

A new and exciting approach to educate youth through 4-H!

What is a STEP club? 4-H is grounded in the belief that youth learn best by doing. Youth complete hands-on projects in areas like science, health, agriculture and civic engagement, in a positive environment. STEP stands for Short Term Exploratory Program and it has been designed to provide a way for youth to experience a 4-H project area in a shorter period of time all while getting a taste of what 4-H is about. These programs are not designed to replace a traditional 4-H club that meets monthly throughout the year, but rather offer an exploratory level with the same foundation as a 4-H club.

Who can participate? Any youth who are in grades K-13th (1 year after high school), whether they are current 4-H members or not. Some programs may have an age range, depending on the project area.

How long is a typical STEP Club?
Depending on the program, participants will experience 4-H in a 1-6 month setting, between 6- 12hrs. Programs may run seasonally.

Can the youth participate in 4-H competitive events?

STEP participants may experience any 4-H offered leadership event, but will be unable to compete on state level 4-H discipline project events such as the NJ State Horse Show.

What is the Member in Good Standing Criteria?

The following describes the member in good standing policy of New Jersey 4-H.

- Must submit a record book
- Attend a minimum of 70% of club meetings
- Do a public presentation

- Participate in a 4-H sponsored community service project

What is STEP recognition?

Each STEP program will have a showcase at the end of the program. This will provide the opportunity for sponsors, parents, and guests to appreciate the accomplishments of the participants. STEP club members may also attend county level recognition ceremonies.

Can the youth participant compete at the county fairs?

Participants may showcase their projects at the county fair, but will be unable to compete in the project discipline shows.

Are there fees?

The fee for participating in a STEP program is typically \$20.00 but may be more depending on the project. Additional programming fees may apply depending on the project area.

Who runs STEP clubs?

Programs are run by a minimum of two caring and competent adult volunteers looking to partner with 4-H. This could be a parent, teacher, or anyone with the desire to inspire youth. These volunteers will go through the Rutgers 4-H Volunteer Appointment Process before the program begins.

***How do I get involved?**

Interested families and adult volunteers can contact their county 4-H office.

<https://nj4h.rutgers.edu/>



NJ 4-H Short Term Exploratory Program (STEP)

Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.