



NEWSLETTER

THE LINDLEY LEDGER



FALL 2025

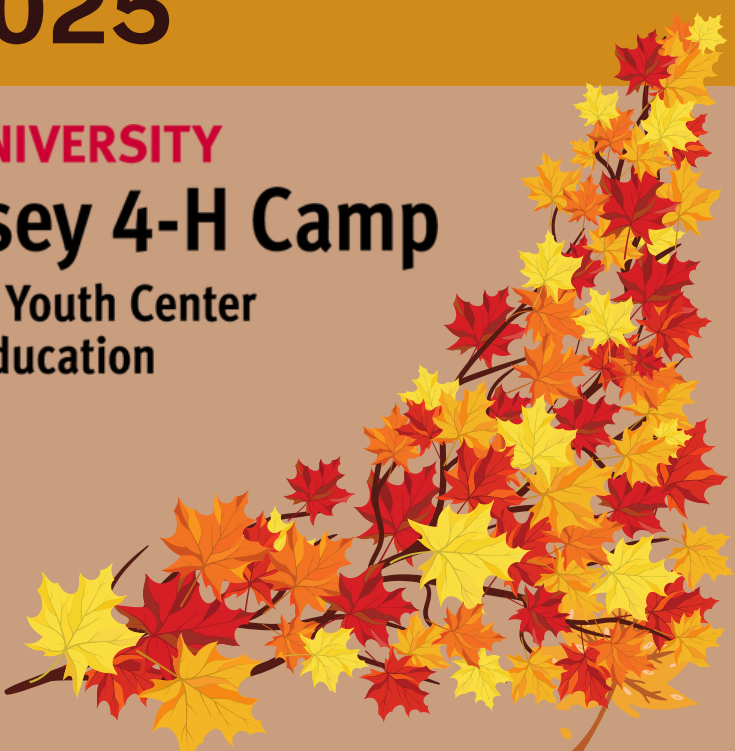


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RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

New Jersey 4-H Camp

L.G. Cook 4-H Youth Center
for Outdoor Education



RECENT HAPPENINGS

Staff Alumni Reunion



4-H Camp staff from the mid-60s all the way to present day got back together at our home in the woods to share some stories, gather 'round for some meals, reengage in some of our favorite camp activities and enjoy a some more days living that classic summer camp lifestyle. In fact, we had such a nice time we might not wait a whole 'nother 75 years to do it again.

Historic Open House



60 folks joined us on a lovely October morning to walk through the whole 4-H Camp story, traveling from the CCC creating the lake and Lindley G. Cook searching for a "suitable site" for a state 4-H Camp all the way to 2025's installation of a brand-new Infirmary. Thanks to all who joined for sharing in the story-telling of what's gone into making 4-H Camp what it is today.

First Summer With Our Brand-New Infirmary



We opened our first brand-new buildings in 40 years as we added additional staff housing and our new infirmary, which was a true summer camp game cahnger when it came to caring for our campers. The central location behind the Dining Hall and next to the bathroom was the biggest upgrade, but the new beautiful wood building with private camper sick rooms and air conditioning didn't hurt either.

Summer 2025

2025 marked the 75th Summer at 4-H Camp, and we celebrated the event with another successful sold-out camping season up here in the woods. We had 863 individual campers in attendance for a total of 1,246 “camper weeks” (including 109 campers at 4-H Camp at Rutgers Gardens and 107 campers in our 18-day Big Session.) Our team of 67 summer staff and 48 volunteer Junior Counselors helped make another summer of camp magic possible!

Our themes included:

Pirates of Lake Shawanni (self-explanatory, we think).



Broken Time Machine (you'll never guess what happened to our Time Machine, resulting in a giant dinosaur on the dock),



We also piloted a “Little Big Session” where campers could attend the first half of our August Big Session.



WHoDunnit (where our 75th Anniversary BOAT SHOW was mysteriously sabotaged),



CamPandemonium (where of course, a mirror universe dimension was inadvertently opened up.)



RIGHT NOW AT SUMMER CAMP



November 2nd Launches Our Annual Campership Campaign!

The Rutgers New Jersey 4-H Camp specializes in creating tech-free, joyfully social, outdoor experiences for youth ages 8-16. It is 4-H Camp's belief that every child deserves the opportunity for this transformative summer camp experience, regardless of their financial situation.

The New Jersey 4-H Camp, with the support of the 4-H Campfire Council alumni group, is pleased to launch its third annual Campership Campaign, to raise funds for Summer 2026 and continue to help provide the summer camp experience to kids who might not afford it otherwise.

Last year, for Summer 2025, 4-H Camp gave out over \$64,000 in campership support to 84 campers for sessions at overnight camp in Stokes Forest and 4-H Camp at Rutgers Gardens. The funds raised in last year's Campership Campaign went a long way to making these 84 summer camp experiences a reality.

For Summer 2026, a generous matching donor is matching EVERY GIFT in this campaign, dollar for dollar. If we hit our \$12,500 goal, it will result in a total of \$25,000 in campership support.

100% of every donation given through the Rutgers University Foundation will go to the 4-H Camp Gift Fund, where it will be used to support the funds awarded to youth to attend Summer 2026 at the New Jersey 4-H Camp through the Campership Program.

Join us at Winter Gathering



We are gearing up to have an extra special 75th Anniversary edition of our winter gathering on December 6th from 2pm to 6pm. RSVP [here](#) to Join us for some light snacks and refreshments, wintry festivities, and to close out our campership campaign.

Virtual Memory Board



Check out our Virtual Memory Board which has been up and running since the close of the 2025 season. Please dredge up your favorite old camp photos and add them to the collection. Check it out and contribute [here](#).

NEW AND UPCOMING

Check-out the rest of our 75th Anniversary Celebration slate, and please plan on joining for some (or all!) of the celebrating.

The logo is a circular emblem. The outer ring contains the text "NEW JERSEY 4-H CAMP" at the top and "SINCE 1951" at the bottom. The center of the emblem features a detailed illustration of a rustic wooden cabin with a chimney, surrounded by tall evergreen trees. A large number "75" is superimposed over the top half of the cabin illustration.

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF SUMMER

Lantern BBQ Kick-Off to Summer #75 June 29th, 2025	Virtual Scrapbook Storytelling Event* January 2026
Launch of Virtual Scrapbook* August 2025	Winter Camp Time Capsule* February 2026
Staff Reunion and Retreat September 19th-21st, 2025	London Reunion* March 2026
Historical Open House October 18th, 2025	Mid-Jersey Meet-Up!* April 2026
"75th" Campership Campaign* November 2025	Alumni Family Weekend May 1st-3rd, 2026
Winter Gathering December 6th, 2025	Opening Weekend Work Day June 13th, 2026
	Lantern BBQ Kick-Off to 75th Anniversary Season July 5th, 2026

* Denotes a virtual or off-site event

Dates and Events subject to change.

**RUTGERS UNIVERSITY**
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SUMMER 2026

Registration for Summer 2026 opens on November 13th. Register by December 31st for your first pick of classes, sessions, and our lowest rate we offer during our Polar Bear registration period



INTO THE WOODS WITH WOODROW



A fall foliage tour with our favorite four legged guide!



STAYING IN TOUCH

Submit an entry to Vesper Voices

If you have a camp story to share, pictures from your time at camp, a creative piece, or a question for camp you can submit that here to be included in our Winter issue. Alumni and current camper submissions welcome. Submit [here](#).

Staff Check Ins

If you would be interested in being featured as one of our staff on our staff check-ins sections, please reach out, or fill out [this form](#).

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Photo of the Fall

