



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension

Why 4-H School Enrichment?

4-H lessons add spark to classrooms

School enrichment programs reached 3.7 million U.S. youth in 1999. Some benefits for students, according to a 2004 study, include:

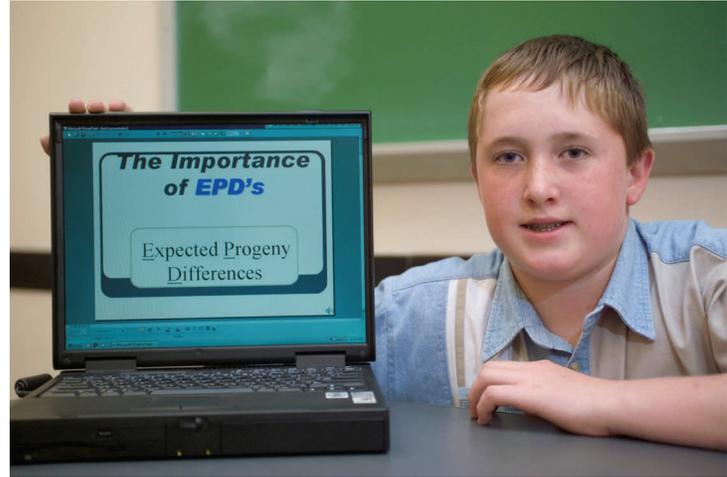
- Increased conceptual knowledge
- Life skills and character training
- More awareness of 4-H

4-H School Enrichment programs in New York State reached more than 63,500 youth during the 2005-06 school year, making this mode the most popular way 4-H programs are delivered to youth in the state.

Through collaboration with schools across the state, teachers and students in rural and urban districts have access to 4-H resources through curriculum, teaching aids, teacher trainings and special events and field trips.

This method of delivering life skills to youth in the classroom uses 4-H curriculum as part of daily class lessons or as an intensive all-day special event.

School enrichment programs provide several advantages — 4-H gains credibility among formal educators; students gain greater knowledge and



Through 4-H School Enrichment programs, children experience the hands-on active learning that's a key component of 4-H curriculum, right in their classrooms with their teacher.

skills in areas that might not be covered in their classroom; and a greater diversity of under-represented youth (who might not otherwise take part in a 4-H club, camp or after school program) are served.

The 4-H lessons offered through school enrichment link university research to 4-H's experiential learning model, allowing students to do, then reflect, then apply what they've learned.

What topics are offered through school enrichment?

A vast array of curriculum and resources is available to New York schools because of the national 4-H network and research done at Cornell University. Some of the most popular curriculums include embryology, gardening, energy use, science and technology, environmental



resources such as water, rockets, space, entomology, bees, civics, meteorology, financial planning, food science, exercise and fitness, leadership development, theater arts and world cultures.

Connect
now to
great 4-H
resources



NYS 4-H Resource Directory

Head, heart, hands, health

HOME SEARCH BROWSE ABOUT CONTACT HELP

A way for staff, leaders, volunteers, teachers and youth to find and order great 4-H Resources

<http://www.cerp.cornell.edu/4h/>

<http://www.cce.cornell.edu/>

Relationships allow Cortland program to flourish

From caring for a fertilized egg to reading a compass, students in Cortland County schools are exposed to 4-H curriculum frequently throughout their elementary years.

"Being part of the school curriculum is such a benefit," says Syd McEvoy, executive director of Cortland County Cooperative Extension. "By the time they're older, our kids know what 4-H is all about and they want to continue being involved."

Cortland's school enrichment program works with each of the five public schools in the county, as well

as the parochial schools, reaching 2,700 students in 2005-06.

For kindergarten to second grade classes, educators offer the incubation and embryology unit, where students learn science and math skills through reading thermometers, maintaining humidity, counting the days until the chicks hatch and candling eggs.

From 3rd through 6th grade, students take part in special annual field trips, focusing on subjects being taught in their classrooms — from community services to agriculture careers to conservation.

"These trips bring 'book learning' home in a different way," McEvoy said. "They may spark an interest or make a kid realize that science isn't really so bad after all."

Other school programs include bike safety education, gardening assistance and volunteer readers.

"We have established relationships with schools and teachers over the years," McEvoy said. "If they need a resource for their classroom, they know they can come to us."

Effective enrichment programs:

- Bring classroom lessons to life.
- Offer resources for teachers on topics of their choice
- Supplement the curriculum
- Introduce students to the 4-H experience
- Work collaboratively with schools, teachers and school boards.

School Enrichment connects kids to Cornell

Through teacher trainings and resource sharing, School Enrichment programs are closely connected to the work of Cornell faculty and staff.

Students throughout the state use curriculum developed by Cornell researchers in the areas of animal science, ecology, biology, plant science, meteorology and food science

and nutrition, among other areas.

Cornell also offers frequent teacher training sessions on specific curriculum and on the 4-H experiential learning style. Educators from across the state visit campus to learn ways to bring 4-H curriculum to life in their classrooms.



Fifth-graders hone their problem-solving skills at a School Enrichment program.

Find out more:

To learn more about 4-H School Enrichment Programs in New York State, contact:

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Incubation and embryology teaches facts of life

The eggs are delivered, the temperature all set, the little eyes peer through the incubator waiting for signs of new life.

It's a scene repeated over and over again in New York classrooms as students take part in the 4-H Incubation and Embryology program, one of the most popular school enrichment programs offered.

For primary-grade students, the program offers lessons in animal development, counting, responsibility, science and even patience.

Teacher say their attendance rates are never so high as during this program and the real-life example of the eggs hatching is a exciting



experience for their students.

Teachers can use accompanying lesson plans to teach topics such as chicken anatomy, uses of eggs, identifying the parts of an egg, learning to candle an egg to determine if it's fertilized, how eggs can factor into a healthy diet and how eggs are sized.

Combining lessons tied to the curriculum with the wonder of the development process makes this program effective. Studying the transformation also gives students insight into how humans are formed.

"It's a nice introduction to the mystery and wonder of life," said Syd McEvoy, executive director of Cortland County Cooperative Extension.