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When You Thought I Wasn’t Looking...

I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator, and I immediately wanted to paint another one.
I saw you feed a stray cat, and I learned that it was good to be kind to animals.
I saw you make my favorite cake for me and I learned that the little things can be the special things in life.
I heard you say a prayer, and I knew there is a God I could always talk to and I learned to trust in God.
I saw you make a meal to take to a friend who was sick, and I learned we all have to help take care of each other.
I saw you give of your time and money to help people who had nothing and I learned that those who have something should give to those who don’t.
I saw you take care of our house and everyone in it and I learned we have to take care of what we are given.
I saw how you handled your responsibilities, even when you didn’t feel good and I learned that I would have to be responsible when I grew up.
I saw tears come from your eyes and I learned sometimes things hurt, but it’s all right to cry.
I saw that you cared and I wanted to be everything that I could be.
I learned most of life’s lessons that I need to know to be a good and productive person when I grow up.
I looked at you and wanted to say, “Thanks for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn’t looking”.

Little eyes see a lot. Thanks for being such great leaders & role models for 4-H.

Lisa Rothenburger  
County 4-H Agent

Carol K. Ward  
County 4-H Agent

Remember 4-H is for everyone, everywhere!

The 4-H Youth Development Program is part of Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension of Somerset County. 4-H educational programs are offered to all youth, grades K-13, on an age appropriate basis, without regard to race, color, sex, national origin, or disability.

4-H Mission Statement

The Rutgers Cooperative Research & Extension 4-H youth development program uses a learn by doing approach to enable youth to develop the knowledge, attitudes, and skills they need to become competent, caring, and contributing citizens of the world.

The mission is accomplished by using the knowledge and resources of the land grant university system, along with the involvement of caring adults.
These are the words in Charlotte’s Web high up in the barn. Her spider web tells of her feelings for a little pig named Wilbur as well as the feelings of a little girl named Fern, who loves Wilbur too.

This classic story explores friendship, adventure, protection, miracles, as well as touching on loss. And now in this new updated version, released on December 15, it also shares the joy of being part of 4-H. Charlotte’s Web features the 4-H Emblem multiple times, and the themes portrayed speak directly to the great work that 4-H does in developing youth – building friendships, commitment to goals and having fun! It stars Dakota Fanning as Fern, and the voices of Julia Roberts and 4-H alumnus Reba McEntire, and many other noteworthy actors.

To celebrate 4-H and Charlotte’s Web, Paramount Pictures and Walden Media will make a $1.00 donation to 4-H programs throughout the nation if tickets are purchased through the National 4-H Council at: www.fourhcouncil.edu. So ask your friends and families to purchase their tickets online. Just click on the link “Buy Movie Tickets”. This link will take you to a purchase page. Here you will enter your zip code and purchase as many tickets as you like via credit card. The price of the ticket is determined by your local movie theater. Then you will receive a certificate for each ticket purchased and a receipt for the total purchase price along with a $1.00 donation per ticket to help support 4-H. Tickets buyers also have the option of making an additional donation. State 4-H programs receive 100% of donations as determined by zip codes entered at purchase. This promotions is valid until January 31. The top 30 counties who sell the most tickets as of January 31, will receive a $500 4-H mall gift certificate.

There is also a link on the page to purchase promotional 4-H items featured in the film including Fern’s 4-H t-shirt.

Family ASTRO Leader Training - January 25
Register by January 12

If you are interested in learning to lead family astronomy events on a variety of subjects, then this workshop is for you! Family ASTRO is about making science fun for the whole family! This all day training is open to adults and teens. Contact Lisa Rothenburger at rothenburger@rce.rutgers.edu or 908-526-6644.

Project Wild - February 21
Register by February 1

This workshop is a great way for leaders, teachers, and parents to facilitate and promote awareness, appreciation, knowledge and stewardship of water resources. Participants will view water not only as a shared resource, but also a shared responsibility. Contact the 4-H Office to register.

Eat Smart - Keeping Kids Healthy - March 14
Register by March 1

This workshop provides an overview of the current child obesity epidemic and other nutrition related child health issues. This all day training program is open to all educators, leaders and parents. Contact Family & Community Health Science at 908-526-6295 to register.
### Food ‘N Fun Luncheon
**January 27**

*Register by January 19*

Choose a theme, plan a menu and come prepared for a party! Plan to participate in the Food ‘N Fun Luncheon, **January 27**. This covered dish luncheon is open to ALL 4-H CLUBS. Contact Mrs. Razzano for more details at 908-526-6644 or razzano@co.somerset.nj.us.

### Table Setting Contest
**January 27**

*Register by January 19*

Plan a menu and set the table. Held on the same day as the Food ‘N Fun Luncheon (**January 27**). It’s open to ALL 4-H CLUBS.

