

SET

By Kathleen Jablonski, Extension Educator for 4-H Youth Development

Are your kids SET for life? In 4-H, we hope they are and that is why we are promoting 4-H SET: Science, Engineering and Technology education.

For the past three years, the National 4-H Council has led a campaign called 4-H SET with the tagline: One Million New Scientists, One Million New Ideas.

This program is a way for science, engineering and technology learning to take place in out-of-school settings. Teaching 4-H SET projects in a variety of locations and involving diverse audiences helps to expose youth and volunteers to scientific principles as well as career opportunities. The “Learning by Doing” motto, used with the Eight Essential Elements of positive youth development, is shared by youth and adults alike who participate in the SET project areas.

According to information from the National 4-H Council, 4-H is helping to address our nation’s critical challenge by preparing one million new young people to excel in science, engineering and technology. As a public-private partnership, 4-H can focus resources and expertise through SET to improve science literacy; increase the number of American students seeking undergraduate degrees in science, technology and engineering; and increase the number of young adults pursuing careers in these fields. This includes the field of animal science and genetics.

In Grafton County, New Hampshire, we are promoting an event for October 6, 2010: National Science Experiment Day. Watch for free information this fall about the National Science Experiment Day, the experiment, and how to run it with your group of youth.

UNH Cooperative Extension is also working with after school programs to implement a National Science Foundation Grant: NPASS (New Practices in After School Science). Interested afterschool programs who want to become involved for the 2010-2011 school year should contact the Grafton County UNHCE office.

This spring, information will be available about our newest 4-H Project: Wind Energy. As always, we are looking for interested volunteers to work with our project areas and to get kids excited about science. For more information about 4-H SET and 4-H programs in Grafton County, contact our UNHCE office at 787-6944 or email: Kathleen.jablonski@unh.edu