



The 4-H Press Corps Present:

Rotation 3

September 3, 2012

The Clover Connection

"To make the best better."

Who Makes It All Possible?

Many people may not know how much goes into making sure 4-H appears every year in the New York State Fair. The sheer amount of time, energy, and coordination is quite unbelievable.

Nancy Schaff (first year team leader and representative of Cornell Cooperative Extension), along with Tom Dumas (experienced team leader) and Tom Davis (retired 4-H program leader of Orange County) are the point people for the State Fair 4-H venue. Every year, immediately following the NYS Fair, in early September, a team of 4-H leaders meet to review the results of the year. Discussions of pros and cons are taken into ac-

count to adjust next year's event. Evaluations of what 4-H leaders and teens liked and requested are added to the list for consideration. "But the best part is communication with the different counties," says Tom Davis.

Nancy and Tom utilize every single 4-H leader and youth member from all over New York. Team effort from the counties makes the NYS 4-H program successful. Some of their jobs include enforcing safety rules to reduce liabilities, maintaining the budget, and coordinating chaperones, volunteer, teen leaders, judges, and members at all booths and animal barns.

All of these efforts

lead to a successful showcase of over 10,000 exhibits. The NYS Fair highly supports 4-H at the entire exhibition.

By Fabienne Riccaboni

I like how 4-H lets me learn so many different things."

-Marlie Lukach, 4-H'er



"I like how I can meet new people and learn new things."

-Alena Fresch, 4-H'er

4-H and The Fair

The New York State Fair's mission statement promotes and celebrates agriculture, education, industry, cultural tradition, and youth development. The fair is a method to showcase and educate everyone as to what New York

State has to offer.

The 4-H youth development program is proudly supported by the NYS Fair. 4-H helps the fair achieve the mission goals by teaching youth life skills. 4-H youth are awarded for their exhib-

its and achievements, building the necessary confidence and character to be successful, enabling them to grow and become contributing adults in the future.

By Sharleen Dunn

Inside this issue:

A Burst of Culture	2
Food For Thought	2
A Night with Outsight	3
The Engineering Experience	3
Judge This!	3-4
Meet the Press	4

Special points of interest:

- A small history lesson about the Indian Village!
- What 4-H youth, leaders, and judges have to say about the 4-H program!
- Fair foods survey!
- A 4-H judge's perspective!
- A look at Outsight's performance!

A Burst of Culture

If you were to venture behind the youth building, you would find yourself in the Indian Village. The Indian Village is a replica of the way of life of the Native Americans; it's the place where each of the Six Nations come together for the New York State Fair, to educate fairgoers about their way of life. The Village was actually founded by a Cornell University professor, Dr. Earl Bates, who was involved in many different programs relating to the Native Americans. Dr. Bates, backed by Cornell University, got the Nations together and helped found the Indian Village with the goal of educating the public about the history of the Native Americans and their way of life.

The land that the village is built on was actually given to the clans by Franklin D. Roosevelt, when he was the Governor of New York State back in the 1930's. In 1932 Roosevelt was made an official Blood Brother of the Native American clans. Then, when he

was President in 1933, Roosevelt issued an "Executive Order" that gave the land where the Indian Village is to the Six Nations. The rule was that as long as the clans maintained the land and had a society on it, the government could not legally take the land away from them. Therefore, every year the Six Nations come to the Indian Village during the Fair, to educate fairgoers about how they live and their traditions.

Believe it or not, 4-H has ties to the Indian Village; the Youth Building where 4-H'ers live and work during the fair is actually built on some of their land! When the Youth building was first built back in the early 1900's, it was intended for the use of the Native Americans in the Village so they could better teach the people about their lives and their history. However, the Nations were already accomplishing that in their Village and did not need the building. Since the clans support what 4-H is doing, the building became the living and working place of the 4-H'ers

at the fair.

If you are ever in the area, swing by and look at the Indian Village, it's a work of art! Some of the monuments and features include the giant peace pipe that Franklin D. Roosevelt smoked during the ceremony when he was given the title of Blood Brother, and the stage on the hill where the Village residents perform traditional ceremonial dances for public viewing. There are many authentic Native American buildings, including a 17th century longhouse, and each of the Nations have booths showcasing their own beadwork and other creations. You can learn so much about the history of our country's first residents by visiting the Indian Village, check it out!

