

4-H Youth Development
Program Update
September-November 2007

- **National 4-H Week**

Ulster County 4-H joined 7 million 4-Hers' across America to celebrate National 4-H Week. The celebration began on September 12, with the Ulster County Legislators presenting a proclamation declaring the value of 4-H and National 4-H Week, October 7-13, 2007. The number 1 State 4-H Dog Drill Team made a video appearance, "Taking care of business".

- **4-H Achievement Night**

Annually 4-H members are recognized for their 4-H accomplishments. The recognition process teaches youth the importance of keeping records. Individually youth received awards in: Goal Setting, Secretarial, Specialist, and County Medals. Five youth received the Beacon Award for being a source of inspiration to their 4-H Clubs. Youth were also selected for the annual award trips. Corporately, 33 4-H Clubs received certificates of completion. Community Service at a club level was also recognized. Following the award presentations families enjoyed the movie, "A Night at the Museum" complete with movie popcorn!

- **Fall TOPS**

The TOPS Fall 2007 program did not begin until November this year. Sixty children at the John F. Kennedy and the George Washington School have already enjoyed Apple Smiles and Peanut Butter Bumps as they learn about and prepare healthy snacks. The "Healthy Choices" unit will also stress the importance of exercise.

- **State & National Leadership**

State and National Associations exist to provide quality Professional Development for the 4-H Youth Professional. The annual Conference (State & National) provides the venue to strengthen 4-H Youth Educators and 4-H programming. October 9-12, Ithaca hosted the NY Conference and on October 21-25, Atlanta, GA hosted the National Conference. State President, Patti Zellmer, received recognition for her leadership in 2007 in leading the New York Association of Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Educators.

- **Family & Consumer Science**

Grants are in development for two new programs: No Child Left Inside (NCLI) and What to Wear (W2W). The NCLI program, in collaboration with the existing NCLI program in Dutchess County, will train 5-9 Kingston High School teens to become environmental and outdoor leaders. These teen leaders will then lead environmental education field trips for younger youth and encourage the creation of Outdoor Clubs in the middle and high schools. A preliminary proposal has been sent to the Conservation Fund.

The W2W program is a 3-year comprehensive textile education program for 10 youth in Ulster County and 10 youth in a collaborating county (most likely NYC). The program will utilize the Youth Community Action model. The grant steering committee will meet on November 28th at 7 pm to finalize the proposal, which will be sent to Cornell for the Director's Grants. In hopes of the W2W grant, five Ulster County youth attended "The First Ever Affordable Fashion Show" put on by NYC 4-H youth in Manhattan, on November 10. The youth also visited the Fashion Institute of Technology museum, the garment district, and several eco-fashion shops.

Ulster County 4-H Staff

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