



COUNTY CONNECTIONS

UConn 4-H TEEN COUNCIL'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



BRANCHING OUT

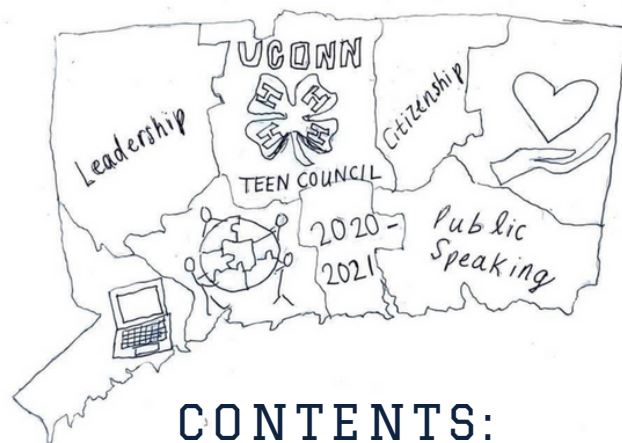
by Harper T, Teen Council Reporter

While many take a hiatus from school work over the summer, in the 4-H world, leadership and community engagement never stops since it is a way of life! We have many events to recap in this newsletter, including our paint night and leadership event, and would like to thank all the 4-Hers who participated.

Do you want to be involved in the Teen Council for the 2021-2022 term? Make sure to check out page 3 to get your questions answered on how to apply and what it is like to be a Teen Council member. The application deadline has been extended to August 31. We have not received any applications yet from Windham County, Tolland County, New Haven County, or Middlesex County.

Council members have also had the opportunity to participate in state and national experiences including the 2021 National 4-H Summit series and UConn 4-H Public Speaking. Through the Council, we hope to spread awareness of UConn 4-H and facilitate program planning so more youth can be involved in 4-H at the state level.

The UConn 4-H Council consists of 1-2 representatives from each county, ages 14-18, who serve as the liaison between the county and state levels of 4-H.



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What are three words that come to mind when you think about 4-H or leadership?



DEMOCRATIC

Democratic leadership is a form of leadership where decision making is shared with members of a group.

"I enjoyed how everyone contributed at least one thought."

LEADERSHIP EVENT RECAP

by Harper T., Council Reporter

In February, the Council held a virtual leadership event which included presentations from UConn collegiate volunteers and 4-H alumni. In the post-event reflection, attendees shared that they grasped "the importance of understanding your leadership style" and "how to take and maintain control of the room." Presenter Meg Davenport, 4-H alumna, emphasized the importance of having a clear agenda and keeping a meeting on task. The UConn Community Outreach group presented on finding community service projects that are connected to your passions and developing relationships with community partners. Teen Council members shared about their leadership styles, including transformational and pacesetter leadership!

Do you know what your leadership style is?

"I felt that the people in attendance really grasped onto the content well. I'd like to see some more workshops like this in the future that expand onto the ideas set forth in this one!"

VISIONARY

Visionary leaders have a vision of where a company or organization should be.

TRANSFORMATIONAL

Transformational leadership is a style in which the leader inspires and motivates employees to produce a change in the organization.

"I enjoyed the interactive breaks in between presentations."

"I felt that this is a great stepping stone to do other important events!"

PACESETTER

The leader set very high goals and standards to get things done better and faster.

TEEN COUNCIL Q&A

By Harper T., Council Reporter



The UConn 4-H Teen Council offered a virtual Q & A session on May 2. Thank you to the 4-Hers who joined us to learn more about applying to the Council and the experience of being a Teen Council member. **Applications for the 2021-2022 UConn 4-H Teen Council will be accepted until August 31.** We look forward to welcoming new members to the Teen Council in the fall, after the application and interview process is complete.

Who can become a Council member?

All active UConn 4-H members ages 14-18 can apply for the Council.

Does the Council have virtual or in-person meetings?

All of the Council meetings this year were virtual due to COVID-19 guidelines. However, going forward, we hope to build in opportunities for in-person meetings and events.

What leadership experiences can prepare you for the Teen Council?

Representatives on the Teen Council are focused on connecting the county and state levels of 4-H, so prior leadership experience on the club, county, and/or state levels of 4-H is beneficial. This might look like positions on the county fair board, state committees, or club leadership.

What is it like to be a member of the Teen Council?

At each of our meetings, we discuss and plan new leadership and citizenship events. We emphasize collaboration and making sure that each member has a voice in the Council. Teen Council representatives are tasked with updating their county on Council happenings in between our monthly meetings. They may also assist with certain tasks such as creating flyers or promotional material, researching presenters and workshop ideas, or creating a budget for an upcoming event. Council members can serve in officer positions including President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Director, and Reporter, which each have specific responsibilities.

What events have you organized this year?

This year, we organized a virtual leadership conference, a state-wide food drive, and two virtual fundraisers. Looking ahead, our next goal is an in-person leadership conference.

How many members compose the Teen Council?

