



Cornell University

**Cornell Cooperative Extension
Monroe County**

2449 Saint Paul Blvd
Rochester, NY 14617
p. 585.753.2550 f. 585.753.2560
e. monroe@cornell.edu
monroe.cce.cornell.edu

For Immediate Release:

March 16, 2020

For more information, contact:

Susan Coyle
585.753.2550
Email address: smc226@cornell.edu

**Monroe County 4-H Public Presentations
Youth Improve Their Public Speaking Skills**

Monroe County 4-H youths participated in Monroe County's 4-H Public Presentations event. The Irondequoit Public Library generously hosted the event, providing a safe and welcoming environment for the youth to put their skills on display.

Every year, 4-H members have the opportunity to participate in the Public Presentations program, where they design a presentation based on a topic of their choice and share it with an audience of both peers and parents alike. 4-H alumni share that this program is the most important project of their 4-H career.

Volunteer evaluators, Mary Hull and Rachel Lawrick, watched the presentations and asked questions. After each presentation they offered detailed feedback during individual conferences with each participant. Two youth acted as Teen Evaluators who worked alongside the adult evaluators. Maddie Basset and Bea Freeman both were able to develop their leadership skills. Evaluators offered their time to help 4-H youth develop their public presentation skills.

The youth participants utilized several different presentation methods, including Illustrated Talks using Power Point slides or trifold posters and demonstrations. One presenter, Abigail Dayton, displayed a trifold poster that she created while demonstrating how to make dog treats from home. About her presentation, Abbi shared, "I enjoyed presenting because I was able to share a homemade dog treat recipe that was healthy, easy to make and cheap." Her dog, Henry, even made a guest appearance as a professional taste-tester.

Many parents participated in the event as well. Many of them assisted in both preparing the rooms for the night, and they all cheered on all of the kids as they presented. Garth Freeman said, "From choosing and researching a topic they are passionate about, to organizing their ideas into a cohesive and understandable presentation, to creating the visual and demonstrative aspects, and finally sharing their topic with the audience and answering questions; each aspect supports their personal and professional development in a supportive and celebratory environment."

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.

Public Presentations continues to be a fruitful experience for all of those involved. Abbi said about the experience as a whole, "I like to practice speaking in front of people because I know it's an important skill to have in life."

The Monroe County 4-H Program is offered through Cornell Cooperative Extension to the youth of Monroe County. 4-H is a worldwide youth development program open to all youth ages 5 to 19, who want to have fun, learn new skills, and explore the world. In return, youth who participate in 4-H find a supportive environment and opportunities for hands-on or "experiential" learning about things that interest them.

To learn more about Public Presentations and other 4-H programs, visit <http://bit.ly/4hyouthdevelopment>.



4-H Posh Ponies member, Abigail Dayton, walks the audience through her presentation, which was all about how to make healthy, low-cost dog treats from home. (Photo – Mike Dondorfer)



4-H youth received a beautiful certificate and positive feedback for the presentations they created. (Photo – Mike Dondorfer)

<###>