



# Why 4-H Afterschool?



4-H Afterschool helps youth develop vital life skills, such as:

- Making decisions
- Solving problems
- Thinking critically
- Setting goals
- Getting excited about learning

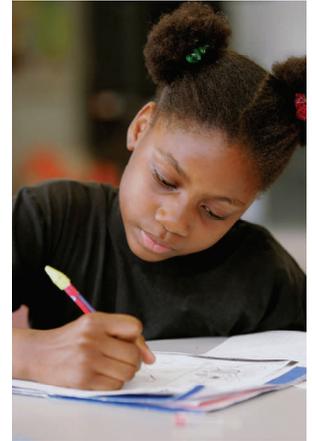
## 4-H Afterschool meets the needs of kids

4-H Afterschool programs foster a unique combination of fun and learning that helps youth **develop lifelong skills**, such as leadership, critical thinking and teamwork.

The programs address a growing need for **quality after-school programming** in the U.S., where as many as 15 million children come home to empty houses after school. Research shows that latchkey youth are at a higher risk for violent crimes, substance abuse, antisocial behavior, poor academic performance and becoming school drop-outs.

To combat this, 4-H Afterschool programs offer a wealth of **research-based**, ready-to-use "learning by doing" curricula on a wide variety of topics.

4-H tailors programs to each urban, suburban or rural community, supporting programs in many shapes and sizes, depending on the needs and interests of local communities and the youth and adults involved.



**4H Afterschool programs help youth learn to improve study habits and skills like problem solving and goal setting.**

## 4-H Afterschool connects kids to Cornell

As New York's land grant university, Cornell University offers programmatic and administrative infrastructure for 4-H youth programs across the state.

4-H Afterschool taps into Cornell's resources and research to develop curricula, plan programs and train staff.

For after-school participants, the program often opens the door to other Cornell connections.

Whether kids join their local 4-H

club or attend a 4-H camp, both use curricula and resources developed by 4-H educational staff at Cornell and at Cornell Cooperative Extension offices throughout the state.

### Benefits for all

**For young people...** 4-H Afterschool provides opportunities to participate in fun, exciting programs while developing valuable skills with lifelong benefits.

**For parents and family members...** 4-H Afterschool creates safe, healthy, enriching environments that enhance young people's social, emotional, physical, and academic success.

**For volunteers...** 4-H Afterschool offers training so that volunteers can anticipate the needs of youth, understand their learning styles and speak their language as they share special skills with young people.

<http://nys4h.cce.cornell.edu/>

**Connect now to great 4-H resources**



**NYS 4-H Resource Directory**  
*Head, heart, hands, health*

HOME SEARCH BROWSE ABOUT CONTACT HELP

**A way for staff, leaders, volunteers, teachers and youth to find and order great 4-H Resources**

**<http://www.cerp.cornell.edu/4h/>**

## In Erie County, kids clamor for 4-H lessons

"4-H programming has a vision for the future, a vision of building life skills, citizenship and leadership."

*-Angela Northern, 4-H program development specialist, Erie County*

In Erie County many community groups are using the 4-H Afterschool curriculum to provide solid educational materials relevant to the issues children and teens face today.

"Youth workers love the curriculum, parents think it's beneficial and kids keep requesting 4-H lessons," says Erie County's program differs slightly from others across the state — instead of providing direct service, they partner with groups who have already tapped an audience.

One of the most popular curricula in Erie County has been the Secrets of

Success program, which focuses on workforce skills, leadership training, life skills, conflict resolution and team-building.

"Several groups, including one within Buffalo and another in Amherst, a suburb, are using this curriculum to build up leadership skills in teens, who are trained to work with middle schoolers and older elementary children."

Leaders tell Northern that 4-H programs motivate kids, not only to improve at school, but in other areas of their lives, as well.



**Afterschool topics include:**

- **Communication and expressive arts**
- **Consumer and family science**
- **Environmental and earth science**
- **Plants and animals**

### What makes 4-H Afterschool different?

The choices for afterschool programming are vast, but several qualities set 4-H Afterschool apart from other programs.

4-H staff can help communities find the right setting for a program; recruit and train staff and volunteers; involve parents and other community members; plan interesting activities and market afterschool programs to youth.

4-H youth development staff has been helping kids "learn by doing" for more than 100 years.

Resources include a broad range of topics.

Collaborators in 4-H Afterschool programs include the Cooperative Extension System, which includes state land grant universities, state and county governments and the

Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National 4-H Council. The partnership is built on a foundation of support between 4-H and the other JC Penney Afterschool Fund partner organizations.

### Find out more:

To learn more about 4-H Afterschool in New York State, contact:

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