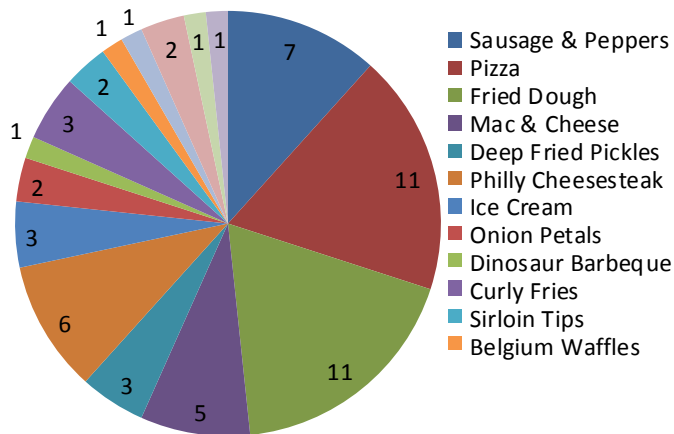
By Annie Forestiere

"It definitely helps you grow."
-Venda Mae Harris, 4-H Exhibit Judge



"4-H is one of the best programs that gives knowledge and leadership skills to those moving from youth to adult, and helps them be a better member of their community."
-Charles Malone, 4-H Educator

Food For Thought



The New York State Fair has a wide range of foods to choose from. 60 fairgoers were asked about their favorite foods. To the left are the results of what they look forward to. As you can see the majority chose Pizza & Fried dough. A variety of New York State vendors sell their specialties for people to enjoy.

By Claude Riccaboni

A Night with Outasight!

"It was completely amazing... absolutely spectacular!" commented one spectator on the exhilarating Outasight concert. The jam packed songs including Richard Andrew's, aka Outasight's hit single "Tonight is the Night" (which recently became Platinum and is currently number 6 on the Billboards) kept the crowd hungry for more. "It was the best concert I've seen this entire fair!" admitted another fan.

The energy from the crowd and Mr. Andrew made the experience much

more entertaining. You could definitely see everyone was very excited for this concert. Some people even mentioned that they had been waiting months for the show.

After the show, a few 4-H members were able to briefly talk with Mr. Andrew. We happened to mention 4-H, which he was unaware of, so one of our 4-H'ers, Kayleigh Troge, explained how it's a Youth Development Program that does a substantial amount of community service. Subsequently

after being enlightened about 4-H, he gave us a personal message for all 4-H'ers, "Peace, Love, and Keep up the good work!"

By Fabienne Riccoboni



Outasight (Richard Andrew) performing his hit song, "Tonight is the Night."

"4-H is a wonderful organization, it gives many opportunities to children and teens."
-Benjamin Kauppi, GPS Booth Coordinator



The Engineering Experience

The American Society of Civil Engineering (The ASCE) is a networking organization for professional engineers with chapters in every county. This organization helps engineers continue their education in their profession. Some volunteer programs are offered through the ASCE such as, the Adopt a Highway program, Science Fairs, Build 'm and Bust 'm Bridge, and exhibiting at the 4-H youth building.

At The New York State Fair, Richard Fox a member of the ASCE is a civil engineer for the National Grid. He volunteered to educate children with activities such as the Penny Boat and the Balance Bridge. These activities teach kids perseverance and critical thinking skills. This experience may enlighten children to a future engineering career.

By Claude Riccoboni

Judge This!

Have you ever wondered what was going through the mind of the 4-H evaluators when they judged your entries? Why they gave you a particular ribbon? I had the opportunity to speak with three of our very own 4-H evaluators here in the youth building: Debi Sweeney, a judge from Niagara County, Jennifer Jensen, from Ontario County, and Delia Walberger, from Oswego County. They had a lot to say about being an evaluator.

