4-H Invasive Species Action Team (ISAT)

Ambassador Job Description:

Goal:
To educate and inform youth, especially teens, about the impact of invasive species of plants to both the ecology and economy of NYS. ISAT Teen Ambassadors will share information on what species are of concern, how they are impacting ecology/economy, and how other youth can become involved in monitoring and eradication efforts.

Primary duties of a 4-H Invasive Species Action Team ambassador:

- Under staff supervision, become active partners in marketing and promotion of their organization, through informational posters or tables at local school events.
- It is highly recommended that the ambassadors attend the STARR program in April to gain experience in representing your county, meeting and working with other 4-H teens and adults, experience round table discussions and team challenges, and to start developing a plan of action for supporting ISAT in your PRISM, OR for those who have attended Career Exploration, we would encourage you to consider being a part of the Career Exploration Focus Assistants program which would provide a similar experience in team building, challenges, and communication.
- Educate elementary youth about New York’s invasive species and how they impact the environment.
- Should be willing to serve as a 4-H Teen Assistant at the NYS Fair during their county time periods.
- Represent the ‘voice’ of 4-H to the Youth in Nature and Outdoor Education Program Work Team.
- Share their 4-H & natural resources experiences in a supportive & positive manner.
- Provide visibility as to the value of the 4-H youth development & natural resource programs.
- Be a role model for 4-H members and clubs in citizen science efforts.
- Recruit other youth and adults to join 4-H as members or leaders.

Required Knowledge/Skills/Abilities:

- Written recommendation of their county 4-H Educator.
- Interest in environmental issues.
- Must be an enrolled 4-H member for the full term they are serving as an ambassador.
- Must have the ability to travel to regional contact/training locations and be available for trainings that may include overnight stays.
Preferred Knowledge/Skills/Abilities

- Strong public speaking skills.
- Participation in 4-H Environmental and/or Natural Resource programming and projects.
- Previous experience as Focus Assistant, Teen Assistant, or Planning Committee member at a NYS 4-H event.
- Working knowledge of plant biology or identification.

Benefits

- Develop leadership and communication skills.
- Documented work experience.
- Stipends available.

Eligibility

Applicant preference will be given to those living within PRISM’s delegate county, however non-PRISM residents will be considered. Applicants must have the recommendation of their local 4-H educators AND must be able to attend all trainings within their corresponding PRISM region.

Team Ambassador Sponsors

- County 4-H Staff - County Staff role varies depending on the county and its program. Basically he/she is the local support person for the program; assists with selection of teen ambassadors and advisors; relays information and opportunities to teens and Advisors; serves as the formal link with the NYS 4-H natural resource program; and in some cases may be asked by Teen Ambassadors and their Advisors to help the group work through the planning process to successfully accomplish local goals. In some counties 4-H Staff serves as the Ambassador Sponsor, so this person may play dual roles.

For further information about the program, please call or email:

Capital/Mohawk (Albany, Fulton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Saratoga, Warren, Washington counties) – Marybeth Micham/John Bowe 518-668-4881 jfb32@cornell.edu
Catskill Regional Invasive Species Program (Otsego, Schoharie, Greene, Delaware, Ulster, Sullivan, Orange counties) – Linda Tripp 518-828-3349 ext. 203 lke2@cornell.edu
St. Lawrence & Eastern Lake Ontario (St. Lawrence, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Oswego, counties) – Linda Brosch 315-963-7286 ext. 400 lcr23@cornell.edu
Western NY (Niagara, Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming, Erie, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany counties) – Rob Batt 585-798-4265 ext. 32 rpb23@cornell.edu