

Passaic County 4-H Happenings



A note from your 4-H Agent

Hello, Passaic County 4-H! We hope your year is off to a great start, we know ours is! Since our Fall 2024 Newsletter, Passaic County 4-Hers have been busy with exciting opportunities and memorable experiences. In January, teens from Passaic, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Union, and Mercer counties came together at the L.G. Cook 4-H Camp for our annual Winter Camp. It was a weekend filled with fun, outdoor adventure and learning. Passaic County youth also participated in the World Food Prize program, developing research-based solutions to global food insecurity and presenting their ideas to a panel of expert judges at Rutgers in New Brunswick. The learning and leadership continued as several of our teens traveled to Washington, D.C. for IGNITE by 4-H, a premier teen leadership conference. Most recently, we wrapped up our 2025 Public Presentations Night at PCCC Public Safety Academy, where 10 youth delivered fantastic presentations—we're so proud of each and every one of them!

Stay tuned for exciting opportunities as we finish out spring and head into summer. We can't wait to see you at upcoming events and programs!

Best, Kirsten Cowan

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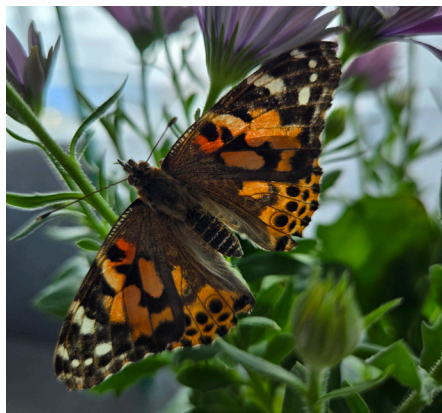
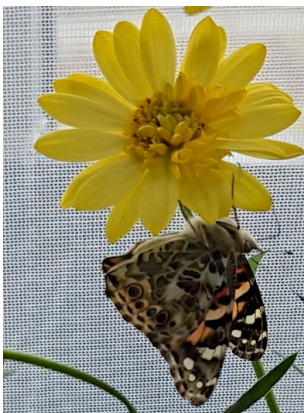
Saturday, April 26th - Passaic County Earth Day Celebration

Join us for Passaic County Earth Day Celebration at Rifle Camp Park in Woodland Park! Enjoy birdwatching, nature hikes, a special tree planting ceremony, and environmental education and crafts for kids with planet-friendly vendors from around New Jersey.

Date: April 26th, 2025

Time: 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Location: Rifle Camp Park (387 Rifle Camp Rd. Woodland Park, NJ)



Look what we found on our flowers!

Passaic County 4-H Happenings

4-H PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS



Passaic County 4-H hosted Public Presentations on Friday, April 12th at PCCC Public Safety Academy in Wayne. Public presentations are a way for 4-Her's to practice their public speaking skills and showcase their interests. 10 4-Her's presented on a wide variety of topics. Topics of illustrated talks ranged from tariffs to Taylor Swift. We also had a wonderful performance on the flute of *A Whole New World* from Aladdin and *A Million Dreams* from the Greatest Showman. One 4-Her even gave an interactive demonstration on how to make slime!

Congratulations to Jeremiah and Kabir for receiving Best In Room!

For receiving an Excellent, congratulations to Ali, Emma, Emily, Jeremiah, and Kabir!

A huge thank you to our incredible judges, Ms. Raquel, Mr. Dan, Mr. Rodrigo, and Ms. Kathleen!



CLUB UPDATES

PREAKNESS AGGIES

The Preakness Aggies meet on the 3rd Saturday of the month at the 4-H Office in Wayne, NJ. The Aggies are a Cloverbud club for youth in kindergarten to fourth grade. Each monthly meeting, club members focus on different topics including science, art, agriculture, and much more.

For their February meeting, the Preakness Aggies learned about stop motion animation. Each club member was able to create their own animation utilizing a tablet and a fun assortment of miscellaneous objects. Club members were able to have fun and express their creativity, while also learning about new technologies.

In March, the Preakness Aggies learned all about starting seeds. Club members were able to plant sunflower seeds.

For April, the Preakness Aggies will be attending Passaic County Earth Day on Saturday, April 26th.

This club is recruiting new members!

Please email Passaic4H@njaes.rutgers.edu

Next club meeting: Saturday, June 21st, 2025



EMERALD ARCHERS



In February, the Emerald Archers made Valentine's Day Cards for recipients of Meals on Wheels during their monthly club meeting. The club contributed over 200 cards!

