The Final Hard Copy of

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF SARATOGA COUNTY

4-H Highlights

Nov.-Dec. 2026

As another year draws to a close, we would like to thank everyone who contributes to the success of Saratoga County 4-H. From our dedicated volunteers and supportive families to our hardworking members and generous partners, each of you plays an important role in helping youth grow and succeed. We wish you peace, happiness, and cherished time with loved ones this holiday season, along with a bright and rewarding New Year.

– The Saratoga County 4-H Team

This is your final printed Highlights unless you go to sc4h.org/highlightsmailing and sign up to continue having them sent to you!!!!



🎄 4-H Holiday Mitten Tree is Back! 🧤🧣

We're delighted to announce that 4-H is once again partnering with the Saratoga Springs Public Library and Ballston Spa Public Library to bring warmth and joy to our community through the Holiday Mitten Tree!

🌟 What's the Mitten Tree?

Each year, our Mitten Trees are decorated with donated cold-weather gear to help families in need during the winter season. This year, we're collecting:

🧦 New socks
🧢 Hats
🧤 Mittens & gloves
🧣 Scarves
🧥 Gently used coats

These items will be available at both libraries for anyone in need to take during the holiday season. After the holidays, remaining items will be distributed to local organizations to continue helping those in need.

❄️ Why It Matters

Winter in Upstate New York can be harsh, and we want to do our part to ensure everyone in our community stays warm. Your donations make a real difference!

📍 Donation Drop-Off Locations

Starting mid to late November, you can drop off donations at:
Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) Office
Saratoga Springs Public Library
Ballston Spa Public Library

🤝 Get Involved!

This is a fantastic opportunity for 4-H Clubs to participate in a meaningful Community Service Project. Let's work together to spread warmth and kindness this holiday season!
If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please contact the CCE Office or email Leland at glb76@cornell.edu.



Victorian Street Walk 2026



Gingerbread House Community Service

November is the month many of you will be making gingerbread houses for the Festival of Trees during Victorian Street Walk or for display at the Saratoga Library. In past years we have had incredibly creative structures such as: gingerbread schools, stables, castles, and yes, houses! We look forward to seeing new designs for 2026!

A gingerbread house display is a great community service opportunity for 4-H. It enables us to be an active member of a community event as well as being able to share the houses with local groups like senior centers, soup kitchens and nursing homes. The houses are first displayed at various locations during the Victorian Streetwalk, and then donated to local community centers for further display.

Information to help you participate in the gingerbread project:

- All houses need to be brought to the 4-H office by Monday, November 30th.
- If you need a recipes for gingerbread or royal icing for structure contact Kim (kmw82@cornell.edu) or Lisa (lmr283@cornell.edu)
- IF your club is making a scene with multiple houses or other structures the board you place it on cannot be larger than 2' by 2'.
- IF your club is making individual houses or structures please place them on a sturdy base such as wood, foam board, or heavy cardboard. Please do not use a single piece of cardboard.
- Houses will be at multiple locations. We are still solidifying those locations. If your club is interested in staffing one of the locations, please call the 4-H Office.
- Thank you for your support of this fun and unique community service project!

Saratoga County 4-H
COMMUNITY SERVICE NIGHT

TUESDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2026 6PM

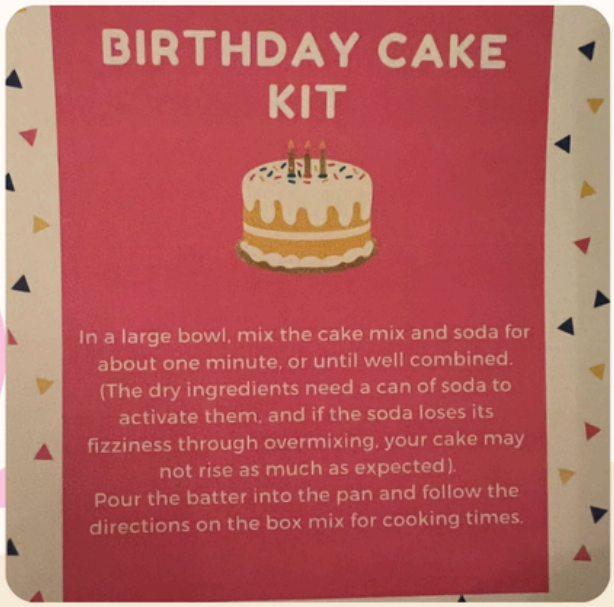
556 MIDDLELINE RD, BALLSTON SPA, NY 12020

