



Passaic County 4-H Happenings



A note from your 4-H Community Assistant

Happy Winter to all our Passaic County 4-H families! I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of you that have kept this program alive and growing over the past year. I look forward to the many fun activities and events we have planned for this upcoming year.

In this new year, I hope to expand our programs and clubs across all of Passaic County. If you are interested in starting a 4-H Club in Passaic County, please feel free to reach out to me at Passaic4H@njaes.rutgers.edu

We have also begun the search for a Passaic County 4-H Agent. The position will provide leadership to a comprehensive research-based youth development educational program for Passaic County youth, grades K-13 (one year out of high school). This position will be housed at the RCE of Passaic County office located in Wayne, NJ. Please spread the word! The job posting can be found here:

<https://jobs.rutgers.edu/postings/218903>

-Jennie Thomas, Community Assistant

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Valentine's Day Cards for Meals on Wheels

This was the 10th year Passaic County 4-H made Valentine's Day Cards for recipients of Meals on Wheels of Passaic County. Starting in 2014, the Teen Council began the tradition of creating hand-made Valentine's Day Cards. The tradition has since expanded to include all of Passaic County 4-H Clubs. Each year 4-Her's create about 800 Valentine's Day cards with messages of encouragement and joy. Over the course of 10 years, Passaic County 4-Her's have made over 8,000 Valentine's Day Cards!

Thank you to all our volunteers, 4-Her's and friends for helping to reach our target of 800 cards this year. Your kindness and service has been truly appreciated.



4-H AWARDS NIGHT 2022-23

Passaic County 4-H hosted Awards Night on December 1st, 2023 at the Passaic County Community College Public Safety Academy in Wayne, NJ. Members of the Junior/Teen Council MC'd the event. This ceremony is to recognize and celebrate the many achievements of our 4-Her's in county, state and national events.

Thank you to the Passaic County 4-H Leader's Association for their unending support and for making the night a success! Any award recipients can send a thank you to the Leader's Association.



Passaic County 4-H

For outstanding growth and leadership over the course of the 2022-23 club year, 3 youth were recognized. Congratulations to Alyssa D., Julia H., and Jonathan C.! These youth were chosen because they display strong leadership skills, they are always willing to lend a helping hand, and they strive to make the best better.



STEM Ambassadors



Junior/Teen Council



Emerald Archers



Preakness Aggies

WINTER CAMP 2024

5 teens and 1 adult volunteer from Passaic County 4-H joined Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, and Union counties at L.G. Cook 4-H Camp in Branchville, NJ for a weekend of fun. Over the course of the weekend, they went on a long hike to Tillman's Ravine, played netball, and spent time making new friends.



Each county is responsible for cooking one of the meals for the rest of the group at Winter Camp. Passaic County youth cooked a wonderful breakfast of fruit, eggs, bacon, and pancakes. They received a helping hand from some of the Essex county youth.



Teens also spent time creating Valentine's Day cards, playing board games, and sitting beside the fireplace. On Saturday night, everyone sat around the campfire and told stories. There were marshmallows for s'mores and one youth even played their guitar.

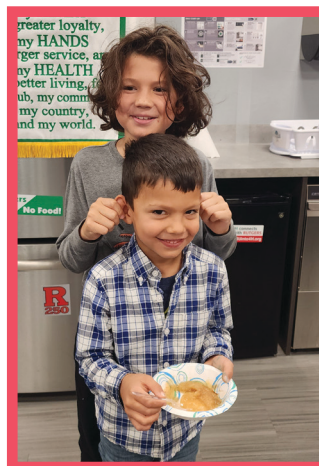


On Saturday evening, Giselle Smisko from Avian Wildlife Center came to speak with the group about raptors. Ms. Smisko brought several different raptors that were rescued by her group. She brought a Northern Saw-whet owl, seen in the image above. This owl was blinded and now tours around NJ educating youth about raptors. She also brought a Great Horned Owl and a Red-Tailed Hawk.



PREAKNESS AGGIES

The Preakness Aggies learned all about apples during their October meeting. They learned about the parts of the apple as well as the many uses for apples. The Aggies worked as a team to make applesauce! Each member brought a different variety of apple. Everyone peeled and chopped their apples. Next, Ms. Raquel cooked the apples in a little bit of water and then blended them in a food processor. Each 4-her was then able to add their own flavoring like cinnamon or honey.



Preakness Aggies will be meeting at the 4-H Office in Wayne for the meetings of the 2023-24 Club Year.