During their March meeting, the Emerald Archers celebrated one of their own. Congratulations to Ian Corbo for being accepted as one of 12 delegates from New Jersey! Ian will attend Citizenship Washington Focus in June and represent our state at the national level.

For their April meeting, the club intended to host archery lessons for youth at Garret Mountain, but the event was cancelled due to poor weather conditions.

Emerald Archers will be hosting Children's Archery with Passaic County Parks and Recreation on Saturday, May 3rd at Garret Mountain Reservation. Registration for this event is through Passaic County Parks and Recreation.

This club is recruiting new members!

Please email Passaic4H@njaes.rutgers.edu

Next club meeting: Saturday, June 7th, 2025

STEM AMBASSADORS

In the STEM Ambassadors club, we did many exciting and cool things throughout January, February, and March. In January, alongside many other clubs, we made Valentines Day cards for recipients of Meals On Wheels. We helped achieve the goal of making 800 cards. Every card had a fun decorations like stickers, pretty designs, and more. Of course, we also included a nice message inside.

In February, we learned how to create stop motion animation using iPads. We used random objects such as play dough and legos to create our animations. We took a series of pictures and then learned how to combine them to make the animation. We exported our work as GIFs and shared them with the club.

In March, we learned about the first photo ever taken of a person. The man was captured in the photo because he was standing still getting his shoes polished. Even though there were other people on the street that day, no one else was captured in the photo because they were moving. Then, we learned how to create cyanotypes. We mixed potassium ferricyanide and ferric ammonium citrate. We then put this mixture on a piece of paper and let it dry. Once it was dry, we exposed the paper to artificial sunlight with objects on top of the paper. After the paper was exposed, the parts not covered by objects turned blue and the part covered stayed white. We then washed the paper with water which turned the paper into deep Prussian Blue. This is a very cool process of taking a picture without a camera.

In April, we learned all about vermicomposting! This is the process of creating compost using worms. Worms are decomposers, so they break down natural materials into a rich compost that is great for growing plants. We were able to look at a vermicompost bin that had been in process for about 6 months and a bin that just started a few weeks ago. The newer bin had much more active and smaller worms.

Written by Veronica L., Club Reporter

Next club meeting: Wednesday, May 21st, 2025



JUNIOR/ TEEN COUNCIL

The past three months in Junior Teen Council, we have done a lot of fun and educating activities. Starting in January where we made Valentine's Day cards for Meals On Wheels. Each card was filled with a nice message and was decorated lovingly. Junior Teen Council helped contribute to the goal of making 800 cards in total. Which we did achieve in the end.

In February, we baked cookies, some of which were homemade, and others were from scratch. We baked strawberry cookies, confetti cookies, and classic chocolate chip cookies. We then shared with the Preakness Aggies, another 4-H club filled with many younger kids.

Then in March, we went to the Laurelwood Arboretum. We walked around the place and saw many interesting sculptures. There were many plants, flowers and we even saw a little fairy garden that included many little trinkets. In each month mentioned, we managed to have fun and educating activities! For April, the Junior/Teen Council will be attending Passaic County Earth Day on Saturday, April 26th

Written by Veronica L., Club Reporter

This club is recruiting new members!

Please email Passaic4H@njaes.rutgers.edu



ART CLUB

In February, 4-Her's learned to make collages. They cut up old news papers and magazines and glued them onto poster board. 4-Her's were instructed to create a collage that represent how they see the world.

During their March meeting, the art club nominated and elected club officers.

Congratulations to the new club officers:

President: Emily

Vice President: Emma and Miah

Treasurer: Isabella

Secretary: Joelle

Reporter: Rae

The art club also learned how to make cyanotypes. This is a photographic process that does not involve the use of a camera. During their April meeting, the art club experimented with water color painting. Some club members had previous experience with this type of medium, but others tried it for the first time.

Next club meeting: Friday, May 2nd, 2025

This club is recruiting new members!

Please email Passaic4H@njaes.rutgers.edu



WEST MILFORD CLUB

The West Milford 4-H Club is one of the newest additions to Passaic County 4-H and will focus on animal science and leadership. The club meets monthly in the Hewitt area, currently on the 3rd Friday of each month from 6-7pm. They are open for enrollment for youth in 4th-13th grade, and as our volunteer base grows, we hope to expand to include Cloverbuds (K-3rd grade).

Interested in volunteering? We'd love to hear from you!

In March, the club held a successful interest session at Hewitt Tractor Supply, where a great group of kids and families learned about 4-H and even made butter. In April, the group will tour Hazelman Farms to learn all about poultry.



