

"I was simply overjoyed watching the club work together on this community service project"

Sarah Nekrasz

- 4-H parent



Rhode Island 4-H

2011 Annual Report

URI is an equal opportunity employer committed to the principles of affirmative action.

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND
COLLEGE OF
THE ENVIRONMENT
AND LIFE SCIENCES

*"From my parents, my leaders,
my club mates and myself, I
felt lots of encouragement.
All the encouragement
pushed me to try new
things, so I was able
to do my best."*

- Nathaniel

Age 11



What is 4-H

4-H is a leader in youth development, which began as a local, state and national partnership in response to evolving needs for new kinds of educational experiences for youth. From the beginning, this youth-serving organization offered "hands-on" learning activities for young people so they might become productive citizens. Youth participating in 4-H activities have opportunities to offer positive contributions to our diverse and changing society.

RI 4-H is the youth outreach education program of Cooperative Extension in the University of Rhode Island's College of the Environment and Life Sciences.

In 2011, **1300 youth participated in extensive, year round, hands on, educational activities** supported by over **250 adults volunteers** and URI faculty and staff.

The URI 4-H Program also competed and won multiple grants totaling over **\$150,000** to impact over **4,000** additional Rhode Island youth in our afterschool programs and programs for military youth.



"4-H has done so much for me this past year, I have especially become more self confident. The shy, quite person that people knew me as has now come out of her shell." - Courtney Age 16



2011 4-H Highlights

- A sample of **130** 4-Hers volunteered over **1,300** hours of service to their communities.
- Over **90** youth participated in the Public Presentations Contests.
- The RI Dairy Quiz Bowl team **won the regional championship** earning the right to attend the Nationals in Louisville, KY.
- Over 40 youth participated in the 9 week RI 4-H Horse winter knowledge series. The highest placing individuals at the State contest (s) in judging, public speaking and knowledge went on to represent RI at the New England 4-H Horse Regional Competitions.
- The Greens (horticulture) Workshop taught 110 4-H youth about winter native plants.
- Katherine Morel, DJ Perez and Lauren Breene represented RI at National 4-H Conference in Washington, DC. They participated in workshops, discussions, leadership activities and visited our congressmen on Capitol Hill.

Rhode Island: Operation Military Kids (OMK)

OMK is a 4-H program that is grant funded to provide local community support networks for military youth “in our own backyard”. We deliver recreational, social and educational programs for military youth living in civilian communities. We collaborate with schools to insure that staff are attuned to the unique needs of military students. In addition, we educate the public about the impact of deployment on service members, families, kids and the community.

OMK Family Camp

Over 150 military family members took part in the third Operation: Military Kids Family Camp in July 2011 at URI. Military families participated in workshops, enjoyed the URI Dining Hall and stayed in a great dorm with AC. In addition, they had the opportunity to swim at the URI athletic center and ice-skate at Boss Arena. Family members participated in rocketry, space art, photography, communication, problem solving and team building activities to help strengthen families and give them life skills needed to cope during times of deployment.



Military 4-H Club

- We recruited and trained volunteers and staff to run 5 military 4-H clubs, including a cloverbud club for 5-7 year olds.
- We doubled last year's enrollments from 45 to 126!
- We trained military staff on project curricula and created 4-H project kits for each club.
- We provided on-site and offsite educational field trips.
- We encouraged military families to take advantage of Operation: Military Kids Programming.
- We facilitated military 4-H youth participation in both the RI State Fair and the Regional 6-State Big E.
- Utilizing 4-H Curricula, members explored rocketry, computer science, animal science, visual arts and communication, community service, horticulture and engineering.



4-H Met Life Afterschool Grant

Rhode Island 4-H was awarded a \$25,000 MetLife Afterschool grant to partner with the Cranston School Department and Cranston Afterschool program "KidVenture" to add 85 more participants to their 5 day a week after-school programming. The Kid-Venture After-school program already studied 4-H subject areas of science, healthy lifestyles and citizenship so it was a natural partnership. The Gladstone Elementary School, where the programs are being run, has 80% minority population (Hispanic and Asian) and is rated a 9 on the community distress index out of 10.

Group Enrollments

- We continued to partner with the RI Parks and Recreation Great Outdoors Pursuit by offering environmental science activities throughout the summer to over 150 youth.
- The Pathways—mentor program reached over 95 youth in afterschool programs focusing on arts, science, embryology, environment, water quality and aerospace.
- Partnering with OMK, over 400 youth participated in day and over night camps.