Lets Create Birthday Cake Kits:

Please bring an item to Join:

- Chocolate or Vanilla Cake mixes
- 12 oz Can of Coke or Lemon lime Soda
- Blank Birthday Cards
- Birthday Candles
- 9x13 Foil Pan





Please Sign Up Click orScan Here:

Help give back to our community by creating birthday kits that help make a special day a little brighter for children and families in need.

Lisa @ LMR283@cornell.edu
Jillian @ JSP327@cornell.edu

Teen Council News

🎉 Teen Council Kicks Off a New Year of Fun, Friends & Service!

Saratoga County 4-H Teen Council is back and ready to roll into the 2026–2026 4-H year with fresh energy and exciting plans! Whether you're a seasoned member or brand new to the crew, this is your chance to jump in, meet awesome people, build leadership skills, and make a real impact in your community — all while having a blast.

🎄 Tree Unloading Crew Needed!
📍 Greenfield Center
📅 Friday, November 21st
⏰ Time: TBD
We're looking for volunteers to help unload Christmas trees — it's a great way to kick off the season, get in the holiday spirit, and help out in a big way. Stay tuned for the exact time!

🧠 November Teen Council Open House
📅 Saturday, November 14th
⏰ 6:00–8:30 PM
📍 4-H Training Center
All 4-H Teens are invited to learn about 4-H Teen Council and why they belong! We'll have pizza, snacks, games and A LOT OF FUN!

🎁 Teen Council Holiday Party + Gift Wrapping Night
📅 Saturday, December 12th
⏰ 6:00–8:30 PM
📍 4-H Training Center
It's time to celebrate! Join us for our annual holiday party and help wrap gifts for our Adopt-a-Family project.
🎁 Bring a wrapped gift to exchange (max $10)
🍕 Bring a dish to share — snacks, sweets, or your favorite holiday treat!

Teen Council is all about you — your ideas, your energy, and your voice. We're here to make a difference, learn new things, and have a ton of fun doing it. Don't miss out — we can't wait to see you!

SARATOGA COUNTY 4-H

4-H TEEN COUNCIL OPEN HOUSE

ALL 4-H TEENS ARE WELCOME

NOVEMBER 14TH, 6:00-8:30PM

FOOD | FUN | GAMES

4-H Training Center
556 Middleline Rd, Ballston Spa



SARATOGA COUNTY 4-H

WREATH WORKSHOP

DECEMBER 8TH, 2026

EVENT DETAILS

Where: 4-H Training Center Main Classroom
556 Middleline Rd Ballston Spa, NY 12020

When: Tuesday December 8th at 6pm

Who: 4-H members ages 8-18

Cost: $15 per person - Pre payment required
cash, check, or card

Registration Required
Contact Jessica Luse at
jmh452@cornell.edu or 518-885-8995
by December 1st
Space is limited

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Saratoga County

Fair Did you know?

Saratoga County Fair 2027: July 20th-25th

Start thinking about fair projects now!
Check out this month's fair book showcase:

Department 25 - STEM

A. Handyman/Wood Working

This woodworking project area includes categories for projects made entirely by hand tools, power tools, and kits with pre-cut materials assembled by the exhibitor. Additional classes cover leathercraft and rope projects, as well as Advanced Woodworking project for experienced participants judged at a higher level.

B. Electrical

These electric projects may include lamps or other wiring-based items, which are judged on safety, wiring accuracy, and completeness. Electronics projects must be hand-wired, functional, and neatly assembled, with exhibitors providing brief explanation of how the project works and its purpose.

