

Passaic County 4-H Happenings



A note from your 4-H Community Assistant

Passaic County 4-H has been abuzz this spring! We have been some very busy bees with Public Presentations, Earth Day Celebration, club meetings and lots of different opportunities to volunteer. We have also been getting into the garden as the weather warms. Thank you to all the 4-Her's who have been volunteering this spring. You all truly make the best better. If you're feeling left out, we still have a lot fun events coming up, including the Passaic County Fair! The fair will be August 15th to 18th this year, so please save the date. As always, thank you to the lovely leaders and volunteers for their time and dedication!

-Jennie Thomas, Community Assistant

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4-H PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Passaic County 4-H hosted county public presentations on Friday, April 19th at the Passaic County Community College Public Safety Academy in Wayne. A county public presentation is an opportunity for 4-Her's to practice their public speaking skills as well as research and present on a topic of their interest. There are 4 different types of presentations for 4-Her's to choose from: illustrated talk, demonstration, formal speech, and performing arts.



A total of 12 4-Her's participated in Passaic County Public Presentations. Congratulations to Declan, Jackie and Dylan for receiving scores between 90-100 and a ribbon of Excellent! There was a variety of presentations including a demonstration about the acidity of cabbage, and many illustrated talks. Topics ranged from Types of Poetry to the Influence of AI to Bias in STEM. There were also two musical performances! Thank you to the amazing judges and volunteers for making this night a success. You are an important part of the 4-H experience and we value your commitment.

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EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Passaic County 4-H joined the Friends of Garret Mountain and Parks and Recreation for an Earth Day Celebration on April 27th at the Pat Diianni Boathouse on Garret Mountain Reservation in Woodland Park, NJ. There were many fun activities and events for families, including guided hikes and birdwatching.

A total of 16 4-Her's volunteered at the celebration. They helped youth with fun activities. These activities included planting clover seeds to take home, creating beautiful butterflies out of coffee filters, and learning all about circuits and conductivity.

We also had some fluffy and feathery chicks join us. They were hatched at different schools across Passaic County as part of an embryology project. Youth and families were able to hold the chicks and learn all about what it takes for an egg to become a chicken. Thanks to Christian for taking amazing pictures!



4-Her's helping at the tree planting ceremony

GARRET MOUNTAIN CLEAN UP

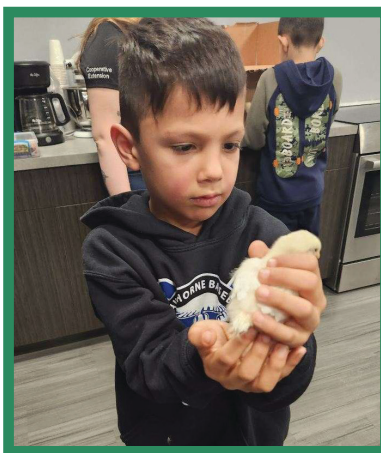
24 youth and adults dedicated their Saturday morning to help beautify the community. Passaic County 4-H in collaboration with Parks and Recreation lead a volunteer clean up of Garret Mountain Reservation on May 18th. A big thank you to Ranger Lesley Rafes from Passaic County Parks and Recreation for leading the charge!

While we were there to help clean the park, youth and adults alike couldn't help but wonder at the beauty of the natural world. There were many animals to look at like a small gaggle of goslings.



PREAKNESS AGGIES

The Preakness Aggies learned all about taking care of plants for their March meeting. They also created sprout homes out of sponges and toothpicks. They then spread a mixture of chia seeds and water across the houses. In a few days, the houses will be covered in plants! Some fluffy and feathery friends joined the April club meeting of the Preakness Aggies. 4-Hers were able to hold the baby chicks and learn all about caring for chickens. The April meeting was all about birds! The Aggies also did the *Eat Like a Bird* activity where they learned all about bird beak adaptations. Birds beaks have adapted over time to allow birds to eat specific diets.



JUNIOR/ TEEN COUNCIL

In March, 2 members of the Junior/Teen Council volunteered at the Essex County Environmental Center in Roseland, NJ. Megan and Erin brought their 2 bunnies to an Easter event. Youth were able to pet the bunnies and ask the 4-Hers questions about rabbit care.

There was not a meeting for Junior/Teen Council in March and April due to the many volunteer opportunities in and around the county.

The final meeting for Junior/Teen Council for the 23-24 club year will be June 15th.



EMERALD ARCHERS

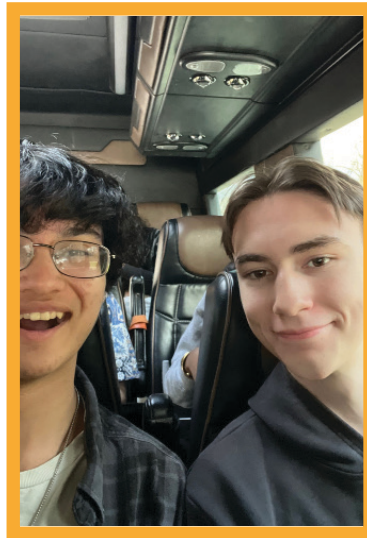


The Emerald Archers have had a very busy spring! They had their club meetings on the first Saturday of the month in Lyndhurst for their March and April club meetings.



The Emerald Archers, alongside Passaic County Parks and Recreation, hosted Archery in the Park at Garret Mountain Reservation on April 20th and May 5th. These were introductory archery lessons open to youth in Passaic County. Over 30 youth attended the events! During the lessons they covered the basics of archery as well as the safety rules and regulations in the shooting sport.

Several members of the Emerald Archers represented New Jersey at the National level. Nik L. and Gabe D. attended the Ignite by 4-H Youth Summit Series in March in Washington D.C. Bella F. attended National 4-H Conference in Chevy Chase, Maryland in April.



STEM AMBASSADORS

The STEM Ambassadors did not have a March meeting because the club leader and several club members went to Washington D.C. for the Ignite Youth Summit Series from March 12th-17th.

At Ignite I toured the monuments, met new people, did different types of activities and workshops and had an overall great experience. We met many people but the person who stood out the most for me was the TIME's Kid of the Year Gitanjali Rao, student at MIT and engineer in the making. It was fun and also included learning opportunities and acquiring new skills. I would most definitely go again and there isn't anything I would change.- Casey J.

"During my time at Ignite, I had a lot of fun. I got to meet many new people and learn about various skills. I interacted with people from different states and learned about their society and how it differs from ours. While I was there, I even learned how to make mozzarella cheese and discovered the significance of agriculture and agriscience. If given the chance, I would love to go again and explore a new track like STEM or healthy living. The only change I would make is to have the ability to choose where to sightsee as a state.

- Jose A.



During their May club meeting, the STEM Ambassadors created and debated t-shirt designs for the Passaic County Fair. They will be screen printing t-shirts with 2-3 designs during the summer. Club members also decided on their club display for the fair, they will create the club display during the next meeting.

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:
June 12th, 2024

IN THE COMMUNITY

Maker Day at the Clifton Public Library

Passaic County 4-H joined the Clifton Memorial Library on Saturday, March 16th to learn all about space exploration. Families of youth in 2nd to 8th grade were invited to learn about space with fun, hands-on activities. 2 volunteers from Optum and 2 STEM Ambassadors volunteered to teach the activities at different stations. The stations included making your own planet, deciphering cosmic messages, and Landing Zone Surveyor from the 4-H STEM Challenge *Mars Base Camp*.



Image Above: STEM Educator Alexis P. poses with Clifton Councilman Chris D'Amato

Image Left: Kavyan works with younger youth on creating their own planets



STEM Educator, Alexis lead all of the activities and over 60 youth and their families participated in Maker Day activities. Even Councilman Chris D'Amato joined in on the science learning!

Volunteering at Father English

9 volunteers from Passaic County 4-H spent their morning volunteering at Father English Food Pantry on Saturday, March 2nd in Paterson, NJ.