### 4-H Science-sational Day
**April 14**

*Tell your Friends & Family!

Learn about a variety of science topics! This fun filled day for youth in grades 1-6 will be held Saturday, **April 14th**.

### 4-H Camp July 30 – August 4

The Lindley G. Cook, 4-H Camp in Stokes State Forest, NJ, is open six weeks starting the beginning of July. 4-H members and non-members are welcome to sign up for any week. However, in order to continue the tradition of camping with other members from your county, **Somerset County 4-H members are encouraged to attend July 30 -August 4**. Campers will meet teen counselors from the county and can look to them for guidance and support as they grow in 4-H. A limited number of scholarships are available. Call the 4-H office at 908-526-6644 for more information.

### Presentation Judges Needed - March 27-28-29

You have helped and watched your child or club members do many presentations. You know when they are doing a good job and you know how they can improve their presentations. 4-H needs you to pass along this expertise! 4-H Presentations are **March 27, 28, 29**. Please call the 4-H Office at 908-526-6644 to volunteer. Training will be provided.

### New Jersey Junior Breeder Symposium
**March 24 at Cook College**

Focusing on hands-on sessions for Dairy, Equine, Beef, Swine, Dairy Goats, Meat Goats, Rabbits and Poultry.

Registration information is available by contacting Carol Ward at the 4-H Office, 908-526-6644.

### What To Do In Case of Inclement Weather

If your club meets at the 4-H Center and you are a club leader, please contact the 4-H office before 4:30 at 908-526-6644 or the building manager between 7-10 pm at 908-526-8242, to let her know if you will cancel your meeting that night. You are also responsible for contacting your club members to let them know you will cancel. If you are a 4-H member in doubt, contact your 4-H club leader.
If your club has a website....

If your 4-H club has a website, the site should follow the RCE/4-H policies. The site must include:

- The RCE of Somerset County logo, with a link back to the RCE of Somerset County home page.
- The RCE indicia
- The Rutgers logo
- Official 4-H Clover
- A “last modified” date
- The phone number, email and address of the Somerset County 4-H office (personal phone numbers or addresses or emails are not allowed).

The site should NOT include:

- Full names of youth
- Pictures of youth without a signed parental form

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Rothenburger or Carol Ward at the 4-H office.

Summer Day Camp Coordinator

Rutgers Cooperative Research & Extension is looking to fill a temporary position beginning in the spring and lasting through the 4-H Fair. This position would facilitate and plan all efforts for the Summer Day Camp program we hold during the weeks of July 16 - 20 and July 23 - 27.

You need to have experience in the field of education, working with youth of all ages and planning and coordinating activities. You would be working out of the office on Milltown Road.

For more information and a detailed description of the position, please visit our website at http://www.4HisTops.org or contact the 4-H office at 908-526-6644 to ask for a hard copy.

4-H welcomes these new clubs.

North Star 4-H Puppy Club: Meets every Wednesday, 6:00 pm. This club is similar to our K-9 Leaders Seeing Eye Club. 4-H members will help raise puppies that will eventually be trained to assist disabled children.

4-H Swift Twisters Club: Meets every 1st and 3rd Friday, 7:00 pm. This club works on a variety of crafts, most pertaining to working with cloth and material.

4-H Knitting Club: Meets every 1st and 3rd Friday, 7:00 pm. This club works with the Swift Twisters on a variety of knitting projects, hats, scarves, etc. This club also has a prep division.

4-H Junior Horse Council: Meets every 1st Monday, 7:00 pm. This new club is for high school teens who already belong to one of our horse clubs. They will be focused on special areas to help enhance the horse club projects throughout the year. All are welcome to attend, but voting delegates are elected from each horse club.

4-H Tops Prep Club: A new club for children grades 1-3. This club meets every 2nd and 4th Monday, 7:00.

All 4-H Prep Club: Another new club for children grades 1-3. This club meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 5:00 pm. This club features a different theme each month. They have had a visit from our current Dairy Princess, Brittney O’Brien and have helped to decorate wreaths.

All these clubs meet at the 4-H Center.

These new clubs as well as many of our other clubs are accepting new members! Contact us for more information: 908-526-6644.
Teen Scene

Announcing...
The New Somerset County 4-H Prep Scholarship

We are proud to introduce this scholarship for Somerset County 4-H members who are graduating seniors or 13th grade students who started in 4-H as Prep Members. Scholarship recipients will receive a one-time grant of $500 provided they have been accepted for a regular course of study or are currently a student attending a college, technical or vocational school.