The maximum number of representatives is 16 (two for every county). Currently, there are seven members on the Teen Council, representing four different counties in 4-H.

Where can I find the application?

4-Hers can apply using the UConn 4-H Recognition Form, found [here](#).





2021 NATIONAL 4-H SUMMITS

by Olivia H., Council Co-President

This year, I had the opportunity to attend both the National 4-H Youth Summit on Healthy Living and the National 4-H Youth Summit on Agriscience.

The Summit on Healthy Living was such an amazing experience. It was so educational and fun! I learned so much about the importance of healthy living and how to practice it on a day-to-day basis. Since attending, I have definitely adopted healthier habits.

The National 4-H Youth Summit on Agriscience exposed me to agriculture in a way that I have never experienced. I had the opportunity to learn from experts in many different fields in agriculture. I learned so much about ag and the importance of our farms.

Both of these summits challenged me to think outside the box and to strive for a better world.

These summits prepared me to “Make the best better.”



Learn more about the National Youth Summit series for 2022 [here](#) on the 4-H website.



Teen Council Reporter Harper T. attended the Agriscience Summit and is implementing a Community Action Plan centered around community gardening. All produce is donated to local food pantries to combat food insecurity.

Teen Council Co-President Olivia H. attended the Healthy Living Summit and is hosting a series of healthy living workshops as her Community Action Plan.



VIRTUAL PAINT NIGHT RECAP

by Harper T., Council Reporter

On June 27, the Teen Council held a virtual paint night as a fundraiser for future in-person leadership programming. 9 students joined to paint a cherry blossom canvas on WebEx. We raised \$45. A huge thank you to our presenter from Litchfield County 4-H for graciously offering to teach the group, and to all the participants for sharing their creative expression with us.



4-Hers from the Cool Creators Club participating in the Virtual Paint Night

2021 4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING

by Harper T., Council Reporter

This year, 4-Hers from across the state had the opportunity to advance to three tiers of involvement in public speaking. Both the junior and senior finalists delivered their speeches virtually at their county public speaking days, before advancing to the qualifying round and the state 4-H competition. Congratulations to all of the participants for taking advantage of this opportunity to enhance public speaking skills, which are important in all facets of life!



4-Her participating in Olivia H.'s Healthy Living workshops

FEEDBACK FORM

by Harper T., Council Reporter

The Teen Council has been in operation for over a year now and we would love your continued feedback. Did you attend the Virtual Paint Night or our leadership day? Do you have ideas for how we can enhance citizenship and leadership programs in UConn 4-H? How can the council collaborate with events in your county? Fill out this [Google Form](#) to share your thoughts on how we can make the best better!

"The mission of the UConn 4-H Teen Council shall be to educate and enhance 4-H in CT through leadership activities, citizenship activities, and helping out in the everyday aspects of 4-H"

*UConn 4-H Teen Council
Operational Guidelines*



Are you participating in a county fair this year? Send in pictures to uconn4hteencouncil@gmail.com!

CONNECT WITH US!



[@uconn4hteencouncil](#)



[@uconn4hteencouncil](#)



uconn4hteencouncil@gmail.com

Thanks for reading! Stay tuned for our fall newsletter! Email the Council with submissions at uconn4hteencouncil@gmail.com. We would love to highlight events that are happening at the county and state levels of 4-H.

UPCOMING DATES

APPLICATIONS FOR 2021-2022
COUNCIL DUE

8/31

Check out our social media page this month for features about the National 4-H Congress delegation and the New England 4-H Fair!

 **4-H GROWS HERE**



CONGRATULATIONS, 2021 GRADUATES!

by Olivia B., Publicity Director

Congratulations to our Teen Council members Chelsea W., Olivia H., Josie M., and Olivia B on graduating. They were asked how 4-H has helped and impacted their high school career, and here's what they said:

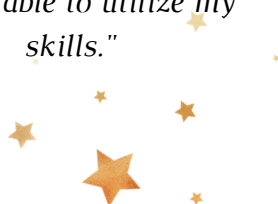


"4-H has helped me so much through the college admissions process. Not only did it give me topics to write about but it gave me skills to write a resume. Through 4-H record books and recognition forms I have learned how to organize the activities I have been a part of."



"4-H has helped me learn many new skills including communication, team work, problem solving, and leadership. I have used these skills to build my resume and college applications, and have reflected on my 4-H experience in my college essay. I will bring these skills with me throughout my life and I am so grateful for the opportunities given to me through 4-H."

"Through 4-H I had the opportunity to pursue my passions and develop skills that I used throughout high school and will continue to use throughout my life. 4-H shaped my leadership skills which ultimately led me to choose a career in which I will be able to utilize my skills."



"4-H has taught me many valuable lessons that have helped me throughout job applications, college applications, and everyday life. I've learned how to communicate with my peers, lead a group to success, help the world become a better place, and many more. These lessons will always be applicable throughout my life, and I will always be grateful for the experiences I've had in 4-H for these last 9 years."

