

Press Release

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Chenango County

Contact: Christina Hall 607.334.5841 ext. 14 or clh262@cornell.edu

Youth Exploring Winter Activities Thanks to Local Programs

Chenango County 4-H hosted a snowshoeing event at the Rogers Environmental Education Center in Sherburne on Saturday, January 26 for local 4-H members and their families.

The group of twenty participants gathered in the cold, bundled up and ready to hike the Channels trail at the Rogers Center. The young kids took a few minutes getting used to their new feet (some tripping and falling over them a little, but landing in the soft snow), and they headed out on the trail. The Rogers Center is an excellent location for a short jaunt with well-developed trails offering excellent scenery, differing levels of difficulty depending on the trail taken, and plenty of wildlife and abilities to view it. Rabbit trails were scattered around the trail during the whole hike, and the Channels Trail specifically offers overlooks at several locations where visitors can view the water, frozen as it may be this time of year. By the end of the hike, some of the adventurers had cold hands, but the perfect remedy was a campfire complete with s'mores. Youth gathered dead branches and twigs to get a fire started in the fire pit on location and browned their s'mores over the January campfire, beaming over the graham cracker, chocolate, and marshmallow gooeyness they were about to consume.

The free event was made possible because of the twenty-one pairs of snowshoes purchased through grant money from the local Chenango Youth Philanthropy Council program in 2018. Due to the timeline of the grant, this is the first the snowshoes have been able to be used since the grant was awarded. Along with the snowshoes, new archery targets were purchased as well as wild edibles curriculum, geocaching coins, and other outdoor materials for the Outdoor Adventure program hosted by Chenango County 4-H. Events like this one offer excellent opportunities for youth and whole families to venture outdoors together and explore local natural habitats and seasonal hobbies.

In the last couple years, the Outdoor Adventure program has blossomed where now events are held once a month within Chenango County in programs that involve kayaking, camping, wayfinding, and more. These events help local youth foster an appreciation for the outdoor environment and our natural resources while developing life skills, encouraging active lifestyles, and introducing youth to careers and hobbies as well as providing mentoring relationships to youth. This year, Chenango County 4-H looks forward to hosting many more great programs, with upcoming events like Maple Exploration, Lure-making, Fossil Finding, and the second annual Survival Skills Challenge. For more information about the Outdoor Adventure program and upcoming events, contact 4-H Subject Educator Christina Hall at 607-334-5841 ext. 14 or visit ccechenango.org.



Image: 4-H'ers enjoy snowshoeing at Rogers Environmental Education Center. (taken by Christina Hall)