This club is recruiting new members & volunteers!

Please email Passaic4H@njaes.rutgers.edu

Next club meetings*:

Friday, May 16th, 2025

Friday, June 20th, 2025



* As this is a new club, the meeting dates might shift as the club establishes – please reach out for the updated meeting dates and locations

ALL PAWS ON DECK



All Paws on Deck is a 4-H club for all youth interested in dogs**. This club meets on the 3rd or 4th Thursday of the month at Garibaldi Hall in Roseland. During their January meeting, the club elected club officers. Congratulations to:

President: Selda

Vice President: Aily

Secretary: Avery H.

Treasurer: Leila

Reporter: Lucy, Selda, and Aily

In February the club learned about the command heel from our club trainer, Ms Johanna. Each club member was able to try the new command with their dog, or one of the club dogs. In March, the club began the meeting with a pack walk around Garibaldi Hall. We then discussed plans for future club meeting and upcoming statewide events.

This club is recruiting new members & volunteers!

Please email Passaic4H@njaes.rutgers.edu

Next club meeting: Thursday, April 24th

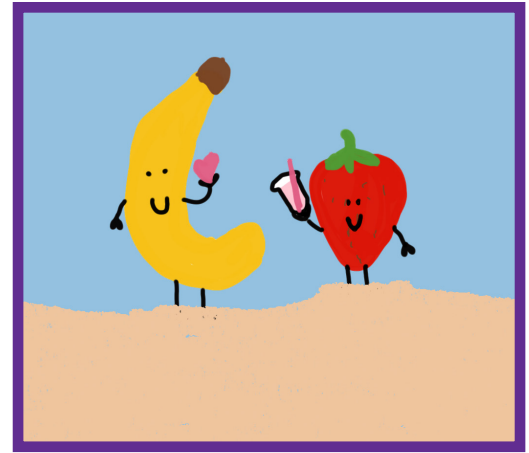
** Dog ownership is not required to join the club.



IN THE COMMUNITY

Art and Technology at the Clifton Public Library

Youth in 4th to 8th grade were invited to join Passaic County 4-H to explore their creative side through new technologies. This 8 week program was hosted at the Clifton Public Library from January to March. Each session, youth were able to use iPads to learn creative ways to express themselves. Sessions included learning how to create stop motion animation, how to create GIFs, and how to create augmented reality. We ended the program with a showcase. Youth participants were able to show off the amazing art they made!



Created by Grace

Science Saturday at The Circle

Over 20 youth spent their Saturday morning learning about science through fun and engaging activities. Passaic County STEM Ambassadors volunteered their Saturday morning to teach science activities to youth at The Circle in Center City mall on Saturday, April 12th. The different activities included making cyanotypes, coding with spheros, creating binary bead bracelets, vermicomposting, and butterfly anatomy. Thank you to The Circle of Care for use of their amazing space!



New Jersey Youth Institute

In January and February, 20 4-Her's across NJ (including our very own Aiden of Passaic County) participated in a 6-week STEP club where they met virtually to discuss and explore global food insecurity while creating a research paper with the World Food Prize. These 4-Her's then presented the findings of their research papers at the New Jersey Youth Institute (NJYI) on March 7th at Rutgers University Busch Student Center. Over 200 students from around NJ, PA and NY participated in the event. In addition to the 4-Her's, Kirsten Cowan, Passaic County's 4-H Agent and Jennifer Taylor, Family and Community Sciences Educator joined in on the fun as judges for NJYI.





Ignite by 4-H

32 4-Her's from across New Jersey were chosen to represent our state at the Ignite by 4-H Youth Summit Series in Washington D.C. 4 of the 32 students hail directly from Passaic County. Below are their thoughts on the experience

From March 13 to March 17, instead of being in school, I got to spend my time at the capitol of the United States. This was due to the Ignite conference, which was nothing short of an amazing, immersive experience, which was also lots of fun. Throughout the conference, I expanded my knowledge in STEM, Agriscience, Healthy Living, Career Readiness, and Emotional Well-being. In doing so, I heard from a plethora of keynote speakers and took many classes, ranging from the creator of Shazam to starting a gardening program in a smaller community. While these sessions were very insightful, my favorite part was the ability to meet people from 40+ other states in the US, understanding life and different perspectives nationwide. Overall, Ignite was an incredible time and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to attend.

- Kabir H.



