

Passaic County 4-H Happenings



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
Cooperative Extension
of Passaic County
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station



A note from your 4-H Agent

I'm certain I say this every September, but where did summer go?!

As the summer season wraps up, we are thrilled to share what an amazing summer it has been. From Animal Science programming in Paterson to Messy Crafts: a creative exploration of STEM with the Wayne and Little Falls Libraries, our team has been busy. Our new cohort of STEM Ambassadors had a phenomenal kick-off week at Rutgers-New Brunswick. We explored nature through Beneficial Bugs and Backyard Explorers in West Milford, celebrated the inaugural NJ cohort of ACAS Interns, enjoyed a busy County Fair, and wrapped it all up with the third annual Outdoor Adventure Camp.

It's safe to say that Passaic County 4-H has been out and about in the community, learning, growing, and having fun. Looking ahead to fall, be sure to keep an eye out for our returning clubs, new programs, and plenty of opportunities to get involved.

Best, Kirsten Cowan

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Re Enroll in 4-H on [ZSuite](#)

The new 4-H year is here. Don't forget to enroll (or re-enroll) in ZSuite to stay connected with all the exciting programs, events, and opportunities coming your way. Enrollment only takes a few minutes, secure your spot and get ready for another amazing year of 4-H adventures!

ZSuite Enrollment Site: 4h.zsuite.org

For New 4-H Families: [ZSuite Enrollment Help Guide](#)

For Returning 4-H Families [ZSuite Re-Enrollment Help Guide](#)



Welcome to the newest addition to Passaic County 4-H, Scotty!

Scotty is a [Seeing Eye](#) puppy and he is a part of the Seeing Eye Puppy Raising Program. He is a yellow labrador retriever. When Scotty grows up he will be a guide dog for a person who is blind or visually impaired. Scotty is being raised by 4-H staff and will be at many events during the club year!

More information about puppy raising can be found at:
<https://seeingeye.org/puppy-raising/>

Passaic County 4-H Happenings

PASSAIC COUNTY FAIR

Passaic County 4-H went ***Under the Sea*** this year for the theme of the RCE / 4-H tent at the Passaic County Fair from August 14th to 17th, 2025 at Garret Mountain Reservation. We had many ocean themed games and activities for fairgoers. We also had the old fair favorites like Oobleck and the baby chicks. We had over 20 4-Her's and volunteers join us in the tent this year.



CLUB UPDATES

Clubs are led by trained volunteers and typically meet once a month. Each club has a different focus area and club members participate in various projects throughout the year depending on their chosen topic or focus. If you're interested in joining our clubs go to go.rutgers.edu/joinnj4h or email Passaic4H@njaes.rutgers.edu

PREAKNESS AGGIES & JUNIOR TEEN COUNCIL

OPEN HOUSE - Saturday, September 20, 2025

Join the Passaic County 4-H Preakness Aggies and Jr/Teen Council for an Open House at the 4-H Office in Wayne! There will be fun hands on activities for youth in K to 13th grade.

Date: Sept 20, 2025

Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Location: 1310 Route 23 N, Wayne, NJ 07470



Preakness Aggies meet on the 3rd Saturday of the month at the 4-H Office in Wayne, NJ. This is a club for youth in kindergarten to 3rd grade. Club members explore all different topic areas including arts, sciences, agriculture and more!

This club is recruiting new members!

Junior/Teen Council meets on the 3rd Saturday of the month at the 4-H Office in Wayne, NJ. This is a club for youth in 4th to 13th grade. Club members focus on leadership, civic engagement, and community service.

This club is recruiting new members!



EMERALD ARCHERS

The Emerald Archers meet on the 1st Saturday of the month at the Lyndhurst Community Center. This is a shooting sports club for youth in 5th to 13th grade. 4-Hers learn leadership, competency and sound decision making.

This club is recruiting new members and volunteers!

