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**4-H Celebrates Korean Culture  
Monroe County youth explore language, cuisine, art, dance, and games**

Thirty Monroe County youth gathered on Wednesday, February 22nd to share an all-day celebration of Korean Culture with 4-H educator Jessica Reid. Participants learned to introduce themselves in Korean, made kimbap rolls, wrote their names in Hangul calligraphy, tried a fast-paced game with K-pop dances, and made a traditional Korean game piece. The event brought together youth from the 4-H Cultivating Community program, the 4-H UNITY program in partnership with Ibero's Aspira Mentoring Program and Agape Haven of Abundance, and more.

The day began with an icebreaker in the form of a traditional Korean twist on rock paper scissors ("Gawi Bawi Bo"). Winners listened while their opponent introduced themselves in Korean, and then introduced themselves in turn. After the icebreaker, Reid introduced the group to the Hangul system of writing with a friendly hands-on challenge: modeling hangul characters in playdough to form familiar words. Once the group had a grasp on the phonetic, syllable-based Hangul alphabet, they applied this knowledge to read Hangul calligraphy, using brush-strokes to write their names on decorative paper.

While their calligraphy dried, the youth watched a short video explaining the context of South Korean culture, including famous landmarks. Then, they split into teams to dig into their Korean culinary adventure for the day: making all the ingredients for Kimbap rolls, many of these from scratch. One team prepared eggs with sesame oil and salt, while another julienned carrots and lightly blanched spinach. The third team focused on the meat filling, chopping fresh garlic and sauteing ground beef. Finally, the teams brought the ingredients together with fresh sticky rice, pickled radish, burdock root, kimchi, and sheets of seaweed wrapper ("gim"), each youth creating their own roll. Along with this fresh and healthy lunch, youth enjoyed Korean snacks and a unique melon drink.

After the meal, the group tried a fast-paced game exploring different styles of k-pop music and dancing, using colorful images on the floor to represent various dance challenges. Energy regained, they added a decorative sheet of tissue paper to their Hangul calligraphy, and learned how to create a simple game piece used in Korea, made with a piece of tablecloth and a handful of split peas.

*Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities*

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While coordinating international travel for 30 youth can be daunting and cost prohibitive, a camp day was a chance to explore Korean culture. This was also an opportunity for youth to share their own cultures. Some youth were trying their third language when tentatively introducing themselves in Korean and using a phonetics worksheet to write their names correctly in Hangul. An attitude of open-mindedness united the group - and there were no pickled radishes left over.

*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 aged 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.*

*4-H UNITY (Urban Neighborhoods Improved Through Youth) is part of the Children, Youth and Families At-Risk (CYFAR) Program. The project is supported by Smith Lever funds, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research, New York State 4-H and Cornell University. 4-H UNITY is conducted in Endicott and Rochester by Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Broome County and CCE of Monroe County in close partnership with New York State 4-H, Cornell University.*

For more information about *Cultivating Community*, go to <https://monroe.cce.cornell.edu/4-h-youth-development/cultivating-community-a-paid-summer-experience-for-city-of-rochester-teens-13-18>.

Learn more about 4-H at <http://monroe.cce.cornell.edu/4-h-youth-development>.



Youth creating Korean game pieces, with their Hangul calligraphy still visible on the table.

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