Club Meeting Dates:

- April 20th, 2024
- May 18th, 2024
- June 15th, 2024

In November, the Aggies learned about the importance of volunteering and giving back to those in need. They collected food donations to be given to a local food bank. They also made Thankfulness Turkeys out of construction paper. On each feather of their turkey, the Aggies wrote a different thing they were thankful for. These feathers said things such as “My Family”, “My 4-H Club”, and “My health”. Club members shared what they are thankful for.



For their December meeting, the Preakness Aggies learned to make Thumbprint cookies. They learned to mix the ingredients together to make dough. They formed the dough into little balls and used their thumb to push a small imprint into the dough balls. They then filled the imprint in the cookies before baking them. Traditionally, jam is used for thumbprint cookies, but some Aggies used their creativity and filled their cookies with crushed Oreos and other snacks. It was a delicious meeting!



JUNIOR/TEEN COUNCIL

In October, the Junior/Teen Council learned how to sew a back-stitch. They each created pillow cases that were sewn by hand. Those pillow cases were then donated to the Preakness Valley Healthcare Center to be used as prizes for their bingo night. They also learned how to make dog toys out of old t-shirts. These dog toys were donated to local shelters.

The Junior/Teen Council used their November meeting to help plan for the Passaic County 4-H Awards Night in December. They created the programs for the night, as well as wrote the scripts, and help to organize supplies. Ella, Julia, Jacqueline, Veronica, Kabir, David, Megan and Erin did a wonderful job MCing.



Junior/Teen Council will be meeting at the 4-H Office in Wayne for the meetings of the 2023-24 Club Year.

Club Meeting Dates:

- April 20th, 2024
- May 18th, 2024
- June 15th, 2024



On Dec. 16th, members of the Junior/Teen Council volunteered at the Essex County 4-H's Pictures with Pets and Santa. Over 40 families, along with their furry friends, came to take pictures with Santa. The 4-Hers assisted with the pictures, they also helped with fun holiday-themed crafts and activities.

Emerald Archers meet on the 1st Saturday of the month at the Lyndhurst Community Center for 2023-24 Club Year

Club Meeting Dates:

- March 2nd, 2024
- April 5th, 2024
- May 4th, 2024

EMERALD ARCHERS

The Emerald Archers led a training for a local girl scout troop during their October monthly club meeting. They taught the importance of self-discipline and sound decision making. They also taught the important safety rules and regulations for Shooting Sports. There are many safety rules

in archery, and it is important to listen to the Range Officer. The girl scouts were each able to try their hand at firing a bow and arrow.

In November and December, the Emerald Archers held their regular monthly meetings. They worked on skills relating to accuracy and precision. After each shot it is important for the archer to relax and review the shot in order to improve. To make the training a little more fun, they used the left over balloons from Awards Night as target practice!



STEM AMBASSADORS

During their October meeting, the STEM Ambassadors met at the Allwood Branch of the Clifton Public Library. They learned about circuits and conductivity. The STEM Ambassadors used Makey Makey kits to test the conductivity of different objects and to understand how electricity moves.

In November, the STEM Ambassadors learned about the App Design Challenge. They learned how to create an app prototype in Keynote using iPads.

For their December meeting, the STEM Ambassadors got into the holiday spirit with a fun gingerbread house STEM Challenge. They were given an hour to create a free-standing structure using provided edible materials like graham crackers, icing, and many assorted candies. They were only able to use materials provided and had use food to create the standing structure.



2 Passaic County 4-H STEM Ambassadors also took part in the STEM Equity Challenge. Alongside their peers and 4-H staff, they learned to do in-depth research on a topic about Equity in STEM fields. The topics ranged from bias in Artificial Intelligence, to access to healthcare services to lack of representation in STEM fields. On Dec. 9th, these youth presented their research to their peers and family members. The night concluded with a dinner and a certificate ceremony.



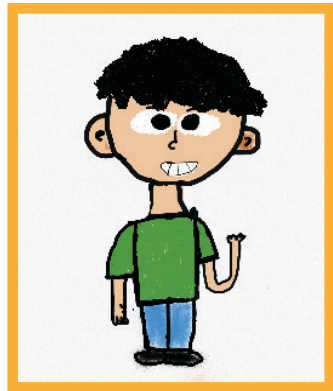
The STEM Ambassadors will be meeting at the Clifton Public Library on the 2nd Wednesday of the month for the 2023-24 Club Year.

Club Meeting Dates:
February 14th, 2024
April 10th, 2024
May 8th, 2024

IN THE COMMUNITY

Science Saturday at the Clifton Public Library

Passaic County 4-H hosted a Science Saturday at the Clifton Memorial Library on Saturday, Oct. 14th, 2023. Families of youth in 2nd to 8th grade were invited to learn about science with fun, hands-on activities. 5 volunteers from Optum and 4 STEM Ambassadors volunteered to teach the activities at different stations. The stations included making binary bead bracelets, learning about conductivity, and finding neutral buoyancy with an ocean glider. Over 95 youth and family members came through the stations.