Requirements:
- Be a Somerset County 4-H Prep Alumni
- Is a current member in good standing with a Somerset County 4-H Club
- Provide a letter of recommendation from an adult currently active in the Somerset County 4-H Program

Criteria:
- Contribution to the 4-H Prep Program
- Demonstrated Mentoring Relationships with 4-H members
- 4-H Participation and Achievement
- Personal Growth and Character Development throughout 4-H Career

Applications and letters of recommendation are due in the 4-H Office by APRIL 1, 2007. Scholarships will be awarded at the May 2007 meeting of the Somerset County 4-H Association and recipients will be acknowledged in a ceremony during the Somerset County 4-H Fair.

Teen Specials

Citizenship Washington Focus
Applications will be due in March.

Join 4-H’ers from other states in Washington, DC for a weeklong educational experience to learn more about government and citizenship. 4-H’ers in grades 9-12 can apply. The trip to Washington, DC is July 8-14. To find out about this event go to www.4hcwf.org. Call the 4-H office for an application. Watch your newsletter for a March due date!

National 4-H Congress
Applications will be due in April.

Each year more than 1000 4-H’ers from the US participate in National 4-H Youth Congress. This educational event focuses on social and cultural programs, leadership development and workforce preparedness. Youth grades 9-12 may apply. This event is held in Atlanta, GA, November 23-27. It’s the highlight of a 4-H career. Call the 4-H office for an application.

Their website is www.national4-hcongress.com. Watch your newsletter for a due date in April.
Financial Help for College

Applications are being sent, and acceptance letters are coming soon—but how will you pay for college? Check out these available scholarships offered through Somerset County 4-H. Applications available at the 4-H office and on line.

Somerset County 4-H Association Scholarship
The Somerset County 4-H Association is offering five $1000.00 scholarships to 4-H’ers for college, vo-tech, etc. To apply, students must be a high school senior or a college freshman. They need to be a Somerset County 4-H member in good standing and they must have a letter of recommendation from a 4-H Club Leader. Applications due in the office by April 2.

James Rudowski Scholarship
The James Rudowski Scholarship is awarded each year to a graduating high school senior with an interest in a career in science. The senior needs to be a current member in good standing with a Somerset County 4-H Club and must have a letter of recommendation from an adult currently active in a Somerset County 4-H Program. Mr. Rudowski was a 4-H science club leader. This fund was established by his family. Applications due in the office by April 2.

Joseph J. and Florence E. Klimas Scholarship
The Joseph J. and Florence E. Klimas Scholarship is awarded annually to a Somerset County 4-H Alum, entering his/her junior or senior year in college, having declared a major in education. Letters of recommendation from a 4-H adult volunteer and a professor are also necessary. Mrs. Klimas is a former Somerset County 4-H Leader and Branchburg Middle School teacher. This fund was established by her son, Scott Goodell, and his family. Applications due in the office by April 2.

For those interested in studying agriculture, plant science, animal science, landscape architecture or other related field:
The Tom Everett memorial Scholarship (due Jan. 31st), The Edward Rosania, William Staats, Peter Smith Memorial Scholarship and the Benjamin Blackburn Scholarship are available. Amounts and requirements vary. Please call the 4-H office for details.

National 4-H Congress Report
by David Allison

Over the Thanksgiving break, I went down to Atlanta, Georgia and had the best time of my life. I was selected to be one of the New Jersey representatives to National 4-H Congress. When the delegates were decided, I only knew one other person. Because of this trip, I now know over 200 people from all over the country. I know that I will someday meet somebody from this event and we will be able to reminisce about the memories from this wonderful experience.

During the day, we had workshops that ranged from team building to leadership skills to even salsa dancing. At night, the activities ranged from an international food banquet to a night of culture at the local museum.

On the last day, it was our turn to thank Atlanta for hosting the Congress by doing various community service projects. I helped decorate Christmas trees for their annual holiday festival. After that, we went on various tours to places such as the Georgia Aquarium, CNN’s headquarters, and the Atlanta Brave’s baseball stadium. It was not until I was home in my bed when I realized how many memories, stories, and friendships that I made in only five days. I was able to learn some things about being a leader that I can take back and apply to my life. All in all, it was one of the best experiences of my life and I highly recommend going. It will definitely be a lasting memory.

The other attendee was Brittney O’Brien, who also provided input for this article.
In November, the key leader for each club should have received a computer printout of what we have in our database for your club. This database is used for all of our mail lists and to verify eligibility for the Fair and state 4-H events. Young people are not registered members until we receive their application and have it in our computer. Any youth not registered by January 1st, will not be able to participate in competitive events at the Fair or state level; national 4-H event or any county recognition, award or scholarship. We will send a list of members eligible for the Fair and state events, to you, after the first of the year. You may add members during the year to receive Clovertales and attend non-competitive 4-H events.

Club Rosters Were Due December 31

Public Presentations - March 27-28-29

All members should plan to participate in public presentations held at the 4-H Center. You may do a demonstration, give an illustrated talk, performance or formal speech.

Presentations help you to find out more about your favorite subject, allow you to entertain or teach others, practice speaking skills and learn from the judge’s critique. Most of all they are easy and fun!

