

4-H Youth Development
Program Update
October 2004



New Leader Training

October is the beginning of the new 4-H year. We are off to a great start! Twelve adults completed new leader training. The four and one-half hour training includes: an introduction to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, the 4-H Program, finances, 4-H Projects, Youth Development, Volunteer expectations, Awards and Recognition, and more. In addition to the training each potential leader must have references checked.

Essential Elements

Cathann Kress, Director, Youth Development at the National 4-H Headquarters was the keynote speaker at the annual meeting of the New York State Association of Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H Educators, October 13-15, 2004. Studies show successful youth development must include these essential elements: Independence, Belonging, Generosity, and Mastery. The 4-H connection is foundational. To experience INDEPENDENCE, I pledge my head to clearing thinking; to experience BELONGING, I pledge my heart to greater loyalty; to experience GENEROSITY, I pledge my hands to larger service; to experience MASTERY, I pledge my health to better living. 4-H Youth Development contains the essential elements for building youth into tomorrow's leaders.

These Essential Elements were shared with the Ulster County 4-H Strategy Committee and at the National 4-H Agents Conference.

Achievement Night

The 4-H Program "hooped-it-up" on October 15th for the annual Awards & Recognition of outstanding 4-H Youth accomplishments. Thirty-three Ulster County 4-H Clubs were recognized for their participation and Community Service. Individual members received Awards for 4-H Excellence, the Beacon Award, Secretary Awards, and Goal Setting. 4-H Leaders were recognized for their years of service. Following the Award Program youth enjoyed time in the UCCC gymnasium shooting hoops and making the hula-hoops go round and round!

National 4-H Web Site - www.4husa.org

Ulster County's Feathered Friends 4-H Club is in the spotlight! The new national 4-H Web site highlights 4-H events. Our very own Feathered Friends are featured with the Sandals for Iraqi Children efforts. Check it out at: www.4husa.org, click on 4-H State News: New York.

TOPS

Creative and energetic personnel in the Kingston City School district secured funds to save the TOPS program at John F. Kennedy and George Washington schools. This fall students are becoming ornithologists! Students in grades K, 1 and 2 will learn to identify many local birds and will participate in setting up bird feeding stations.



Ulster County 4-H Staff

Patti Zellmer, Team Coordinator - Debra Neis, Educator - Jenny Burkins, Program Secretary