Next club meeting: Saturday, September 6th, 2025

ALL PAWS ON DECK (DOG CLUB)

All Paws on Deck meets on the 3rd / 4th Tuesday of the month at the 4-H Office in Roseland, NJ. This is a club for youth in kindergarten to 13th grade. Club members learn all about dogs from grooming to first aid to obedience. Dog ownership is not required to join the club.

This club is recruiting new members and volunteers!

Next club meeting: Tuesday, September 23rd, 2025



ART CLUB



Art Club meets on the 1st Friday of the month at the 4-H Office in Wayne, NJ. This is a club for teens in 4th to 13th grade. Each monthly meeting, club members focus on a different type of art like painting, photography, or sculpture.

This club is recruiting new members!

Next club meeting: Friday, September 5th, 2025

CLOVERBUD ART CLUB

Art Club meets on the 1st Friday of the month at the 4-H Office in Wayne, NJ. This is a club for youth in kindergarten to 3rd grade. Each monthly meeting, club members focus on a different type of art like painting, digital art, or sculpture.

This club is recruiting new members and volunteers!

Next club meeting: Friday, September 5th, 2025



WEST MILFORD CLUB

The West Milford 4-H Club is a club based in West Milford and is open to all youth grades K-13. They meet on the 3rd Friday of each month from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm at various locations within the West Milford area.

In May the group met at Camp Hope and went over the importance of Biosecurity. Through handwashing challenges and a fun “county fair” mystery activity, they learned how to keep themselves, their animals, and their environment healthy and safe. In June, the club visited the New Weis Nature Center, where Watershed Ambassador Peyton guided them through an exploration of the Blue Mine Brook. Members learned how to assess water quality and safety, and they identified a variety of macroinvertebrates that serve as indicators of a healthy watershed. In July, the club returned to Camp Hope to prepare for the County Fair. They created their fair posters and had a blast making homemade freezer jam.

This club is recruiting new members & volunteers!

Next club meetings*:

Friday, September 19th, 2025

Friday, October 17th, 2025



STEM AMBASSADORS

7 youth represented Passaic County 4-H during Summer Science Kick-Off Week at Rutgers New Brunswick. This is the 17th Cohort to attend Summer Science as a part of the Rutgers 4-H STEM Ambassadors program.

My perspective of the Summer Science Kick-Off was that it was absolutely phenomenal, educating and engaging! It was a beautiful dive into what the future holds for me as a student and possible career choices as I near toward college. As a rising sophomore it gave me insight on how my future may play out, meeting with individuals who were dedicated to and passionate with their fields was not only a terrific experience but also one that really made me consider what exactly I wanted to be. Among this I also had a lot of fun during the kick off week especially during; pool time, making my project on plant science, and being able to stay on Rutgers campus overall! :)

Genesis L.



My experience at Summer Science Kick-Off Week was filled with fun and educational activities. I learned so much in just one week. Some valuable things I learned was time-management, what it's like to be at a college, how college students do lab research, and how to collect data. Specifically, I went to a lab in a group to learn about microplastics. After being in a group, I was partnered with another person. We then gathered all our information on microplastics. Next, we used photos, our knowledge, writing supplies, and our speech to create a poster about microplastics and present it to all the parents that came on the last day of that week. I wanted to mention this because even though it was a lot of work, I really liked doing it and in the end it taught me about how microplastics affect humans and a life lesson as well. That lesson was that things don't always turn out how they're supposed to and that's okay. Personally, I am a perfectionist sometimes, and to me our poster wasn't perfect. Then I realized that it was okay because things like a poster don't have to be extremely perfect. To summarize, we did so many productive activities throughout the week and I hope to do it again.

Veronica L.



A.C.A.S. (ADVANCING CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE & STEM)

This summer, nine teens from Passaic, Essex, Bergen, and Hudson Counties participated in the inaugural NJ Advancing Careers in Agriculture and STEM (ACAS) Internship Program. Over the course of the week, interns built leadership, career readiness, and workforce development skills. From organizing schedules and balancing budgets to writing resumes and practicing interview skills, they gained practical tools to prepare for the challenges of tomorrow.



The group traveled across New Jersey to explore the many opportunities within agriculture and STEM. Highlights included learning about hydroponics at Passaic County Community College and planting their own seeds, touring an urban garden that supports local families, harvesting mushrooms at an urban vertical farm, exploring Rutgers–New Brunswick and its campus farm, and visiting a local poultry farm to learn about egg production right in Passaic County. Each stop opened new windows into career pathways while fostering teamwork, confidence, and curiosity.



At the end of the week the interns presented what they had learned in a showcase for friends and family:

“Throughout this program not only did we gain knowledge on agriculture, STEM, and careers beyond that we gained a community” – NJ ACAS 2025 Teen

“At first glance you may not see how Agriculture and Architecture are similar, but they share a common root theme which is building systems that sustain life... When I look at my future as an architect, I’m not going to build just buildings, I’m going to build places and spaces for people to feel respected and for the environment to be respected as well.” – NJ ACAS 2025 Teen.

Applications for next summer will open in early 2026 – stay tuned.

Contributions by Yargine I. and Zahraa H.



OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CAMP

Essex and Passaic County 4-H joined forces for the third year of Outdoor Adventure Camp! Youth in 6th to 10th grade were invited to explore the natural wonders of Passaic and Essex County while learning about environmental stewardship and leadership. Each day campers went on different adventures like hiking, fishing, a ropes course and a canoe ride. Thank you to David Alexander at the Essex Environmental Center for the wonderful environmental stewardship and the canoe ride on the Passaic County River.



IN THE COMMUNITY

Garden Lessons in Little Falls

The Seedling Squad at the Little Falls Public Library joined Passaic County 4-H to learn about composting and soil. During the first lesson, the youth met the superstars of the composting world: red wigglers! They learned about the anatomy of the worm and the important function that worms and other decomposers place in our food system. During the second lesson, members of the Seedling Squad learned about the different components of soil and the importance of matching soil to the right plants.



Science Saturday at The Circle

Youth in Paterson 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, July 19th. The different activities included Explorer's of the Deep Ocean Gliders, bowling with Spheros, Honeybee Challenge, Garden in a Glove, and Origami Algorithm. Thank you to The Circle of Care for use of their amazing space!

Messy Crafts at the Library

Thanks to the Little Falls and Wayne Public Libraries for getting messy with Passaic County 4-H! Messy Crafts is a creative exploration of STEM, where youth are encouraged to make a mess in order to learn. Different projects include Creative Circuits, Magnetic Art, and Colorful Creations.



Beneficial Bugs

Youth ages 7-11 met once a week at the Clifton Public Library in May and June to learn all about bugs! They learned about insect identification, different ways to classify bugs, and the many beneficial things bugs do for us. Youth were able to meet some critters as well! They met butterflies, worms, & ladybugs.



Animal Science in Paterson

Youth at Memorial Day Summer Camp in Paterson learned all about animal science this summer. They were given the chance to meet and learn about a lot of different types of animals like bunnies, snakes, lizards and chickens.

Horsemanship 101

This spring, Passaic County 4-H introduced Horsemanship 101, a Short-Term Experience Program (STEP) designed for youth in grades 4 through 8 with a passion for horses. Over the course of 12 weeks, club members met weekly at the North Jersey Equestrian Center to dive into a wide range of equine topics including grooming, nutrition, health, breeds and colors, and careers in the animal science field.

Through hands-on activities, participants learned how to care for horses, work safely in the barn, interpret horse body language, and understand basic horse behavior. They also explored first aid and veterinary science, gaining valuable insight into equine health and wellness.

This program would not have been possible without the generous support of the North Jersey Equestrian Center and the Bauer family, whose partnership helped make this unique learning experience a reality.



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Passaic County 4-H Horse Knowledge Team

Passaic County 4-H Horse Knowledge Team New 4-H Club focuses on increasing equine knowledge and competing at the NJ 4-H horse knowledge contests: Model Horse Show, Horse Bowl, Equine Arts Show, Equine Presentations, Horse Judging, and Hippology. Open to Youth 4th grade and above. Meetings will typically be held once a month from September through May, with some months including twice-monthly meetings as contest dates approach. Priority will be given to youth who can commit to the full season.