To Prepare for Public Presentations

Come to a Presentation Workshop on January 23, 7 pm or on January 25, 4 pm.

New for 2007: A Power Point workshop on January 30, 7 pm. Learn to use Power Point to give your presentation visual punch!

Workshop will be held at the 4-H Center. To register, call the 4-H Office by January 19.

• Invite the 4-H Staff to your club meeting for an informal workshop.
• Call Barbara Navatto at the 4-H Office for individual help.
• Give a presentation for your club and ask the other members for helpful comments.

Club Financial Reports – due January 30

Be sure to send in your Club Financial Reports!

In September, Club Leaders should have received financial reporting forms. If you are a new club leader, or have misplaced your forms, please call the 4-H Office, 908-526-6644, to receive an additional form. Because you are using the 4-H name and emblem you are obligated to report any money collected throughout the year.

Remember the Veterans! February 14, 2006

The veterans hospitalized in VA facilities would be thrilled if you mailed them Valentines this February. This is a great club project. Mail your cards or pictures to the Lyons Medical Hospital, 151 Knollcross Rd., Lyons, NJ 07939.

Need to Reach the 4-H Center at Night?

The 4-H Center Night Manager is Maryann DelGigante

Phone: 908-526-8242

7-10 pm Monday - Friday.
HURRAY FOR...
NJ 4-H Honor Clubs

Congratulations to these Clubs who qualified this year for Honor Club:

Woolly Ones Sheep Club
Radical Rodents

Does your club and its members have what it takes to be a NJ 4-H Honor Club?

There are many different kinds of 4-H clubs. They meet different times and have different projects and interests. However, there are some things that all 4-H clubs should have in common. The following are expectations for 4-H clubs and members. If your club meets all of these requirements, your club qualifies to be a NJ 4-H Honor Club. Have your club leader or president complete a form and return it to the 4-H office and your club will receive a NJ 4-H Honor Club certificate (and possibly other recognition through Clovertales, achievement ceremonies, etc.)

Honor Clubs:
• Meet regularly (at least once a month) for nine or more months of the year.
• Elect officers to run meetings.
• Hold at least one business meeting a month for nine or more months of the year.
• Participate in at least one approved 4-H project.
• Have an approved club constitution.
• Have at least one registered adult 4-H leader, appointed and trained by county 4-H staff.
• Conduct at least one community service project.
• Have at least five registered club members.
• Exhibit/demonstrate at the County 4-H Fair.

At least 70% of Honor Club members:
• Attend at least 70% of club meetings.
• Do a public presentation at the club or county level at least once a year.
• Complete a record book, if your project requires one.
• Sell at least one business card ad and one wreath (this is for Somerset County clubs only)

County 4-H Achievement Awards

Somerset Hills YMCA Volunteer Recognition Award

The 4-H recipient of the 2006 Somerset Hills YMCA Volunteer Recognition Award is Dawn Hribik. The YMCA hosts this event to give organizations the opportunity to honor their volunteers and celebrate the outstanding volunteerism in our communities. Dawn is a very active member of the 4-H Association. She works on the ad committee and is Chair of the Fair Commercial exhibits. She works all year long to secure quality commercial vendors, lays out the commercial exhibits and writes the Fair procedures for commercial space. She originally started in 4-H as a dog club leader. We certainly appreciate all she does.

Congratulations Dairy Princesses

Congratulations to Brittney O’Brien, who won the title this year of NJ State Dairy Princess.

Congratulations to Caitlyn Merrill, Somerset County Dairy Princess and Alternate NJ State Dairy Princess.

Banner Year for Wreath Sales!

Somerset County 4-H members sold a record 3408 wreaths, which was 400 more than last year.

The Somerset County 4-H Association would like to thank all who participated in this event, which remains the oldest fundraiser in Somerset County. Wreaths “built the building”, and monies made help maintain the 4-H Center.

Special thanks to all those who helped unload wreaths Thanksgiving Friday, those that helped hand out the wreaths to the clubs, all wreath committee members, the Association for decorating and everyone who helped sell the wreaths making this a banner year!

Top selling clubs this year were: Woof Dog Club, Wags & Whiskers Dog Club, 4-H Go-Kart Club, Radio Control Car Club, Somerset 4-H Trainmasters.

Thanks for making the best better for next year!

Somerset County 4-H Invites You To Celebrate Val Kreutler’s Retirement

- 4-H Prep New Year’s Celebration! Everyone is welcome: January 6th, 5 - 8 pm at the Ted Blum 4-H Center. Join Preppers and their families for a pig roast and farewell to Val at this annual party. Please bring a covered dish of your choice. Call the 4-H office (908-526-6644) to respond by January 2nd. Bring your family, friends and club members.

