Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H youth programs connect kids to the resources of Cornell University and the land-grant system; therefore strengthening the next generation of inventors, entrepreneurs, and problem-solvers. Activities and events inspire and shape youth, give them opportunities to master skills, enrich their knowledge, and work with others who can positively influence them.

During the last year 16,889 volunteers and 112,914 youth from urban, suburban, and rural communities across New York participated in 4-H experiences. 4-H programs are offered through school-based, after-school, camp settings, and community clubs. The fundamental 4-H ideal of practical, “learning by doing” experiences encourages youth to experiment, innovate, and think independently. Youth learn leadership, citizenship, and life skills through more than 1,000 projects with topics as varied as rocketry, GPS mapping, energy, public speaking, photography, nutrition, and community service.

The educational focus of 4-H work is rooted in the initial charge of USDA to engage youth in the work of the Land-Grant Universities to enhance their quality of life. The areas of emphasis in 4-H programming are referred to as the National Mission Mandates and represent subject matter in the areas of Science, Engineering, and Technology (SET), Citizenship, and Healthy Lifestyles. Numbers of youth reached within these program areas in 2009-2010:

- Science, Engineering, and Technology—101,949
- Citizenship—35,581
- Healthy Lifestyles—19,409

It is important to note that Educators do not work alone in their outreach efforts. They rely heavily on volunteers to make these educational opportunities possible.
What Types of 4-H Activities are Young People Engaged In?

### Science, Engineering, and Technology

- **Plant Science**: 14,752
- **Animals**: 19,217
- **Ag in the Classroom**: 5,868
- **Environmental Education / Earth Science**: 23,656
- **Physical Sciences**: 485
- **Technology and Engineering**: 11,654
- **Biological Sciences**: 21,358
- **Consumer and Family Science**: 4,959

### Citizenship

- **Communications and Expressive Arts**: 12,950
- **Leadership and Personal Development**: 11,145
- **Community / Volunteer Service**: 3,183
- **Civic Engagement**: 8,303

### Healthy Lifestyles

- **Personal Safety**: 2,728
- **Health**: 8,454
- **Foods and Nutrition**: 8,237

Who are 4-H Participants?

### Grade

- **K-2**: 33,879
- **3-5**: 36,775
- **6-8**: 22,977
- **9-12**: 14,763
- **Other**: 2,610

### Number of Youth