My experience at Ignite was an enlightening and esteemed trip that showed me innovative ways people think and allowed me to connect to people from all over the country. While it is only 4 days, Ignite by 4-H is packed with multiple activities that have ignited the spark to try and create change and sustainability in my community. From Alaska to New Jersey, Many esteemed 4-Hers could congregate and explore their horizons at Ignite.

- Ali A.



As a delegate at the Ignite by 4-H in Washington, D.C, I had an unimaginable experience throughout it. Throughout my time, I was able to meet so many important people like Senator Cory Booker and Producer Antoni Porowski and have conversations about their experiences. As a group from New Jersey, we also took flight with the National Air and Space Museum, where we delved into parts of planes and the history behind them, we also flew planes through simulators! I was also exposed to hundreds of individuals like myself from around the United States and got to network myself in a way I wouldn't have done without Ignite. During this time, we also went to multiple workshops throughout the days. In my personal experience, I learned about Healthy Living, Sustainable Futures, How to Manage Stress, etc. In all, this experience was once in a lifetime. For only being there for five days, I would do it over and over again.

- Christian R.



Winter Camp



A hearty group consisting of 71 individuals hailing from Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Passaic and Union counties descended upon L.G. Cook 4-H Camp the weekend of January 31st to February 2nd for a retreat into the woods. Despite the freezing cold temperatures, everyone had a wonderful time at Winter Camp.

Winter Camp is a weekend retreat where teens are able to meet 4-Her's from other counties and take part in fun outdoor activities. They are given different leadership roles including cooking meals, cleaning, and leading games and other activities. There is a lot to do around 4-H Camp including sledding, archery, disk golf and many beautiful trails to hike. The full group went for a long hike up to Tillman's Ravine.



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES:

Agriculture Career Summit

Join Rutgers Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, & Passaic County to explore the many careers in agriculture. Through round table discussions and hands-on workshops, participants will walk away with a better understanding of what it means to work in agriculture. Plus, lunch will be provided!

When? Saturday, May 31st, 2025 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Where? Bergen Community College, Paramus, NJ

Why? Make friends, connect with nature, learn how to grow food, and so much more!

Who? High School students in 10th to 12th grade

Interested? Contact Alyssa Glynn at alyssa.glynn@rutgers.edu



Youth Urban Farm Club in Passaic County

Passaic County 4-H and Green Acre Community Garden will be hosting Youth Urban Farm Club this summer! Open to teens looking to get outside and learn all about urban farming. *Stipends available for youth who complete 10 hours of community service in the garden!*

Who? Youth in 8th to 13th grade

When? Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 pm starting in July

Where? Green Acre Community Garden in Paterson

Why? Make friends, connect with nature, learn how to grow food, and so much more!

This club is recruiting new members & volunteers!

Please email Passaic4H@njaes.rutgers.edu

Horsemanship 101

New STEP Club for youth interested in learning more about equine sciences. We will be covering a range of topics from breeds, to grooming, to equine nutrition and even possible careers

When? Mondays at 6:00 pm starting April 21st

Where? North Jersey Equestrian Center in Pompton Plains, NJ

Why? Make friends and have FUN

Who? Students in 4th to 8th grade

Interested?

Contact Kirsten Cowan at kirsten.cowan@rutgers.edu



Cloverbud Art Club

Interested in exploring your creative side? We have a new younger youth art club where youth will be able to explore painting, photography and more!

Who? Youth in kindergarten to 3rd grade

When? 1st Friday of the Month from 5-6:15 pm

Where? Wayne 4-H Office

Why? Make friends and have FUN

This club is recruiting new members & volunteers!

Please email Passaic4H@njaes.rutgers.edu

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 19TH** **April 19th - 11:00 am to 2:00 pm**
APR City Green Earth Day, Farm Eco-Center, Clifton
- 26TH** **April 26th - 10:00 am to 3:00 pm**
APR Passaic County Earth Day, Rifle Camp Park, Woodland Park
- 27TH** **April 27th - 11:00 am to 2:00 pm**
APR Essex Spring Fair, Essex County Environmental Center, Roseland
- 17TH** **May 17th - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm**
MAY Park Clean-Up & Kids to Parks Day,,Garret Mountain Reservation, Woodland Park
- 31ST** **May 31st - 11:00 am to 4:00 pm**
MAY Ag Careers Summit, Bergen Community College

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Passaic County



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 New Jersey 4-H: www.nj4h.rutgers.edu
 National 4-H Website: www.4-h.org
 RCE of Passaic County Instagram: [@rcepassaiccounty](https://www.instagram.com/rcepassaiccounty)

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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