C. Other

These classes include projects focused on energy conservation, electronics, and engineering science. Exhibits may demonstrate ways to save energy, feature functional hand-built electronic devices, or present three-dimensional educational displays.

D. Engineering

- Includes projects in rocketry, model design (such as Lego, K'nex, or similar kits), mechanical science, 3D printing, engineering, geospatial science, and more!
- Entries emphasize creativity, technical skill, understanding of scientific or engineering principles, and clear presentation or documentation.
- Projects range from kit-based or original Lego builds to rockets, GIS mapping, renewable energy studies, and citizen science exhibits, all highlighting learning, innovation, and problem solving

For more details check out the Fairbook on our website

https://ccesaratoga.org/4-h-youth-development/4-h-forms/fair-forms

Dairy Bowl

Dairy Bowl will be putting teams together and practicing for competitions in the upcoming year. If you are interested in cattle or want to know more about dairy cows, you should sign up! **ANYONE** is allowed to sign up.

There are 3 different divisions:



Senior: Members must be at least 14 years old and not reached their 19th birthday as of January 1st of the current year

Junior: Members must be at least 9 and less than 14 years old as of January 1st of the current year.

Beginner: For members 8-10 years old as of Jan. 1st

Call or Email Jillian at the 4-H Office for more information or if you are interested in participating: email JSP327@cornell.edu

Public Presentations



It's time to start thinking about 4-H Public Presentation Day! This fun and exhilarating day brings hundreds of local 4-H members together to practice the life skill of public speaking in a comfortable environment. It is open to all members, Cloverbuds and 4-H'ers, ages 5-19. A nationally recognized element of the Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Program, it is often credited by 4-H alumni as having given them an edge above their peers in high school, college and beyond. It is a good opportunity for youth to develop poise and self-confidence in front of a small group, build public speaking skills and express ideas clearly and creatively.

Be on the lookout for a Training for youth, parents and leaders that will be held in January!

SARATOGA COUNTY 4-H

AGRIBUSINESS PROGRAM

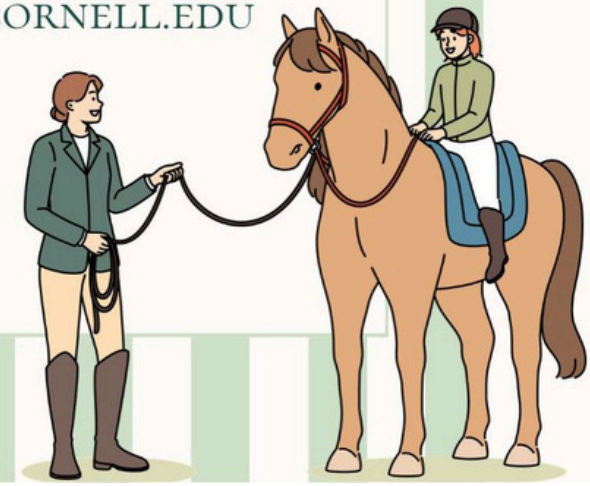
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 17TH

6PM AT THE 4-H TRAINING CENTER

Join us for speaker Dayton Maxwell to come and talk about agribusiness in your Fair and Animal Projects.

SIGN UP BY SCANNING HERE:
OR EMAIL JILLIAN AT JSP327@CORNELL.EDU





PARTY FOR A CAUSE

To benefit the 4-H Unlimited Garden

The Unlimited Garden, located at the 4-H Training Center, was established over 30 years ago to promote health and wellbeing through the therapeutic benefits of gardening. After years of limited funding and changing needs, the garden is being revitalized as an inclusive, accessible community resource.

Sponsored by Harmony Veterinary Clinic and the Ballston Spa Lions Club

Saturday, January 23rd

6-10pm

AT THE HIDEAWAY

35 Grace Moore Rd., Saratoga Springs

Live Music * Raffles * Silent Auction

$20 Advance Tickets include

5 raffle tickets, Light Appetizers (veggies, cheese, crackers, pepperoni) with each paid admission.

