

Story Title	Recruited Teen Mentor Achieves Leaderships Opportunities
Program	Franklin - 4-H Youth Development
Educators	Constance J. Gerow Steve M. McDonald
Is this related to an Equal Program/Employment Opportunity?	Yes
Executive Summary	Upon receiving a grant from the Office of Justice Juvenile Delinquency Program (OJJDP) via Cornell Cooperative Extension to establish a Youth and Family with Promise (YFP) mentoring program, CCE Franklin County 4-H at Salmon River Central School District was afforded the opportunity for recruiting quality teens to become mentors for children.
Issues/Needs and Audiences	Effective mentoring practice suggest either a one on one or a 1-4 group effort. Within a school district, the recruitment of a teen to become a mentor becomes a challenge. More often than not some teens are busier than others (ex. Sports, Out of School Job). Therefore, some are unable to give up their afterschool time to assist as a mentor. Engaging and persuading a high school teen with a carrot that not only encourages, but also motivates a teen for future advancement can be challenging, especially when factoring in other driving forces including; social life, extra circular activities, and personal/family commitments.
Extension Responses	Four years ago in an effort to recruit teen mentors, as a site coordinator, I literally reached out to students in the hallway distributing a brochure that outlined the 4-H YFP Mentoring program, inviting each to a meeting. Suggestions from our 4H Youth Program Leader to include mentoring retreats and leadership capstone events were part of the building blocks to success. Other opportunities included participation in the 4-H State Teen Action Rep Retreat (STARR) and the 4-H Cornell Career Exploration days to name a few.
Accomplishments and Impacts	Many teens came to the meeting and seemed very interested in this unique opportunity. Since that day, there has been one particular teen who walked the tight rope and seized the opportunities afforded. She has not looked back. Her accomplishments in four short years are exponential. As a regular mentor the youth look up to her and recognize her as a leader. In addition, she has capitalized on taking advantage of the 4H STARR program as a participant and later as member of the state wide planning team. Her efforts did not go unnoticed and she was provided an opportunity to participate not only

as a focus assistant at the Cornell Career Exploration days but also was awarded an opportunity to attend Cornell University Summer College for highly talented high school students. Without a doubt, this teen will have a pre-college resume that college admission counselors will most likely desire, all because she choose to participate in the 4-H YFP mentoring program.

Collaborators Office of Justice Juvenile Delinquency Prevention; Salmon River Central School; New York State 4-H Office; Franklin County Cornell Cooperative Extension 4-H program

Special funding sources National 4-H Council- National Mentoring Program (NMP5),
(if any) Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Franklin County Teen Leadership fundraising