



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

EDITOR'S NOTE: Members of the media may contact Jeannette Rea-Keywood, Rutgers 4-H Youth Development by phone at 609-898-0928 ext. 11 or by email at reakeywood@njaes.rutgers.edu.

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING WORKSHOPS AVAILABLE FOR AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM STAFF

Afterschool program staff are invited to register for the *Design It!* (engineering) and the *Explore It!* (science) professional development workshop series offered by Rutgers Cooperative Extension 4-H Youth Development and the New Jersey School-Age Care Coalition (NJSACC), The Network for New Jersey's Afterschool Communities.

Design It! and *Explore It!* are engaging, inquiry based and fun STEM programs designed specifically for afterschool and out of school settings. These comprehensive and high-quality programs for youth ages 8-12 were developed by the Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC) in Boston and the National Partnerships for After School Science (NPASS2) through the support of the National Science Foundation.

The *Design It!* Afterschool Program offers six engineering sessions and the *Explore It!* Afterschool Program has six science sessions.

- *Design It!* topics include Balls and Tracks, Gliders, Paper Bridges, Rubber Band-Powered Cars, Straw Rockets and Trebuchets. During afterschool programs, youth can work in teams to design their project, test it and make adjustments.
- *Explore It!* topics include Cake Chemistry, Heating a House and an Oven, Measuring Ourselves, Sinking and Floating, Siphon Systems and Wiring a House. During these projects, youth work in teams to explore familiar phenomena using simple materials to foster science learning.

Each workshop series includes the curricula guides, materials and the professional development workshops (October, January and March) needed to implement engineering and science projects throughout the year in an afterschool or out of school setting. In addition, Rutgers 4-H and NJ SACC will provide on-going support and technical assistance to school and community based afterschool organizations who register for the workshop series.

Enrollment is now open for the 2016-2017 school year. Online enrollment and payment are due **June 17, 2016**. For information on enrollment packages visit the *Design It!* and *Explore It!* Afterschool Program website at <http://www.nj4h.rutgers.edu/educators/>. For questions regarding the *Design It!* and *Explore It!* Afterschool Program, contact Chad Ripberger, Rutgers 4-H, ripberger@rce.rutgers.edu. For questions regarding enrollment and payment, contact Mike MacEwan, NJ SACC, mmacewan@njsacc.org.

The 4-H Youth Development Program is part of Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension, 4-H educational programs are offered to all youth, grades K-13, on an age-appropriate basis, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait, marital status, domestic partnership status, military service, veteran status, and any other category protected by law. Rutgers Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity program provider and employer. Contact your local Extension Office for information regarding special needs or accommodations.

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