***Cash Bar and Limited Menu Available for purchase**

Music by: the PROTONES

Order tickets at:
sc4h.org
or call 518-885-8995

Achievement Night 2026

On Saturday, October 24th we held our annual Achievement Night. Over 130 youth, parents and leaders attended this year's event in our new building. We appreciate all the youth who came out to celebrate one another and their accomplishments. We are very proud of our Saratoga County 4-H members!

Congratulations to our Scholarship winners: Carter Short and Ethan Thomas












ELCOME YOUTH
2026 4-H ACHIEVEMENT NIGHT




WELCOME YOU
2026 4-H ACHIEVEMENT NIGH



Youth Activities Provided

Leaders Association

Friendsgiving Pot Luck

Come spend time with your fellow leaders, build new friendships, and enjoy a potluck meal. All volunteers are welcome! Please bring a dish to share, and feel free to bring your youth. Dessert will be provided by the Leaders Association, and a brief business meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Monday, November 9th
6:00 PM
Wm. Schwerd Building
556 Middleline Road
Ballston Spa

CHILD AND BABYSITTER SAFETY COURSE

Saturday, December 5th

10:00am-2:00pm

At the CCE office

$50 per Student

Open to Youth 13 and Older

Lunch Provided

50 West High ST. Ballston Spa NY 12020

Topics Covered

- Starting Business
- Working with Parents and Children
- Safety and Caregiving
- First Aid

Sign-UP

Email: glb76@cornell.edu

Call: 518.885.8995

Space is Limited



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Saratoga County

4-H Re-Enrollment

Time to Re-Enroll for Another Great Year in 4-H!

It's that time again! Each year, all 4-H youth and volunteers need to re-enroll to stay active in the program. Most families are familiar with the process, but we made some big updates last year — and we're keeping the momentum going!

💻 **Online Re-Enrollment Encouraged**

We're now encouraging everyone to use the 4-H Online System to re-enroll. It's quick, easy, and helps us stay organized! That said, if you prefer paper forms, no worries — you can still request them.

📝 **What Still Needs to Be Submitted**

Even if you re-enroll online, we still need signed hard copies of certain forms and payment.

- Club members: Check with your club leader to see how they'd like to collect forms and payments.
- Independent members: Visit ccesaratoga.org and look for "Re-Enrollment Forms" on the left sidebar of the 4-H Youth page.

If you're using the online system, you won't need to submit the full enrollment form — just the additional required documents listed on the site.

2026-2027 Enrollment Forms

Members:

· Online Enrollment or Paper Re-Enrollment Form
· Acknowledgement of Risk Form
· Equine Acknowledgement of Risk Form (Only if involved in horse project).
· NYS 4-H Code of Conduct
· $5 Enrollment Fee (Cash or Check to "CCE Saratoga")

Leaders:

· Online Enrollment or Paper Re-Enrollment Form
· NYS 4-H Code of Conduct
· CCE Volunteer Code of Conduct
· $5 Enrollment Fee (Cash or Check to "CCE Saratoga")

Any forms may be mailed or dropped off at our office

CCE Saratoga
50 W. High St.
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

If you are a club member, please communicate with your club leader regarding collection of forms and fees.

Straight From The Horses Mouth

Achievement Night:

Congratulations to all of the horse kids who had received awards at the 2026 acheivement night. It was a great evening filled with celebration and friends!







November 14th Fall Classic Horse Show 2026

The fall Classic is right around the corner. I know many of you will be at Equine Affair but, those of you who will not be attending. I would love for you to join us at the Training Center. Conner Bryant is the judge and a class list and entry form can be found on facebook or by emailing me at JSP327@cornell.edu. If you would like to volunteer please send me an email.

2026 Paper Clover

The 2026 Paper Clover Campaign is scheduled for November 27th through December 13th. We would like a presence at both the Tractor Supply Stores in Saratoga County during the fall campaign (Wilton and Clifton Park). This is a great way to support the 4-H Youth Development Program in Saratoga County. Please stop in at the stores on the weekends of 12/5 until 12/13 and support our clubs by purchasing a Paper Clover and thanking our youth. If you would like to volunteer for a shift, contact Leland at glb76@cornell.edu or call the office at 518-885-8995.