- Retirement Dinner in honor of Val: Pheasants Landing, 311 Amwell Road, Hillsborough; January 28th, 2:00 pm. $40.00 per person includes buffet dinner and gift. Please call the 4-H Office by January 15th to request an invitation.

- If you are unable to attend either of these events, you may contribute to the gift or send greetings to Val c/o the 4-H Office: Ted Blum 4-H Center of Somerset County, 310 Milltown Road, Bridgewater, NJ 08807
Doug Farley

Residence: Branchburg

Family: Only child, still single, parents live in Yorktown, Virginia

Occupation: Systems Engineering Consultant

Hobbies/Spare Time Activities: I have been an amateur photographer for many years and have had some work published. I play disc golf and tennis. I can be found reading a good book, playing a video game or doing a poor job playing the harmonica.

First became involved in 4-H… As a Prep Club Member. I was a CIT, counselors and a member of Senior Council. I ran the CIT training program in Yorktown, VA

Involvement in 4-H and community today… I am an advisor for Somerset County 4-H Senior Council, a member of the 4-H Association and often (happily) duped into helping with other clubs and activities.

Most memorable experience as a volunteer… When one of the first CIT’s I ever mentored graduated and thanked me for being there all those years and lending a hand.

Favorite aspect of volunteering… To make someone’s best better, one person at a time.

People don’t know that…If you don’t know something about me, you should ask!

If I had more time I would…Sleep more? Be out of a job? Live at the 4-H Center? Pick! However, if this is a “If you won a million dollars” type question, then the answer would be, I would enjoy being a professional photographer.

Doug will be moving to Austin, Texas the first of the year to take a job with Dell, Inc. He will be developing new storage technology to go into future production. The Somerset County 4-H family will miss him and are grateful for his dedication to our program and his many contributions to its success.

Anne Parsons

Residence: Whitehouse Station

Family: Husband, Al, 5 grown children, Jacqueline, Tom, Karen, Craig and Stewart, and 13 grandchildren!

Occupation: Teacher of the Handicapped at the Midland School

Hobbies/Spare Time Activities: Love to paint and do photography, and have exhibited work in local shows.

First became involved in 4-H…in 1975. Grace Staats asked my son Tom to join her club and later Jackie joined a ceramics club. We started entering the open division at the Flemington Fair and then formed a club, Scissor Wizards, where I was the leader for 10 years.

Involvement in 4-H and community today…I enjoyed 4-H with my children. The leadership, public speaking, record books and 4-H experience has been a big impact on their lives. Once they were grown, I volunteered as a judge on both county and state levels. About 12 years ago, another teacher and I formed the Photography Club for the Midland School.

Most memorable experience as a volunteer…is seeing how the members of the Somerset County 4-H community have welcomed the students of Midland School. This partnership has provided our young adults with opportunities to speak before large groups of people. They have had their work displayed at the 4-H Fair. The most rewarding experience has been to see them share this community acceptance and recognition.

Favorite aspect of volunteering…It is very rewarding to watch the progress of my club members as they go from shy younger members to confident leaders in their schools and communities.

People don’t know that… I’m a city girl and had my first experience entering fairs and becoming a 4-H leader when we moved to NJ.

If I had more time I would….devote more time to hobbies, volunteer activities and my wonderful grandchildren.
Do you love camp? How about trying Club Camp in April? This camp weekend offers the opportunity for 4-H’ers, parents and leaders to interact outside of their regular meetings. Activities may include hiking, fishing, archery, and team building, as well as just hanging out together. Club camp is held at Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp in Branchville, Sussex County. Registration forms and information packets will be available at the 4-H Office. This is a great chance to spend time together. Contact Sue Posbergh at 908-304-6435 or ksec@att.net for more information. This year Club Camp will be April 13, 14, and 15th. Meals are included with the cost—only $33.00 per person.

Here are some details:

- **Check in time:** After 5:00 PM
  - Friday, April 13
- **Check out time:** Before 2:00 PM
  - Sunday, April 15

A 4-H Event Permission Form or a 4-H Adult Overnight Agreement/Release Form needs to be completed for each participant. Please request these forms from the 4-H office and return completed forms to the 4-H office by March 31. Forms can also be downloaded from our website: www.4HisTops.org.

**4-H Summer Camp - Early Bird Prices!**

The Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp is located off Route 206 in Stokes State Forest in Branchville, NJ. Camp is open to all youth who have completed third grade through tenth grade. Camp weeks begin July 2 and continue through August. The **Somerset County Preference week is July 30 - August 4.** All of the sessions begin Monday morning with check in at 10:00 a.m. Check out is Saturday morning with a special closing ceremony for parents.

Enroll early to ensure your first choice of dates and activities.

Registration forms are available at the 4-H Center or online at www.nj4hcamp.rutgers.edu on the "forms" page and should be sent directly to Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp. You will then receive a parent's packet and a class description list. Return these to camp ASAP so you get the classes you want.