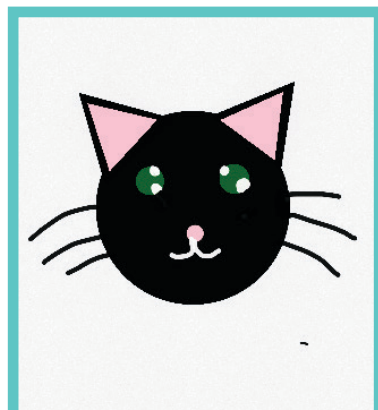
By Dylan



By Gabriela



By Brianna



By Francis

Everyone Can Create at PS 2

Youth in kindergarten to 3rd grade used technology to spark their creativity. They explored their creative side using different devices and apps, including iPads. They learned about different forms of expression through drawing, photography, and video. Youth created their own self-portraits, stop motions, and animations. They learned how to combine shapes to create images. For example, a circle with 2 triangles on top can be a cat. In early childhood development, arts education can be crucial in language development and the development of fine motor skills. This program ran for six weeks from October to December at Public School 2 in Paterson. This program was provided through the Apple Community Education Initiative and will continue in the spring.

Passaic County 4-H Happenings

4-H Essex County Fall Fest

Passaic County 4-Her's volunteered at the 4-H Essex County Fall Fest on October 15th, 2023 at Garibaldi Hall in Roseland. They taught different STEM activities to younger youth in the community. These activities included painting with spherical robots, Learn to Code on iPads, and the *Ocean Glider* from the *Explorer's of the Deep* STEM Challenge. Essex County 4-H also sold baked goods and popcorn!



Rutgers 4-H Sustainability Summit

25 New Jersey 4-H STEM Ambassadors were selected to attend Rutgers University for a day of learning, discovery, collaboration, and action! The 4-H Sustainability Summit was attended by youth from New Jersey's biggest cities where they discussed the importance of creating a sustainable future. They learned sustainability means fulfilling the needs of current generations without compromising the needs of future generations, while ensuring a balance between economic growth, environmental care, and social well-being. Youth from seven counties were selected to attend the Summit engaging students from cities such as Trenton, Jersey City, Paterson, Newark, Atlantic City, and New Brunswick. Rutgers faculty provided authentic research opportunities, laboratory experiences, discussions, and mentorship around issues of sustainability and renewable energy.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

**2ND
MAR**

March 2nd - 8:00 am to 12:00 pm
Volunteer at Father English Food Pantry in Paterson, NJ

**16TH
MAR**

March 16th - 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Maker Day at the Clifton Memorial Library

**19TH
APR**

April 19th - 7:00pm to 9:00 pm
Passaic County 4-H Public Presentations at Public Safety Academy in Wayne, NJ

**27TH
APR**

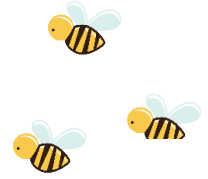
April 27th - 10:00am to 3:00 pm
Passaic County Earth Day at Garrett Mt Reservation in Woodland Park, NJ



RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



2024 NJ Junior Animal Science Symposium

**Location: Round Barn
@ George H. Cook Campus
Rutgers University**

Location: Intersection
of College Farm Road
and Sheepfold Lane,
North Brunswick
Township, NJ.

**Saturday
March 23, 2024
8:30 am - 3:00 pm**

**For youth and adults
Rain or shine!**

Register by 3/16



<https://tinyurl.com/2024AnimalScience>

Hands-on workshops in the following tracks

- Equine
- Swine
- Small Ruminant
(Sheep & Goat)
- Large Ruminant
(Dairy and Beef Cattle)
- Dairy Quiz Bowl
- Poultry
- Beekeeping
- Rabbit
- Cavy *(Guinea Pig)*
- Small Animals
- Animal Science
Video Contest

Questions? Contact:

Amelia.Minervini@rutgers.edu

**Sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture
Junior Breeder Program, in cooperation with Rutgers
Cooperative Extension faculty and staff.**



4-H Summer Camp 2024

- Session 1: July 1st to 6th
- Session 2: July 8th-13th
- Session 3: July 15th-20th
- Session 4: July 22nd-27th
- Session 5: July 31st to August 17th

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

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Passaic County



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Passaic County 4-H Website: passaic.njaes.rutgers.edu

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

National 4-H Website: www.4-h.org

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

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

Passaic County 4-H Instagram: [@PassaicCounty4H](https://www.instagram.com/PassaicCounty4H)



Jennie Thomas
 Passaic County 4-H
 Community Assistant

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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