

New
Jersey **4-H**

Leader Training Series



State and National 4-H Opportunities for Youth

Participant Eligibility

A variety of opportunities at the state and national levels are available to 4-H participants. Several events are designed to enhance the 4-H experience, while others provide opportunities for recognizing the accomplishments of outstanding 4-H members. More specific information about each of these events is available by contacting your county 4-H office.

Eligibility for participation in state and national opportunities varies by event. All events have a designated grade level for participation. Some events require the participants to take part in county-level events to qualify, while others may have specific quotas. All participants in state and national events must be approved as eligible for participation by their county 4-H staff. Information and registration packets for these events are received by the county 4-H staff from the event chairperson and are forwarded as appropriate to 4-H leaders and members.

South Jersey 4-H Teen Conference

South Jersey 4-H Teen conference (SJTC) is held each year in March at a hotel within the ten county South Jersey area. Planned and implemented by teen delegates working together with 4-H professionals, the conference is open to all 4-H youth, grades 8 through 13, in Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean and Salem Counties. Members of the State Teen Advisory Council (STAC) are also invited to attend. SJTC consists of workshops, field trips and social activities designed to assist in the development of skills and knowledge in leadership, communication, personal development, citizenship and decision-making.

There are no delegate quotas; all eligible youth who submit application forms may attend. Individual delegates are responsible for the cost of attending the program; counties often provide sponsorship through county teen councils or leaders associations.

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State 4-H Project Events

There are a variety of state 4-H events held each year with the goal of enhancing the 4-H member's experience in 4-H project areas. The events which are held each year vary; however, listed below are several events which commonly take place.

Animal Science

- Horse—Quiz Bowl, Horse Judging, Horse Show, Trail Ride, Hippology Contest, Equestrian of the Year Contest
- Livestock—Lamb Show and Sale, Sheep Show, Dairy Show, Goat Show
- Other—Rabbit, Cavy and Small Animal Show; Dog Show; Seeing Eye Puppy Demonstration

Natural Sciences—Marine Science Weekend, Horticulture Judging Contest, Adventures in Environmental Science

Communication—Public Presentations

National 4-H Congress

Each year, over 1000 youth from all 50 states, as well as the U.S. territories, join together to participate in National 4-H Congress. This educational event focuses on social and cultural programs and activities, leadership development and community service. The selection process in New Jersey begins about one year before the event. Eligible youth (grades 9 through 12 at time of application) complete a New Jersey 4-H National Congress Application and participate in an interview in the spring. Those selected as delegates to attend the event must also attend an orientation session prior to the event.

Sponsorship of delegates' trips comes from a variety of sources and varies each year, as does the number of delegates attending from New Jersey. Donors include county and state foundations, associations and other groups interested in the 4-H program. Delegates may also be required to pay for a small portion of their trip.

National 4-H Conference

National 4-H Conference is a week-long conference, sponsored by USDA, which brings together approximately 300 teen delegates from throughout the United States as well as the U.S. territories. The conference is designed to involve 4-H members and adults in program development. Generally held each April at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland, the conference gives teens the opportunity to work in "consulting groups." These groups discuss current issues and make recommendations.

Citizenship Washington Focus

Participants visit the United States Department of Agriculture, as well as members of Congress from their home state.

Delegate selection in New Jersey begins in the preceding fall, when county 4-H staff distribute application forms to potential delegates in grades 10 through 12. In late fall, applicants must attend an interview session consisting of group and individual interviews. The 4-H'ers who are chosen to represent New Jersey are required to attend an orientation and to participate in a few preconference activities. The New Jersey delegation is made up of approximately six youth and two adult advisors.

Sponsorship for this event comes from a variety of sources, including Rutgers Cooperative Extension, New Jersey 4-H Development Fund and the State 4-H Leaders Association.

Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) is a week-long educational experience that teaches teen delegates to be active, responsible citizens and leaders. Through workshops and committees, field trips, and visits with members of Congress 4-H'ers learn about the democratic process. The conference is one week long and takes place at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland. New Jersey usually schedules their trip in July.

Each county in New Jersey may send at least two delegates, grades 9 through 12, to CWF and delegate selection procedures are determined at the county level. The process usually begins in January or February. All selected delegates must complete application forms that are forwarded to the state 4-H office in mid-April. All selected delegates and at least one parent must attend a mandatory orientation meeting.

Partial sponsorship is often received from the New Jersey 4-H Development Fund and the State 4-H Association. However, most of the cost of the trip must be covered by the individual delegate, county leaders' association or teen council. Some counties solicit sponsorship from local organizations and businesses.

**New Jersey 4-H State
Teen Advisory Council
STAC**

4-H members in the 8th- 13th grade are eligible to participate. In the fall, each county selects official representatives to STAC. (There is no County quota.) County representatives complete a STAC application form and send it to the State 4-H Office. There are usually six meetings held during the year. Four of the meetings take place on the Cook College Campus, and the other two meetings are either activities or special events. The purpose of the group is to provide input to the 4-H Youth Development Department, actively participate in planning and implementing State 4-H Events, plan, conduct and promote community service activities and develop and practice leadership skills.

All STAC members are eligible to participate in the South Jersey Teen Conference.

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