Volunteers helped to sort out different donations including non perishable and frozen foods. They also helped to move palettes of canned foods and restock the shelves in the pantry. Father English Food Pantry will be moving to a temporary location while the Community Center is under construction. The temporary location will be at St Josephs Hospital (39 Getty Ave.).



Computer Science at Focus 21

STEM Educators and 4-H staff provided an 8-week no-cost computer science program to Focus 21, the afterschool program at Paterson Public School 2. 28 youth in 3rd, 4th, 7th and 8th grade learned about the basics of computer science using technology and lessons from NJ 4-H CS Pathways and the Apple Community Education Initiative (CEI).



Drawn by Hendrick in March

Everyone Can Create at Oasis

35 youth in kindergarten, 2nd and 3rd grade sparked their creative side using iPads in Oasis afterschool program at Paterson PS 2. 4-H staff in collaboration with educators from Apple CEI, created a series of lessons to encourage youth to be creative and express themselves. There are many different creative options with the iPads. Examples include taking silly portraits with the camera, creating sick beats in Garage Band, telling stories with stop motion in Keynote, and learning to draw with the Apple pencils.

Gardening at Paterson Public School 2

Through a partnership with City Green, Paterson Public School 2 has filled up and expanded their school garden beds. Students and staff at the school will be responsible for the care and maintenance of these gardens with community support. Passaic County 4-H has started an afterschool garden program to help the students learn all about the many different aspects of gardening. During the first lesson, students planted their own sunflowers and learned about what it takes for a plant to survive. They also learned about the parts of a plant.

The next lesson was about beneficial bugs, focusing specifically on the superstars of the decomposing world: earthworms! Students in 3rd and 4th grade each had a little buddy in kindergarten that they searched for little earthworms in vermicompost. Some students were hesitant at first about the earthworms, but they all eventually embraced the little wigglers. Students learned that compost created by earthworms can help a plant to thrive.



Essex County Spring Fair

Passaic, Hudson, and Essex County 4-Her's volunteered at the 4-H Essex County Spring Fair on April 20, 2024 at the Essex County Environmental Center in Roseland. The 4-Her's helped with everything from making grilled cheese and popcorn, to selling baked goods, to teaching STEM activities. to younger youth in the community. These STEM activities included *Explorer's of the Deep Ocean Gliders* and coding Sphero's Bolts through a maze. 4-Her's also presented small animals including a duck, a tortoise, several bunnies and a lot of baby chicks.

The 4-H CS 1.0 and 2.0 Clubs had their showcase in Garibaldi Hall during the fair. 4-Her's showed off the apps they created during their club meetings on Monday nights at Rutgers Newark. The CS 1.0 club created prototypes for apps using Keynote on iPads. The CS 2.0 club coded their own apps using SwiftUI on iPads. These clubs were possible through the support of the Apple Community Education Initiative.



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CS 1.0 at the Clifton Public Library

This was an 8-week program that met for an hour and a half each week on Mondays at the Clifton Memorial Library. During club sessions, youth participants learned about computer science using iPads as well as different unplugged activities. Each week youth would build upon the skills they learned in previous sessions. This was for youth in 4th to 8th grade. 20 youth participated in this program.



Save the Date

Passaic County Fair August 15th to 18th, 2024

Garret Mountain Reservation
8 Mountain Ave. Woodland Park



Rutgers Cooperative Extension / 4-H Tent

Thursday, August 15th - 6:00-8:00 pm

Friday, August 16th - 6:00-8:00 pm

Saturday, August 17th - 2:00-8:00 pm

Sunday, August 18th - 2:00-8:00 pm



Outdoor Adventure Camp

Outdoor Adventure Camp challenges youth to grow stronger character through adventure-based activities, team building, and leadership training. Each day there will be a different adventure including hiking and canoeing.

When: August 26th to 30th, 2024 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Where: Drop-Off and Pick-Up at Essex County Environmental Center (621A Eagle Rock Ave, Roseland, NJ)

Who: Essex and Passaic County youth in 4th to 8th grade

Cost: \$400*



To register, scan the QR code or follow the link:

<https://go.rutgers.edu/55s1na94>



*Camperships available



Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Passaic County



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

Cooperative Extension
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New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station



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

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

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