The camp fee for one week is $305 until February 1, $315 until April 1 and $325 after April 1. Non-4-H members, please add an additional $20.00. Bring a friend and you both receive a discount! Some scholarships are available through the Somerset County 4-H Office. Please call our office (908) 526-6644 to inquire about scholarships.

**Camp Events**

Call 973-948-3550

Or go to:

www.nj4hcamp.rutgers.edu

For more information

- Volunteer Work Days,
  - March 31 & April 21
- Open House, May 20,
  - 2:30 - 5:30 pm
- Volunteer Staff Training
  will be on line this year.
  Go to the 4-H camp
  website for details.
Family Camp June 1-3

Somerset County 4-H Family Camp is a wonderful time to have fun and spend time with your club, family and friends. ALL Somerset County 4-H Families are invited for a special Weekend at the Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp in Sussex County…

June 1-3, 2006.

There will be time for fishing, boating, swimming, arts and crafts, hikes, games, great food in the dining hall and lots of fun and songs around the campfire. Cost is $50 per person. Camp scholarship funds are available. Please inquire at the 4-H office for an application.

There will be brochures and information on registration available at the 4-H Center by May. Take time out of your busy days to enjoy time away and with your family…that’s what memories are made of! If you have ideas for Family Camp, please call Carol or Lisa and join the planning committee.

RCE Summer Camp

Looking for something to do this summer?

Come to RCE Summer Camp to learn new things, meet new friends and have fun!

Hold the dates!

SAW!

Summer Adventure Week, Grades 1 - 3
July 16 - 20

WOW!

Week of Wonders, Grades 4 - 6
July 23 - 27

More info will be available by the end of January!

4-H Senior Member Winter Camp Register by January 12

Winter camp is a fun get away for teens to play in the snow and meet 4-H’ers from other clubs and counties. 4-H’ers in grades 9-13 from Somerset, Warren and Bergen Counties will have lots of fun at L.G. Cook Camp January 26 - 28. This is always a popular event, so get your application in early. The cost for the weekend is $40.00 and includes meals. Scholarships are available. For more information contact Lisa Rothenburger at 908-526-6644.
It's Our 60th!

The 60th Fair Committee has some wonderful ideas for making this the best Fair ever. If you would like to work on additional activities and promotional ideas, please contact Betty Sommerville, 908-359-281-5238.

New Awards

Everyone is invited January 10 at 7:00 in the Large Conference room to discuss the types of trophies, awards or gifts you would like to receive to commemorate the 60th Fair.

2007 Yearbook and Catalog

The Catalog Committee is looking for historical photos for the ‘07 Yearbook to celebrate the 60th Fair. If you have any you would like to share, or would like to work on this section of the yearbook; there will be meeting January 10 at 7:30 in the gym at the 4-H Center.

Club Leaders are reminded that March 31 is the deadline for submission of Club photos. Please send a maximum of 6 photos of your club in action, including a descriptive statement for each photo. You may take your own photos and email them to the 4-H Office or send hard copies. You may borrow the digital 4-H camera. Volunteer photographers are also standing by if you would like to invite one to your club event. Call the 4-H Office if you need assistance.

4-H Fair Exhibitor Guide

Attention all Division Chairs! Please review the rules for your division in the 2006 Exhibitor Guide with the other leaders in your division, make any necessary changes and send them to the 4-H Office for inclusion in the 2007 Exhibitor Guide. If you need a copy of the ’06 edition or have any questions please contact Barbara Navatto. We would like all changes to be in office by January 30, 2007 so we can have the new edition available to members as soon as possible. Thanks for your help.

Fondly Remembered

Former Prep Advisor and Association member, Teresa “TC” Thiel passed away December 6, 2007. Randy Thiel, her husband, is leader of the Sentinels 4-H Rocket Club and sons, Eric and Matthew are both 4-H’ers. She was loved and respected and will certainly be missed by everyone.
Sugar 'n' Spice  
by Jadelyn Truong

At the last meeting, the club made three different kinds of bread; pumpkin, banana and coffee. They donated the 6 loaves to SHIP. The Club also had its election of officers: Brianna Mulrooney, President; Tyana Truong, Vice-President; Caroline Merrill, Secretary; Melissa Ribaudo, Treasurer; and Jadelyn Truong, Reporter. The next meeting the Club will do some sewing.

Mighty Cavits & Rodents  
by Megan Kouril

The Club held its election of officers: Missy Race, President; Kira Whitney, Vice-President; Katie Kouril, Secretary; and Megan Kouril, Reporter. Mary Stamets, a current member of ARBA, did a presentation on how to register a rabbit. The Club then worked on ribbons and pine cones for their 4-H wreaths.

