4-H Clubs and Events

Outdoor Adventure Club Update
By Sabrina DeRue, 4-H Program Manager/4-H Camp Wabasso Director

4-H Outdoor Adventure Club is for youth that enjoy exploring the beautiful outdoors in all four seasons! This club typically meets the first Saturday of each month from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. We meet at a different location each month for a unique outdoor adventure. This club is free and open to all youth ages 8 to 18 and their families.

For our December meeting, we will meet the second Saturday of the month, December 14th from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. We will meet at Thompson Park in Watertown, NY to go snowshoeing. After snowshoeing, we will head over to the CCE office to have some hot cocoa. Our January meeting will be Saturday, January 4th from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. We will meet at Wellesley Island State Park at the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center where we will go snowshoeing. After snowshoeing, we will tour the nature center and enjoy hot cocoa inside.

Snowshoes and hot cocoa will be provided for all participants for both club meetings. Minimal transportation will be provided from the CCE office in Watertown to the meeting locations. Registration is required. For more information or to register, contact Sabrina at 315-788-8450 or sld95@cornell.edu.

Looking Back and Looking Ahead
By Karen Soule, 4-H Program Activities Coordinator

After almost 15 years of working in 4-H, I will be retiring on March 18, 2020. It wasn’t a decision made lightly, as I have always loved working with the youth and adults that are involved in this wonderful program. I believe that people are in places for a reason, and I have met mine here. To know that I have made a difference in the lives of our youth is what has driven me. To see someone blossom and grow, whether it was through their working with dogs, horses, or any of our other 4-H programs, is why we do what we do. I am one of the 4-H educators and volunteers that say they “bleed green.”

I’m looking forward to what the future holds. I will probably find something part-time, and you might even see me around at a 4-H event sometime. I plan on working with my dogs and getting the two youngest ones out in the show ring in some capacity. There is so much to keep me busy between my crafts, photography, and staying healthy!
By Samantha Hollister, 4-H Program Educator

STEM, or Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, education is more important today than ever. Technology is constantly changing. To keep up, youth must have strong problem-solving skills, be able to research and evaluate information, and be able to work as part of a team. These are all skills a good STEM program will teach.

In the 4-H Engineering Program, youth in 4th-8th grade will work as a team to solve a variety of engineering challenges. They will complete engineering projects spanning the disciplines of electrical, chemical, mechanical, and civil engineering. They will also have the opportunity to work alongside engineers currently working in these fields.

This program will run for 3 weeks on Mondays and Wednesdays, from December 2nd to December 18th. It is free and open to all 4th-8th graders. To register, please contact Sam Hollister at sh2498@cornell.edu or 315-788-8450 ext. 235.

By Erin Churchill, Agriculture Outreach Educator

On July 19, 2019, the Jefferson County Dairy Industry and 4-H Dairy Program lost a great leader and dear friend. Sharon Fleming left us too soon, but her legacy will live on with the many young people who now have Milking Shorthorns and Holsteins from her. Sharon loved working with and teaching youth about dairy cattle. Nothing would have made her happier than to see all of the success, big and small, that they have achieved. Sharon had a profound impact on many youth in the 4-H Dairy Program. She held everyone to high standards, which is one reason the program is so successful.

When Sharon passed on, her family named the Jefferson County 4-H Dairy Club as a benefactor for donations to be made in her honor.

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We have received many donations and the committee has decided to work with her family to give an award named after her every year at the Jefferson County Fair. The award will ensure that Sharon’s impact on the community will always be remembered.

The Jefferson County 4-H Dairy Committee would like to thank everyone who donated in Sharon’s honor.