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4-H Camp Bristol Hills Awarded \$800,000 NY SWIMS Grant for Facility Improvement

Canandaigua, NY

4-H Camp Bristol Hills has been awarded an \$800,000 capital grant through the New York Statewide Investment in More Swimming (NY SWIMS) program, part of a major statewide investment in recreational infrastructure announced by New York State.

In total, more than \$63 million in NY SWIMS capital grants have been awarded to support 21 projects across New York State. The funding is designed to improve and modernize swimming facilities, expand access to safe recreational opportunities, and strengthen community resources. More information can be found in Governor Hochul's announcement here: www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-more-63-million-awarded-through-second-round-ny-swims-expand-safe.

The \$800,000 grant will support significant improvements at 4-H Camp Bristol Hills, enhancing the camp's aquatic facilities and ensuring they remain safe, accessible, and welcoming for youth, families, and community groups for years to come. These upgrades will directly benefit the thousands of campers, program participants, and rental groups who use the camp annually.

"This award represents a major investment in the future of 4-H Camp Bristol Hills and the communities we serve," said Moira Tidball, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County. "Swimming and water-based activities are a core part of our educational and recreational programming, and this funding allows us to improve safety, accessibility, and overall participant experience."

"Our pool has been a central part of camp life for more than six decades," said Jim Hooper, Camp Manager of 4-H Camp Bristol Hills. "Replacing a pool that has served campers since 1960 is not just about infrastructure, it's about safety, accessibility, and preserving the experiences that generations of young people associate with this place. This investment allows us to continue offering high-quality aquatic programming while meeting modern standards and expectations." Camp representatives are working with local code enforcement, engineers, contractors and the New York State Department of Health to continue to provide safe and healthy swimming access with the current pool for 2026, while ensuring that a new pool complex is completed ahead of the 2027 summer camp season.

The NY SWIMS program reflects New York State's commitment to expanding access to swimming facilities, supporting public health, and strengthening local recreational infrastructure. Projects funded through the program span urban, suburban, and rural communities across the state.

4-H Camp Bristol Hills is operated in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension and provides year-round educational, recreational, and leadership programs for youth and adults. The camp serves as a regional hub for outdoor education, community events, and experiential learning in the Bristol Hills region. For more information about 4-H Camp Bristol Hills and its programs, visit www.4-hcampbristolhills.org or contact Camp Manager Jim Hooper, jah249@cornell.edu, (585)394-3977 ext 407.

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