Interested families are invited to attend an Interest Session (late September or early October) to learn more and get involved. Contact Kirsten for more information (Kirsten.Cowan@Rutgers.edu)



4-H VetVentures

Sunday, September 28, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm

4-H Vet Science program for youth in 6th to 13th grade with an interest in veterinary science and animal science. This will be a full day event with hands-on activities.

Program Fee: \$15

Register Here: <http://go.rutgers.edu/w23fzklc>

4-H Farm to Table

Sunday, October 19, 10:00 AM – 1:30 PM
Bergen Community College (Paramus Campus)

Open to New Jersey youth grades 6-8, this hands-on event features workshops, and culinary fun for you to learn what it takes to grow your own produce, care for livestock, and prepare a delicious meal using local ingredients! The day will include a locally sourced lunch to be enjoyed by youth and their families catered by Bergen County farmers, food trucks, the MCF Farmstand, and fun giveaways and prizes. Don't miss this fresh and fun day of learning, eating, and celebrating where your food comes from!



RU Research Ready?

Hunterdon & Passaic County 4-H present 4-H Research Ready. Explore real-world issues in environmental health, animal health, and human health. Develop a research project with peers to find solutions. Real Science. Real Skills. Real Impact.

Become Research Ready

Network with Professionals

Present Research Poster

Teach Your Community

For Middle and High School Students
Monthly Meetings (In-Person & Virtual)
Oct 2025 - June 2026

Apply by Oct 3

<http://go.rutgers.edu/zqzdv0vz>



SEPTEMBER

	1 <i>4-H Club Year Begins</i>	2	3	4	5 Cloverbud Art Club Art Club	6 Emerald Archers <u>Hike 4 Healing*</u> 9am-2pm
7	8	9	10 STEM Ambassadors	11 Leaders' Association	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 West Milford Club	20 OPEN HOUSE* 10am-12pm Jr/Teen Council Preakness Aggies
21 <u>Essex Fall Fest*</u> 11am-2pm	22	23 All Paws on Deck Dog Club	24	25	26	27 Park Clean-Up* 10am-12pm Kids to Parks* 11am-4pm Rifle Camp Park
28 <u>VetVentures</u>	29	30 Career Carnival* 6pm-7:30pm Lincoln Park Library				

OCTOBER

			1	2	3 Art Club	4 Emerald Archers
5	6	7	8 STEM Ambassadors	9 Leaders' Association	10	11 Paws in the Park* 10am-4pm Goffle Brook Park
National 4-H Week						
12	13	14	15	16	17 West Milford Club	18 Jr/Teen Council Preakness Aggies
19 Farm to Table at Bergen CC	20	21 <u>Research Ready Info Session</u> Dog Club	22	23	24	25 <u>Club Officer Training</u> 1-3 pm
26	27	28	29	30	31 	

CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

*Sign Up for Volunteer events in **RED** here: https://rutgers.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d6hdcWCUGosMjuS

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RIFLE CAMP PARK CLEAN-UP

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 27
10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM
AT RIFLE CAMP PARK**

387 RIFLE CAMP ROAD
WOODLAND PARK, NJ 07424

Volunteer park clean up open to all!

Any questions, email us at
Passaic4H@njaes.rutgers.edu

Follow the link or scan the
QR code to sign up

go.rutgers.edu/i8bms44d



Teens from NJ are leading the charge to make a 4-H specialty plate an option for motorists!

Like the idea? Let us know!

We are looking for those who like this idea to make their voices heard! Please scan the QR code to answer a few quick questions!



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

**Cooperative Extension
of Passaic County**

New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station



Kirsten Cowen
Passaic County
4-H Agent

Jennie Thomas
Passaic County 4-H
Program Associate I

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

Passaic County 4-H Website: <http://www.passaic.njaes.rutgers.edu>
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