4-H Cattleman's Club  
by Joshua Bruss

Items discussed by the club were 4-H wreaths, the Livestock Achievement Dinner, Record Books and the Club’s annual fund raiser. For December, the Club will have its Holiday Party.

Wags 'n' Whiskers Dog Club  
by Amy Miller

The Club had its annual awards dinner, along with the Woof Dog Club on November 5. Members received their awards and a guest speaker spoke about pet therapy.

4-H Kitties  
by Karen Ferguson

The Kitties welcomed new members: Amy, Lou, Mark, Rachel, Sarah, Ginger and Ashley. The Club prepared catnip sock toys for the Franklin Animal Shelter as part of Operation Happy Sock. They also completed a mailing project for Habitat for Humanity. The Club studied Rachel’s cat for health characteristics. They welcomed a guest speaker who was a professional pet sitter. For the holidays, the Club will be sponsoring holiday gifts for two homeless families and their cats.

Senior Council  
by Robby Slovik

The Club welcomed new officers: Brianna Mulrooney, President; Kathleen Kerwin, Vice-President, Alex Burman, Treasurer; Kaitlyn Zimmitti, Recording Secretary, Robby Slovik, Recorder, Amanda Weinstein, Corresponding Secretary. Club activities for the fall included hosting the Arts Achievement Dinner, Teambuilding Training, a Youth Conference, Fall Yard Cleanup and a SHIP Holiday party.

Chaps 'n' Spurs  
by Kaitlyn Janisch

The Club had a great time at their last meeting playing horse games. One called the Information Game, teaches members about horses and horse buying. Then they played a favorite called Horse Charades, where junior members are teamed with senior members. This one is a favorite of the younger members. Check out the Prep Page and learn how Prep members made some awesome crafts this last month.

Midland Photography Club  
by Matthew Sartori

The Club meets on Wednesdays this year. Club advisors are Karen Hrank, Carla Larson and Anne Parsons. The Club took their first field trip to North Branch village. They took many photos using both digital and film cameras. Members participating in this trip were R.J. Stockwell-Wurm, Patrick Frawley, Jesse Engesser, Wesley Fleming, Matthew Sartori, Ian Crowe, Chris Dionne and Will Herman. At their most recent meeting, officers were elected as follows: Jesse Engesser, President; Wesley Fleming, Vice-President; R.J. Stockwell-Wurm, Treasurer; Matthew Sartori, Recording Secretary; Chris Dionne, Corresponding Secretary; Ian Crowe and Will Herman, Club News Photographers; Patrick Frawley, Pledge Leader. Jesse demonstrated wreath decorating to members and all wreaths were delivered to customers. During December, members worked with their computers to edit photos to make a calendar for 2006-07.
**Hoofbeats**  
_by Andrew McCamley_

The beginning of the 2006-07 4-H year has started off well for the Hoofbeats Horse Club. At their first meeting they elected new officers, who each sent out speeches to all members as part of their campaign. At the October meeting they discussed what they could do for the 4-H program, specifically getting involved in the 4-H councils; how to get more involved in the community; and things they could do for each other. The Club is focusing on volunteer work this year, and already held a collection for the Hillsborough Food Bank. In order to help each other out they would have lessons at each meeting to increase their knowledge of the horse world. The Hoofbeats are looking forward to another exciting 4-H year.

**4-H Chinese Culture Club**  
_by Clarissa Chu_

The school year has officially started for the Chinese Culture Club! On October 29, the student council held an early Halloween party for all of the students. Many of the students dressed in costumes, from scary ghosts to superheroes, from princesses to penguins, and other original ideas. The students participated in a Halloween parade around the school, ate some tasty treats, and took part in several contests, all in celebration of Halloween. A round of applause to all costume contest and jack-o-lantern carving contest winners! On November 19, students participated in the Intra-School Speech Contest. Congratulations to all students who participated in the contest, and good luck!

**Bring on the Clowns...Again**  
_by Betty Sommerville_

The 4-H Clowning Around Club is preparing to entertain the preppers at their New Year's Party on January 6. The last time they were there was 9 years ago with "Putting Baby to Bed". This year they will welcome in the New Year in style as "Baby" New Year & "Old Man" Old Year comically re-examining their very different points of view. It will be another hilarious misadventure for the clowns & the prep family audience.

**Sheepfold**  
_by Cathy Christy_

The Sheepfold Club provided a petting zoo for the fall festival held in October at the Raritan Health & Extended Car Center. The residents enjoyed visiting with the animals.

