

SPRING/SUMMER 2021

ESSEX COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER

4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship, and life skills.



Congratulations to Emily: 2021 Senior Scholarship Award Winner!

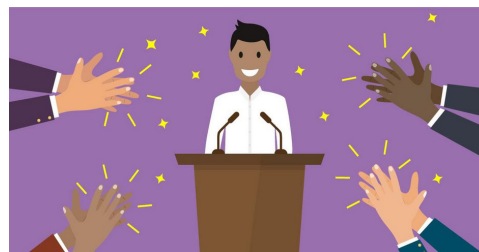
Every year, the Essex County 4-H Leaders Association awards a scholarship to an outstanding 4-H member in good standing. This year's scholarship recipient is Emily Cepin, who plans to attend Montclair State University in the fall, to pursue a degree in Environmental Science. Emily has been a member of the STEM Ambassadors club since eighth grade and has grown through the program participating in various county, state, and National level programs. Emily is currently serving as President of the state-level STEM Ambassadors club. Emily has been an outstanding member of the 4-H program and for her community. Emily says, "My participation in 4-H over the years has helped improve my communication skills, shape my role as a leader in my community, and inspired me to pursue a career in Environmental Science. I could not be more thankful for every one who assisted me throughout my journey as a 4-H club member as it has impacted my life for the better." We look forward to watching Emily continue to grow and do amazing things in our community. **We wish Emily and all our graduating senior's good luck in their next steps!**

Eleven Youth Were Selected to Participate in the 2021 State Public Presentations

Public Speaking is a corner stone of the 4-H program, where all youth, grades K-12 are invited to practice their public speaking by presenting to a panel of judges. Judges offer constructive feedback for each presenters and youth are awarded a score for participation. High school age youth who receive an Excellent are invited to participate in states. **This year Essex County had 30 youth participate in public presentation. We congratulate all who took the challenge!**

Page 2. Program highlights

Page 3. Looking forward



Spring Highlights

For more information, please contact us at essex4h@njaes.rutgers.edu or visit our website at <https://essex.njaes.rutgers.edu/4h/>

Rutgers Youth Futures Peer Mentorship Program

The Rutgers Youth Futures Program focuses on building relationships between local youth and college student mentors with a focus on workforce preparedness. Youth participants are matched with trained mentors who guide the exploration of a myriad of college preparation and readiness activities. This May, we celebrated our first year of the Youth Futures program and **will be recruiting a new cohort of youth and adult mentors this August!**



Polar Science Research Club

This spring, 4-H partnered with Succeed Together and climate scientists to explore topics of polar science. This Polar Literacy Initiative hosted youth and educators virtually, and provided opportunities for youth to “see the Arctic and Antarctica through the eyes of real polar scientists.” This program was supported by NSF Grant #1906929 and will continue to be offered to out-of-school-time groups in Essex County. **Any partners who would be interested in hosting a polar science workshop for middle school-age youth can find out more information here! <https://polar-ice.org/polar-literacy-initiative/>**

TD 4-H Smart Cents Program

In addition to providing high-quality youth development programming, 4-H also provides opportunities for educators. The 4-H Smart Cents program trains formal and informal educators on financial literacy and behavior and skills development for youth ages 8-13. The program was designed to be in person, but later pivoted to online due to the pandemic. 4-H worked with educators in multiple school districts through online training. An estimated 1,800 youth were reached through this “train-the-trainer” program.

Additional FREE workshops will be offered to educators this summer. Interested districts can contact us if interested!



Welcome, Lana!

Lana will be working with Rutgers 4-H in partnership with Montclair Community Farms on a 2.5-year grant-funded program, *Empowering Youth to Engage in Their Local Food System*. Lana will be responsible for teaching youth research-based, experiential educational activities, and lessons that help youth develop critical life skills. She will support volunteers and assist program staff in the delivery of educational outreach, growth, and development of community garden projects. **Check out our website to learn about programs at Montclair Community Farms that Lana is helping to support. <https://www.montclaircommunityfarms.org/>**

Summer Opportunities

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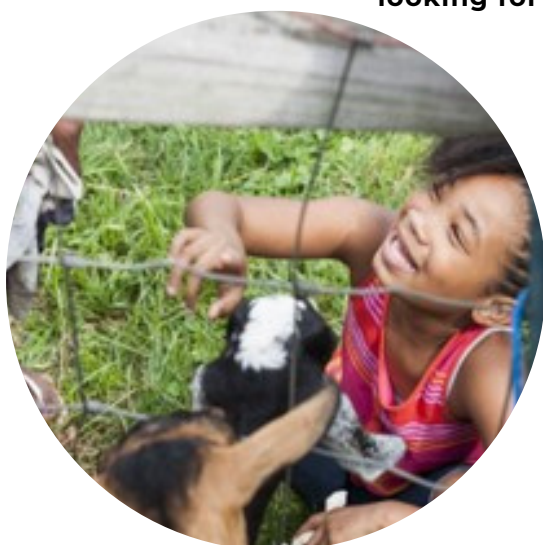
Farm Camp

The Montclair History Center, Rutgers Cooperative Extension 4-H, and the Montclair Community Farms partner each year to host a fun, nature-and-history-filled camp for youth to learn about our past and where our food comes from.

Farm Camp supports youth development by promoting a positive interest in nature, historical living, and agriculture. Our mission is to provide the best camp experience for youth, while also providing a beneficial learning experience about food, animals, our earth, and its agricultural past. Our campers have the chance to be in the garden each day and participate in activities related to each age level's theme.

Campers will spend their days on-site at the Montclair History Center at 108 and 110 Orange Road. Here, they will have access to the Montclair Community Farm, historic houses, and large open spaces!

We are also hiring Counselors in Training (age 13-15) Counselors (age 16-18) and looking for volunteer presenters!



4-H From Home

4-H From Home continues to offer free virtual programs for youth and families! Programs include short-term workshops, virtual clubs, and summer camps. One program to mention is the Animal Science Camp. Each day participants will learn a little about animals who have jobs, horses, marine life, amphibians, and reptiles. At the end of the week, youth will also get to participate in an animal share activity where they will teach and learn from each other! **Check out all opportunities here!**

<http://nj4h.rutgers.edu/4h-from-home/>

4-H STEM Ambassadors Program

We are now accepting applications for our 13th cohort of Rutgers 4-H STEM Ambassadors. We are looking for current 8th and 9th graders with an interest in STEM, from the urban communities of Atlantic, Essex, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Passaic, and Union counties.

The Rutgers 4-H STEM Ambassador Program is a great opportunity for teens to learn about STEM, develop as a leader in their community, and prepare for college!

To learn more about the program and apply, visit our recruitment page.

<http://nj4h.rutgers.edu/join-stem-ambassadors/>