There are three main ribbons that are awarded to 4-H'ers when they

enter items in the New York State Fair. The blue ribbon is awarded to excellent exhibits, red to good ones, and white for the worthy. There is also a ribbon that is rarely awarded to a 4-H'er; the Purple Rosette. The purple rosette is only given out to entries that are above and beyond what is expected, the best of the best. There is no set number of rosettes that must be given out, and very few actually are. It is a great accomplishment to receive a rosette; but how do they decide what gets what ribbon?

For the 4-H evaluators, there are many guidelines to follow when judging an item. Each item is classified under a section, each section has its own requirements. The evaluators first look at judging sheets to see what the item has or doesn't have that is required, and they check to see if the item follows all the criteria listed.

The next thing they look at is the green cards. Every 4-H'er is given a green card to fill out information about their entry. These cards have questions on them like "How did you make this

Judge This! Continued...

item?" and "What was fun or challenging?" The evaluators look at this card for information about the item since the creator is not usually present during the actual evaluation. Jennifer Jensen states that one of the most difficult things about judging is when the 4-H'er doesn't fill out these cards. "That card is their voice" she explained. "If the card isn't filled out or not detailed enough, we have no way of knowing what they actually did or how hard they worked on their projects. The green card is the time when the 4-H'er can tell us about it, and if we know exactly what they did that can result in a higher score." So a note to all you 4-H'ers out there; fill out your green cards!

After reading the green cards, the judge studies the entry and looks at craftsmanship, and looks to see if the item is age appropriate for how many years the 4-H'er has in this particular project area. This is so the evaluator can determine if the item was too easy or too difficult for the 4-H'er, and helps them determine which ribbon he/she will get. The evaluators must be careful not to allow their personal opinions about the item or their relationship with the 4-H'er who made it influence their decision. Judging foods is the hardest cate-

gory to do this for. In the words of Jensen, "If you don't like apricots, and a 4-H'er makes apricot cookies, you have to eat the apricots."

When the evaluators have looked at all this, they can determine which ribbon the exhibit will receive. Then they can decide what gets a purple rosette. Rosettes are typically given out the day after the judging takes place. This is the time when the evaluator can go back and think about what really stood out to him/her as exceptional work. If the judge is questioning whether an item deserves a certain ribbon or a rosette, they ask other judges, to get their opinions as well.

There is usually only one evaluator judging everything from a particular class that one county has. "This is done so that there is no inconsistency with the judging for that county" Sweeney says. "If there is two of basically the same item from the same county, and a different evaluator judges each of them, there is a chance that the opinions will be different about the item and the awarded ribbon will be different. That isn't fair to the 4-H'ers." For each individual judge, their background is important. Most of the evaluators are teachers that have experience in a par-

ticular field. This judge will most likely be placed in a position that allows them to evaluate what they are familiar with. This allows the evaluation of the exhibit to be accurate and receive the ribbon that it deserves.

The evaluators all have something they love and something they dislike about judging. They all seem to have similar favorites; they love seeing what the kids come up with and watching their creativity shine. "Every year there's something different" Walberger states. Some of the things they aren't fond of are how they don't have any interaction with the children. They also dislike when something gets to the Fair and isn't quite up to par; then they have to judge it accordingly. However, when asked if judging ever was boring, all three of the judges I interviewed replied "Never."

The evaluators in the Youth Building all seem to really like what they do. The goal of all of this is to help the 4-H'ers improve what they're doing, and "To make the best better!" In the words of Jennifer Jensen, "You're aiding in their development, leading the children to their futures."

By Annie Forestiere

Meet the Press!



Left to right: Annie Forestiere, Sharleen Dunn, Claude Riccoboni, Fabienne Riccoboni

Annie Forestiere (Reporter), Oswego County, 16 years old. I have always loved writing. I've done Press Corps for 3 years now; it's a blast!

Sharleen Dunn (Editor, Layout, Reporter), Erie County, 17 years old. I've been doing Press Corps for the past 5 years, this is my last year.. It's been great.

Claude Riccoboni (Reporter), Putnam County, 12 years old. First year Press Corps.

Fabienne Riccoboni (Reporter), Putnam County, 15 years old. An aspiring interviewer and artist.