4-H Career Explorations Conference Overview

4-H grows confident young people with the skills to confront the issues of life today, and thrive in careers tomorrow.

Connecting Kids to Cornell and Careers
4-H is the Youth Development program of the Cooperative Extension System integrated into each Land Grant University. Since 1922, 4-H has held an annual event for youth on the Cornell campus. 4-H Career Explorations goals are:

- Connect kids to Cornell University
- Spark youth interest in careers and career pathways
- Develop youth academic, leadership, and life skills

3 fun-filled days on campus divided into 2 tracks:

University U Program
(grades 8 and 9)
Cornell Departments offer the same 85-minute workshop to six different groups (about 15 youth per group) over a day and a half (all day Wednesday and Thursday morning).

Focus for Teens Program
(grades 10-12)
Cornell Departments offer 13 hours of engaging programming over three days to the same group of youth (Tuesday afternoon through Thursday morning). The Program Facilitators set the group size limit.

Participants’ Favorite Things

Interested in learning more or proposing a program?
Contact Event Lead: Alexa Maille, NYS 4-H STEM Specialist: ask37@cornell.edu
Visit the Program Facilitator Website: http://bit.ly/4HCareerExFacilitators

Example Program Themes

- Applied & Engineering Physics
- Art Museum
- Astronomy
- Bio & Environmental Engineering
- Biomedical Engineering
- Biomedical Research
- Computer Science
- Cornell Plantations
- Crop and Soil Science
- Education
- Entomology
- Fiber Science & Apparel Design
- Food Science
- Geospatial Science
- Horticulture
- Human Development
- Information Technology
- Mathematics
- Mechanical Engineering
- Molecular Biology and Genetics
- Museum of the Earth
- Natural Resources
- Nutrition
- Veterinary Science

Watch Last Year’s Video

2016 Conference:
June 28 – 30, 2016
The Role of Program Facilitators

Program Facilitators create engaging, hands-on learning experiences that connect youth with their work and career pathways.

Benefits
- **Inspire**: share your expertise and inspire interest in different careers.
- **Engage**: engage new audiences and try out outreach projects related to your research.
- **Connect**: link research and practice.

Expectations
- Communicate with Event Lead about program planning needs; about any participant pre-conference preparation; about activity schedules, locations, and other logistics; and other needs as they arise
- Create a safe, inclusive learning environment
- Engage youth in hands-on learning experiences
- Work in partnership with chaperones and Focus Assistants
- Talk with youth about your career exploration process and pathways to careers
- Connect youth to resources for college and careers
- Support event evaluation efforts

Support
- Ongoing support from Conference Planning Team
- Planning support
- Financial (if needed)
  - Focus for Teens: $15 per participant
  - University U: $15 per participant for one average-sized group
- Adult Chaperones and Focus Assistant teen leaders will help guide group behavior and help with logistics during the event
- Evaluation and feedback after the event

Time Commitment

Activity Time (during the event):
**University U**
- A 85-minute workshop repeated for 6 different groups over 2 days
  - 4 workshops on Wednesday
  - 2 on Thursday

Focus for Teens
- 13 hours of activities over 3 days with one group
  - 2.5 hours Tuesday afternoon
  - All day Wednesday
  - 3 hours Thursday morning

Pre-Conference Preparation Time
Varies

High Quality Programs
The best 4-H Career Explorations programs provide interactive learning experiences for youth by:
- Providing opportunities for youth to do and experience activities related to careers
- Connecting young people with professional mentors and role models
- Integrating the 4-H Learning Experience
- Engaging youth in the work of Cornell University and in your work at Cornell

Important Dates
Proposal Process
- February 13: Proposals due

Event Preparation
- February: Program description and tentative schedule due
- Spring: Facilitation Training through Center for Teaching Excellence
- April 15: Program logistics finalized
- End of June: Participant registration list and final logistics shared