



4-H Military Clubs

Summer Adventures

By Kaci Evans, *4-H Educator*

Military youth all over New York State have certainly been busy participating in several 4-H opportunities! Here's a look at what they have been up to this summer:

Fort Drum: Six military youth from Fort Drum traveled to Cornell University June 27-29 to participate in the 2017 4-H Career Explorations Conference! The purpose of this conference is to provide youth with exposure to academic fields and career exploration, to develop leadership skills, to provide hands-on experience in a college setting, and to introduce youth to Cornell University. The event is made up of two grade specific tracks: University U for youth entering grades 8-9 and Focus for Teens for youth entering grades 10-12. Fort Drum University U youth participated in activities like polymer discovery, nanotechnology creation, video game development, and food science. Each Fort Drum teen in the Focus for Teens program was able to choose one specific career pathway of interest to them to explore throughout the entire three days. The program areas they chose were Discovering Birds and Nature hosted at Cornell's Lab of Ornithology, Environmental Engineering, and Women in Science. The youth were exposed to a wide range of activities in these programs including banding and releasing birds, collecting and testing water samples, and even holding a real brain! Youth also visited and toured the Cornell Dairy Bar and sampled ice cream created by Cornell Food Science students. The youth received the ultimate college experience by staying in dorm rooms and walking the large, scenic campus over the three-day conference!



Fort Drum teen in the Discovering Birds program uses equipment to listen for birds and other animals from a distance.

National Guard: New York National Guard Child and Youth Programs Teen Council traveled to the North Country, home of Fort Drum, for their annual Teen Council retreat the week of June 26-30! The Teen Council is comprised of military and non-military affiliated teens located all over New York State, and their mission is to speak on behalf of the youth and the entire National Guard Youth Program. They are peer educators who help incorporate youth into all National Guard activities. The annual retreat is a chance for them to spend time together having fun, relaxing, and learning. This year, the youth spent one afternoon at 4-H Camp Wabasso in Jefferson County participating in teambuilding activities on the low ropes course. Another afternoon, the Teen Council met up with Fort Drum teens at the Fort Drum Middle School/Teen Center where they participated in 4-H Rockets to the Rescue as well as wrote letters for the Honor Flight organization honoring WWII and Korean War veterans.

Interested in becoming a National Guard Teen Council member? Visit <http://dmna.ny.gov/family/youth/> for more information!

Upcoming Events: Summer is in full swing and all New York installations, **Fort Drum, United States Military Academy at West Point, and Fort Hamilton**, are offering multiple field trips through the youth centers to various locations around their communities until the end of August.

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Fort Drum Youth Center is hosting an Open House on August 19 from 3:00-7:00 PM showcasing upcoming programs as well as offering a chance for youth and parents to meet the staff, ask questions, and suggest any programs they would like to see offered.

West Point Youth Center is also hosting an Open House on August 25 from 2:00-4:00 PM for parents and youth to visit and explore the youth center!

Fort Hamilton CYSS is currently hosting weekly-themed summer camps until September 2! The campers will experience phenomenal field trips, 4-H Clubs, BGCA activities, and much more all while developing great character traits.

4-H National Youth Science Day will be held on October 4 this year, and the three New York Installations will be participating! The theme this year is "Incredible Wearables" where youth will be designing and creating a fitness tracker!

Contact your specific installation for more information regarding these upcoming programs, and stay tuned for future 4-H Military news!

Contact Information:

Fort Drum Middle School/Teen Center: (315) 772-6719

<https://www.facebook.com/Fort-Drum-CYS-Youth-Program-Youth-Center-370723860409/>

Fort Drum School Age Center: (315) 772-4411

West Point Middle School/Teen Center: (845) 938-3727

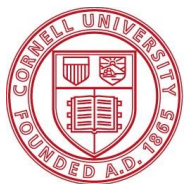
West Point School Age Center: (845) 938-8530

Fort Hamilton Youth Centers: (718) 630-4518

NYS 4-H Military Educator: (315) 788-8450, ext. 244



All military youth from Fort Drum on the last day of the 2017 4-H Career Explorations Conference with 4-H Educator Kaci Evans.



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Jefferson County

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*Contact us for more information at 315-788-8450
or jefferson@cornell.edu.*

Visit our website at www.ccejefferson.org.

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Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County
and Jefferson County, NY 4H*