Civic Engagement

4-H youth programs connect kids to the resources of Cornell University and the land-grant system, strengthening the next generation of legislators, professors, researchers, farmers, builders, and critical thinkers.

**YOUTH-ADULT PARTNERSHIPS AND YOUTH VOICE**

- **4-H** uses innovative youth development techniques to engage young people and develop their leadership skills. For example, 4-H programs provide opportunities for experiential learning or “learning by doing,” and they foster youth-adult partnerships, since caring adults work alongside youth to give back to communities. As youth and adults work together, the young people strengthen their communication skills. The shift from adults dictating youth projects to youth developing their own ideas leads to a strengthening of youth confidence and their sense of having a voice, something that 4-H emphasizes in all its programs.

- **4-H programs** create opportunities for youth to make connections to others in their community through giving back. These early workforce preparation skills help to prepare youth for a future where their critical thinking is fully developed.

- **Public Adventures** is an active citizenship curriculum that and builds their commitment to community action.

- **NYS 4-H programs** reach over 140,000 youth with civic engagement and citizenship experiences that foster youth voice and provide ways to give back.

- **4-H** provides civic engagement and citizenship experiences to families through a number of venues and delivery modes including camps, clubs, school enrichment, after-school programming, events and activities.

---

**Just the Facts**

2013 NYS 4-H Civic Engagement Youth Enrollment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Enrollments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civic Engagement</td>
<td>9,067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community/ Volunteer Service</td>
<td>4,799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership and Personal Development</td>
<td>13,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications and Expressive Arts</td>
<td>16,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total enrolled in Civic Engagement</td>
<td>43,746</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visit us online!
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM EXAMPLE:

**CITIZEN U** - CITIZEN U or University uses a Cornell Cooperative Extension signature program, Youth Community Action (YCA), as a model for promoting civic engagement, workforce preparation, and asset development among youth (14-18 years old) in Broome and Monroe/Wayne counties. As a part of the Children, Youth, and Families at Risk (CYFAR) program in New York, CITIZEN U is a five-year program with emphasis on national priorities. These national priorities include: childhood obesity, food security, climate change, sustainable energy, and food safety. CITIZEN U teen leaders and collaborators form youth-adult partnerships in order to sustainably contribute to their communities.

**At CITIZEN “University”**
- Teens submit applications to be accepted at one of the CITIZEN U “campuses”
- Teens are trained in Public Adventures
- Teens select a CITIZEN U major and enroll in university-style seminars
- Teens attend seminars taught by Cornell faculty, subject matter experts and other “visiting professors” from the community
- Teens plan and conduct projects based on community needs assessments
- During summers, teens are employed and conduct community development projects
- Teens explore careers, build resumes and increase the likelihood of going to college

**The Schools of CITIZEN U**
- School of Business & Entrepreneurship
- School of Community Development
- School of Environmental Studies
- School of Food & Nutrition
- School of Performing ARTs
- School of Technology & Media Arts

**CITIZEN U teen leaders have presented at:**
- The Cornell Municipal Clerks Institute
- 4-H Capital Days event in Albany, NY
- 4-H Career Explorations held at Cornell University
- The Great, New York State Fair in Syracuse, NY.
- They have also received local attention from various media outlets.

The CITIZEN U teen leaders at the 2013 4-H Capital Days program with Senator Libous at the center.