A Note from the President:

Update: With Shawn Tiede as our rep, the search committee is busy with phone interviews for the New York State 4-H Program Leader. Your association has been asked to be a part in the process as plans are made for campus interviews. As a member, when asked to participate at any level of the search process...get involved!

~Jennifer

The 4-H Military Partnership

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County and Jefferson County 4-H are a part of the National 4-H partnership with Army Child and Youth Services, Air Force Airmen and Family Services and Navy Child and Youth Programs to support positive youth development education for youth whose parents are serving in the military.

The 4-H Military Partnership brings the resources of the Land Grant University - youth development professionals, research based curricula, and high quality training and technical assistance - to the youth programs of the military. County 4-H staff supports youth programs throughout New York State at New York’s three Army installations: Fort Drum (Fort Drum, NY near Watertown), Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn and the United States Military Academy at West Point in Orange County. In addition, 4-H seeks to serve those children whose parents are serving in the National Guard and Reserve and live in communities with little or no military presence. CCE of Jefferson County is also home to the NYS 4-H Military Liaison and Operation: Military Kids.

As military families PCS (Permanent Change of Station) or move frequently, they can experience difficulties surrounding lengthy and frequent deployments. 4-H provides predictable programming and a safe and nurturing environment for military kids during this time. With 4-H Clubs on every installation across the US, those youth that move will have the opportunity to join a club wherever they go.

More than 17,000 military youth learned new life skills and gained self confidence through their participation in these military 4-H clubs throughout the country. All installation military 4-H clubs participate in four project areas; photography, technology, service learning, and the arts. These project areas make the clubs across the U.S. consistent, however, clubs can participate in additional project areas as they see fit. New York State is home to over 43,000 military youth ages 0-18. These youth come from all branches of the military, active duty, National Guard, and reserve. There are about 250 youth in military 4-H clubs on NY military bases. In addition to the installation clubs, we currently have three community clubs that are active in New York. These clubs are at the Marine Reserves in Newburgh, the Navy Support in Saratoga, and the Army Strong Community Center in Rochester. We are looking to establish more community clubs throughout the State.

Barb Kessler, OMK Coordinator

Family? Married to a soldier for more than 20 years. They have a 15 year old daughter and 13 and 11 year old sons.
Hobbies? Sailing and enjoys wine tours!
From NY? No, born in AZ, 1st active duty was in Fort Drum so when her husband was about to retire, asked to move back to the area because they loved it so much.
Fav Food? Mexican
Vacation? Rome, Italy. Has been once, wants to go back!
Color? Purple
Pets? 2 dogs, 4 rabbits and a guinea pig
Funny? Has never met and has no relation to her predecessor, Sarah Kessler, but is told they drive the exact same car, in the same color (a silver PT Cruiser)!
Contact: bdk49@cornell.edu or CCE Jefferson 315-788-8450 x232

Tom Wojcikowski, 4-H Military Clubs Coordinator

Favorite Professional Development? Jim Cain's Teamwork and Teamplay - I've been 3 times
Hometown? The 'Cuse - Born and Raised
Family? Wife—Michelle (Educator for CCE too), Boys Konrad (9) and Brodie (3), daughter Jordis (5)
Favorite Movie? Tombstone
Interesting Fact? Over the last 15 months, since January '10, I have lost 170 lbs. Now I enjoy running with my dogs Max and Flyer, and am running in the Warrior Dash in August.
Favorite Quote? "I used to complain about not having shoes, until I meet a man who had no feet."
Hobbies? Coaching my kids. I have been coaching for 18 years now, everything from football and lacrosse to baseball and floor hockey.
What’s Playing on iPod? Nickelback and Three Doors Down
Contact? tdw26@cornell.edu or CCE Jefferson 315-788-8450 x272

Have you met?

Operation: Military Kids

Strong Community Center looking to establish more communities throughout the

Question/History

Lesson of the Month:

Q. While there are about 6 million 4-Hers world-wide, about how many service members are there (counting all branches)?
A. 1.3 Million

The Army, Navy, and Marines were founded in 1775 but the Air Force was not founded until 1947.