

S U M M E R / F A L L 2 0 2 2

## ESSEX COUNTY 4-H NEWSLETTER

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



### **Calling all Foodies and Gardeners to join us at the County Fair!**

Essex county residence are invited to participate in our Fall Fair showcase! Projects can come from work you have completed in your 4-H club, school project, camp or a hobby project at home. Youth and Adults can submit projects in any of the fall divisions including Food & Nutrition, Fruits & Vegetables, Outdoor/Indoor Gardening, and Miscellaneous. On Saturday morning, projects are judged based on the Danish judging system and all projects receive a ribbon and written recognition. The Best of Division award winners have a chance to win a small cash award! Use the QR Code to see the fair book for projects classes at our website.



# Summer Highlights

## Farm Camp



This summer we partnered with Montclair History Center, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, and Montclair Community Farms 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. We had a great summer with over 100 campers, 18 counselors and counselors in training, 28 adult volunteer presenters and a bunch of lovely animal visitors. Thank you to everyone who makes farm camp so magical!



**"Everything good, everything magical happens between the months of June and August."  
Jenny Han**

## Farmpreneuers

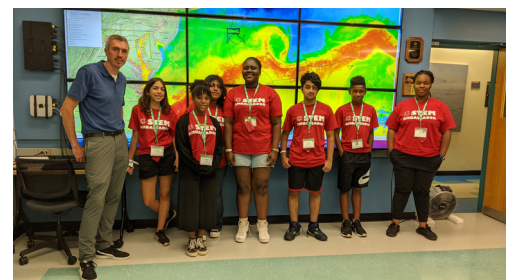
A new initiative funded by the USDA, this pilot project will empower high school youth to address food security and lack of youth employment opportunities while exploring urban agriculture, culinary arts, and entrepreneurship through the development and sale of value added food products from seed to sale. Youth participants have been accepted to present their work at Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (NESAWG) this fall. **To learn more about other programs at the farm visit:**  
<https://www.montclaircommunityfarms.org/>



## 4-H STEM Ambassadors Program

Celebrating its 13th year, the Rutgers 4-H STEM Ambassador Program for urban youth was held at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences at Rutgers. From July 6-10, sixty high school students from Elizabeth, Jersey City, Newark, New Brunswick, Passaic, Paterson, Trenton, and Atlantic City participated in several hands-on activities as they explored biochemistry, biotechnology, marine and environmental sciences, physics, and engineering alongside a number of Rutgers faculty from these and other disciplines. The Rutgers 4-H STEM Ambassador Program was 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/>

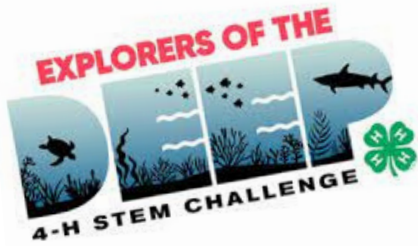




# Fall Opportunities

## 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 **fall we are recruiting a new cohort of youth and adult mentors!** This program is funded through a National 4-H Council grant in Collaboration with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.



## 4-H STEM Challenge

Designed by Rutgers University, Explorers of the Deep, focuses on the mysteries and adventures of ocean exploration—with robots! Ocean exploration helps scientists prepare for and adapt to changing ocean conditions. Many of these changes in ocean conditions are affecting the environment, such as melting glaciers, increasing ocean temperatures, declining fisheries and an increase in frequency and severity of storms. Since Earth is an ocean planet, these impacts affect humans and organisms all around the world, regardless of their proximity to the ocean. Youth will learn about the incredibly complex relationship between Earth's oceans and the global climate. To learn more about the program visit,

<https://4-h.org/parents/4-h-stem-challenge/>

## Polar Science!

This fall we will be sharing a final cut of Polar Science activities that can be taught in-person or virtual geared towards middle school age youth. 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/>



## Clovers Code

What happens when you combine kids, iPads, and 4-H? The result is Clovers CODE, a statewide program from 4-H that introduces problem-solving, computer literacy and coding through hands-on activities. This fall we are recruiting Community Partners and families were interested in partnering to host Apple education programs!

\*This program is funded through a partnership with Apple Community Education Initiative. We are also recruiting youth for 12 week Computer science club at Rutgers Newark campus!



---

## Highlight

---

### Young Gardener's Club Highlight

In December the Young Gardeners 4-H Club won Second Place in the 2021 Forest Feeder contest. Our prize was a birdhouse to which we added the 4-H insignia and it now hangs in a tree close to our 4-H garden at the Environmental Center. The Young Gardeners 4-H Club meets nearly every week from April through October. Our 4-H garden is part of the Environmental Center and in April we planted seeds for peppers, cucumbers, zucchini, string beans and carrots, as well as seeds for annuals to attract pollinators. Tomato plants rounded out our 4-H garden. To date our harvest has been very rewarding and the sunflowers are amazing.



---

For more information about 4-H programs in Essex County contact  
[essex4h@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:essex4h@njaes.rutgers.edu)



**4-H connects**  
**kids with RUTGERS**

[www.RUinto4H.org](http://www.RUinto4H.org)