu)



Answer: **C**

70%. Planet Earth is more like Planet Water. Most of Earth's water is saltwater in the ocean.



**Passaic County 4-H Website:** [passaic.njaes.rutgers.edu](http://passaic.njaes.rutgers.edu)

**New Jersey 4-H:** [www.nj4h.rutgers.edu](http://www.nj4h.rutgers.edu)

**National 4-H Website:** [www.4-h.org](http://www.4-h.org)

**New Jersey 4-H Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/NewJersey4H](http://www.facebook.com/NewJersey4H)

**Passaic County 4-H Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/pages/Passaic-County-4-H](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Passaic-County-4-H)

**Passaic County 4-H Instagram:** @PassaicCounty4H

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](http://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 Boards of County Commissioners. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.

“Whatever it is you’re scared of doing, do it. Make your mistakes, next year and forever.” - Neil Gaiman