**May the Puppet Power Be with You!**  
_by Betty Sommerville_

Big news on the Puppet front: our name has changed! From now on our merry puppeteers will be known as the "Pretty Cool 4-H Puppet Club" leaving forever the much misremembered "Practically Prepared Pretty Unpredictable 4-H Puppetry Club" aka 3P1U 4-H Puppetry Club. We're looking forward to another year of Puppet Power!
Dear 4-H Prepper,

Well, this is my last letter to you. I have certainly enjoyed planning activities and seeing all of you grow and have fun in 4-H Prep for a whole bunch of years. But now it’s time for me to retire so I can spend more time with my own grandchildren. It has been a real pleasure for me to know you and your families and I have loved every minute of the times we have spent together. Even though we may not see each other, I sure will be thinking about you, and will miss you very much.

Always remember that no matter how old you get, you will always be one of my very special “preppers” and I will love each and every one of you forever.

Mrs. Kreutler
4-H Prep Coordinator

Yakety - Yak

Funtastics Preppers want to thank Mrs. Betty Sommerville and the 4-H Puppetry club for coming to one of their meetings. The kids had a great time!

In December, the Exploding Stars, Mad Scientists, and 4-H TOPS club went on a field trip to the Planetarium at Raritan Valley Community College. They learned that stars come in different colors (red, yellow, and blue, depending on their temperature) and are different ages. Some special stars have planets too. The preppers also discovered which stars are visible in our sky tonight. Thank you to Mrs. Amie Gallagher for arranging the special trip. Here’s a picture of the kids after the show.
Chaps "n" Spurs Prep Club by Kristen Johnson, reporter
"Today the preppers decorated white tote bags. They used paint, markers, stamps, and fabric magic markers. Also the preppers made cards for our leader that is going to have knee surgery. The crafts were awesome!"

Mad Scientists news: Chris Posbergh from the Poultry Plus Club came to the October meeting to talk about chickens. He brought 2 chickens with him. At the end the kids all got some feathers and some new wool from a lamb. Noni liked holding the chickens and Allesio liked getting feathers to keep.

In November, the preppers studied the human skeleton. They compared the bones in their model, Seymour, to the bones they could feel in their own bodies. Then they made skeletons from Q-tips. Cary liked making the skeletons and Joey liked finding Seymour’s bones. Alexa, Christian, Cary, Joey, Allesio, Austin, Cassy all attended. Joey took attendance, Cassy led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Cary led the 4-H Pledge.

The All 4-H Club by Calvin, reporter
"We made butter. Michael and Christine are new."

The 4-H TOP Club by Madeleine Hargrave, reporter
"Today our 4-H class cut out parts of a paper made skeleton. After my hole class cut out our skeletons and some of us even stapled our skeletons, Danielle gave us paper scarecrows. Some of the class colored our scarecrows and others cut them. We discussed what our class would be for Holloween. We had a great day at 4-H!"

4-H Prep Rally
"Trip Around the World"
Saturday, March 3, 2007
9am-2:15pm
4-H Center

• Parent letter and prepper registration form will come in the mail by the end of January - Watch for it!
• Return the form to the 4-H Office by February 15th
• Bring the ticket and bag lunch to the “Airport”
• You’ll get your passport photo taken there and be assigned to a “Flight”
• You’ll “travel” to France, Denmark, China, Russia, and eat lunch in Mexico!
January 20 & 21, 2007
10:00 am - 5:00 pm
4-H Center
310 Milltown Road
Bridgewater, NJ

ANNUAL
4-H WINTER TRAIN SHOW

Sponsored by:
the 4-H Trainmasters and the Raritan Valley HiRailers
Featuring demonstrations and hands-on activities as well as the ever-growing and ever-improving O-Scale trains and layout.

Admission
$3.00 Adult
$1.00 Children under 12

Concessions available all day.
Door Prizes

Directions to the 4-H Center:
http://somerset.rcre.rutgers.edu/directions
27th Annual Doll & Teddy Bear Show

Somerset County 4-H Exchange Doll & Teddy Bear Show

Saturday
FEBRUARY 24, 2007
10 am - 3:30 pm

4-H Center
310 Milltown Road
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Admission:
$3.50
mention this ad
$3.00

Appraiser:
$5.00
Elizabeth Pierce
(available all day)

Lunch Counter & Free Parking

Doll competition: 28 categories
$2.00 per entry
submit entry by 10:30 AM :: pick up after 2 PM

For Information: (609) 466-8005
Day of Show: (908) 526-8242
Nominate Your Volunteer for

4-H Volunteer Highlights

Each year twelve Somerset County 4-H Volunteers are highlighted for their involvement in the 4-H program. Selection of these individuals is based on nominations by 4-H members. The volunteers are acknowledged in Clovertales and this achievement is displayed at the 4-H Center. They are also recognized at the 4-H Fair.

Nomination forms are due in the 4-H Office no later than March 1 of each year.

Name of 4-H Volunteer Being Nominated ____________________________________

Please list below the reasons why you nominate this person for 4-H Volunteer Highlights.

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Submitted by ________________________________ Phone Number ______________

Club Name ________________________________ Date in 4-H Office ____________
Dated Material