Did You Say 4-H and Robotics?

Fortunately, in Delaware many people understand that 4-H is more than just social clubs for children from rural communities. Many people understand that 4-H has over 45 project areas for children to select topics of interest to them, and to learn important life skills. Adults see the value of the public speaking contests, demonstration, leadership and critical thinking skills that 4-H ers develop over their years in 4-H. But, did you know that 4H also means teaching kids about technology for the next decade including Robotics!

This past fall, the New Castle County and the Sussex County Extension offices at the University of Delaware, sponsored three teams of 4-H children and adult volunteers for the First Lego League competition. It was certainly an exciting opportunity for our 4-H teams that included 22 children and 12 coaches. Other teams came from public schools, charter schools, private schools, home schools, community centers and clubs. They came from Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. And it didn’t matter where they came from, every team of 3-10 children buzzed with enthusiasm as they practiced their presentations, reviewed their research, and took turns running missions on the practice field. Team members also mingled with other teams, and presented them with tokens of affection and respect such as buttons and stickers.

When I asked a parent who was new to both 4-H and First Lego League his impression of the day, he commented: “It gives me hope! Not only are the kids learning about technology and science, but they are learning about gracious professionalism. They are learning how to interact in a positive way with each other and with adults and they are learning how to work hard and have fun.”

Every team that participated had three opportunities to complete their mission and fulfill three presentations: Robot Design, Research and Teamwork. All the children participating have an opportunity to shine.

So, if you are interested in the future, in watching young people pursue math and science, in Gracious Professionalism or in just good fun, consider becoming a robotics’ mentor or enrolling your children in a Delaware 4-H robotics club. You’ll have an opportunity to see many young people become, as our one team named themselves, “Gracious Green Geniuses”. For more information on 4-H visit our website at http://ag.udel.edu/4h.

Team Gracious Green Geniuses
Submitted by Karen Johnston, Extension Educator

“It is the policy of the Delaware Cooperative Extension System that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex, disability, age or national origin.”
“It is the policy of the Delaware Cooperative Extension System that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex, disability, age or national origin.”