This fundraiser would not be a success without your support!





SARATOGA COUNTY 4-H

SARATOGA COUNTY 4-H

VET SCIENCE

6pm - Tuesday January 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th, and February 2nd , 2027

To Register: Follow the QR code or Email Jillian

$15 Program Fee

Minimum age 12 and must be enrolled in 4-H to Participate

oppurtunities Include: Veterinary Medicine, Emergency Management, Animal Husbandry, and Networking

CONTACT

Jillian: JSP327@cornell.edu

Limited spots availible on a first come first Serve basis

4-H 4-K Walkathon

On September 26th, the Saratoga County 4-H community came together at the 4-H Training Center for our annual 4-H 4-K Walkathon, and what a day it was! Despite the nasty weather, our membership showed up! Everyone had a great time and enjoyed food and watching Greg and Leland get "pied" in the face. We are thrilled to report that we raised over $13,000 to support the continued growth and care of the 4-H Training Center.

🙌 A Huge Thank You!

This event wouldn't have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our 4-H Walkathon Committee, who spent months planning and preparing to make this day so special. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to our generous business sponsors whose support helped make this event a success.

And a special shout-out to our 4-H Clubs who stepped up as t-shirt sponsors — thank you for your continued support and spirit!

📅 Save the Date for 2027!

Mark your calendars — the tentative date for next year's Walkathon is Saturday, September 25, 2027. We can't wait to see you there for another day of fun, fitness, and community giving!





PARTY FOR A CAUSE

To benefit the 4-H Unlimited Garden
Sponsored by Harmony Veterinary Clinic

We Need Your Help!!!

We are currently planning our 3rd Annual Party for a Cause to be held on Saturday, January 23, 2027 at The Hideaway. We are looking for raffle items and silent auction items from all of our amazing supporters. Raffle Baskets, Gift Certificates, Experiences - Let's get creative!! **Don't want to be Creative** - Feel free to donate and we will make a basket for you!!







Music by: the PROTONES

Order tickets at:
sc4h.org
or call 518-885-8995

November 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 4-H Enrollment due	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Gingerbread workshop Pt 1	9 Leaders Potluck Dinner	10	11	12	13	14 Teen Council
15	16	17 Gingerbread workshop Pt 2	18	19	20	21 Gingerbread Pt 3
22	23	24	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30 Shooting Sports Com					

December 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Gingerbread Houses due to 4-H Office	1	2	3 Victorian Street Walk	4	5
6	7	8 Wreath Workshop	9	20	11	12 Teen Council
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26
27	28	29	30	New Years Eve		

Cornell Cooperative Extension
of Saratoga County
50 West High Street, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

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4-H Office Fax: 518-885-9078

4-H Staff

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glb76@cornell.edu

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jac275@cornell.edu

Jillian Peek, Subject Educator
jsp327@cornell.edu

Lisa Russell, 4-H Administrative Assistant
lmr283@cornell.edu

Kim Wilbur, 4-H Administrative Assistant
kmw82@cornell.edu

4-H GROWS HERE

Program Committee

Wendy Kuehner	Scotia
Dick England	Fort Johnson
Paul Ruger	Mechanicville
Ann Haden	Ballston Spa
Pete Dandreno	Gansevoort
Heidi Meidenbauer	Greenfield

Teens

Reyna Racaza	Milton
Bella Hansen	Milton

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

November

1st - 4-H Re-enrollment Due
8th - Gingerbread Workshop Part 1
9th - Leaders Potluck Dinner
14th-Teen Council/ Open Horse Show
17th - Gingerbread Workshop Part 2
21st- Gingerbred Workshop part 3
30th - Gingerbread Houses due to 4-H Office

December

3rd- Victorian Streetwalk
5th-4-h Babysitting Course
12th-Teen Council

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Saratoga County

"Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities"