



## 2020 NJ 4-H Scientific Hands-On Applied Research Knowledge (S.H.A.R.K.) Program Announcement

NJ 4-H Scientific Hands-On Applied Research Knowledge (S.H.A.R.K.) Program is offered to New Jersey 4-H members in good standing who are in grades 7, 8, and 9. Because of space limitations aboard the vessel for the field experience portion of this program, the maximum number of participants will be 10 (ten) 4-H'ers.

### **The Program:**

Program Objectives - In the 4-H S.H.A.R.K. Program, participants will -

- 1) Learn about the various environmental issues facing oceans, including micro-plastics, climate change, and garbage in the oceans.
- 2) Develop an understanding about issues facing sharks, including shark finning, status of global shark populations, and the relationship between sharks and humans.
- 3) Develop strategies to improve life skills such as decision-making, teamwork, and communication.
- 4) Explore STEM careers in marine biology, with a focus on improving knowledge on what careers are available in the marine sciences.

In-State Portion = The in-state NJ 4-H S.H.A.R.K. program will take place between **March 2 – April 20, 2020** Once a week on Monday nights, between 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., the expectation is that 4-H youth members will log onto the Zoom meetings and be “present” (albeit virtually) for every Zoom session.

Field Experience Portion = The field program will take place **April 25 – 28, 2020** in Biscayne Bay, Florida, aboard the Research Vessel Garvin.

Post Field Experience = Participants will be expected to produce an artifact (research paper, video production, tri-fold, etc.) sharing what they learned from their participation in this program.

### **Field Experience Program:**

- The NJ 4-H S.H.A.R.K. field experience program aboard R.V. Garvin taking place off Biscayne Bay in Miami is one of the premiere experiences for 4-H members across New Jersey. The field experience portion of this program is designed to be the capstone project of the lessons they've learned through the weekly Zoom meetings they attended leading up to this. The NJ 4-H S.H.A.R.K. field experience portion of the program provides a life-changing experience for youth as they participate in educational activities focusing on environmental science, leadership, team development, and of course having fun!
- Ten (10) NJ 4-H members will be selected to attend the program trip aboard R.V. Garvin in Miami, FL, April 25-28, 2020. (Be sure you can participate on these dates before you apply in case you are chosen).
- **A specific Field School General Waiver MUST be signed by parents/guardians and youth members in order to participate in the field experience portion of this program. (pdf titled “FS General Waiver”)**

### **Eligibility:**

- Applicants must be a Member in Good Standing in New Jersey 4-H at the time of application.
- Applicants must be in grades 7, 8, or 9.
- Applicants must agree to participate in the Zoom meetings taking place March 2 – April 20, 2020.
- Applicants must agree to participate in the field experience portion of the program taking place April 25 – 28, 2020.
- There will be costs associated with this program (potentially up to \$1,850 per participant). Though external support will be sought, families should be aware of what the potential costs of participation may be.

### **How to Apply:**

- Submit the 2020 NJ 4-H S.H.A.R.K. application form plus include answers to the application questions provided on the 2020 NJ 4-H S.H.A.R.K. Application.
- Completed applications are to be submitted electronically in PDF format through email to [m.newman@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:m.newman@njaes.rutgers.edu) or delivered to the Monmouth County Rutgers Cooperative Extension Office c/o Matthew Newman (see address below).
- **Applications are due by February 3, 2020.**

### **Judging Criteria:**

- A selection committee comprised of 4-H professional staff and 4-H volunteers will review the applications. The selection committee will review the applications, and base their decision on the answers to the prompts 4-H members provide. Applicants are encouraged to focus their answers on what they (the applicant) hopes to gain from this program and what they (the applicant) intends to do with the knowledge they gain. The selection committee may choose to conduct telephone interviews with finalists. In that case, the criteria will also be based on the member's presentation and/or interview.

### **Notification:**

- Should the selection committee deem necessary, finalists selected to be interviewed will be notified by February 5, 2020. Telephone interviews, if needed, will be conducted.
- Applicants selected to be delegates will be notified by February 10, 2020 – unless stated otherwise.

### **Costs:**

- The total cost of the trip may be up to \$1,850. The NJ 4-H S.H.A.R.K. Program will work with members/parents for fundraising activities as well as seek out donations/grants to offset this cost.
- A non-refundable\* deposit of \$300 will be due with the application.
- First Payment = \$600, Due March 9, 2020
- Remaining Balance = tbd, Due April 6, 2020

\* The \$300 deposit is only nonrefundable if the applicant is selected for participation. If the applicant is not selected for the 2020 NJ 4-H S.H.A.R.K. program, the \$300 will be returned.

Checks are made payable to **Somerset 4-H Association**. In the memo line, indicate "**NJ 4-H S.H.A.R.K.**"

Mail checks to:

NJ 4-H S.H.A.R.K. c/o Matthew Newman  
RCE of Monmouth County  
4000 Kozloski Road  
Freehold NJ 07728

### **Questions:**

Please direct any questions to 4-H Agent Matthew Newman at [m.newman@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:m.newman@njaes.rutgers.edu) or (732) 431-7260, ext. 7266.

*Cooperating Agencies:* Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.



# 2020 NJ 4-H Scientific Hands-On Applied Research Knowledge (4-H S.H.A.R.K.) Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

In a separate Word Document, answer the five questions below.

All questions are to be answered using no more than 3 (three) pages double spaced, and minimum font size of 12, Times New Roman.

1. Why are you interested in participating in the NJ 4-H S.H.A.R.K. Program?
2. In addition to the hard science learned, the 4-H NJ S.H.A.R.K. Program is designed to reinforce leadership skills. How have your 4-H experiences helped you better understand diversity, cultural differences, leadership, and team building?
3. Using the information outlined in questions one and two, how will you utilize the skills developed in the NJ 4-H S.H.A.R.K. Program to become one of tomorrow's leaders as an adult in your community?
4. What type of research (specifically regarding issues in marine science) would you like to investigate in greater detail? Please provide examples why this is an interest to you.
5. Briefly describe your interest, experience, and future plans with marine science and how you feel your participation in this program could positively impact your future goals.

Due February 3, 2020

2020 NJ 4-H S.H.A.R.K. Program  
APPLICATION FORM



**PLEASE NOTE:**

The following questions are NOT weighed into the selection criteria of participants for the club trip. This information is kept intentionally separated from the application questions.

Currently participating in 4-H and Member in Good Standing: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Grade in School \_\_\_

Years completed in 4-H \_\_\_ County of 4-H Participation \_\_\_

Name (First, Mid Initial, Last): \_\_\_\_\_

Home mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth (mm/dd/year): \_\_\_\_\_

Gender (male or female): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Month/Year: \_\_\_\_\_

**4-H MEMBER AGREEMENT**

I personally have prepared this application and certify that it accurately reflects my work. I also give permission to Rutgers Cooperative Extension/New Jersey 4-H to use statements in this application for promotion purposes. By signing this, I agree to participate in the NJ 4-H S.H.A.R.K. program (if selected). I understand there are only 10 (ten) slots available for youth members in this program. I agree to attend the virtual meetings, and I agree to abide by the NJ 4-H Code of Conduct while participating in this program.

\* 4-H Member Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT AGREEMENT**

I/we have reviewed my child's application and believe it to be correct. As a parent/guardian I/we also give permission to the parties listed above to use statements in this application for promotion purposes. I/we have also reviewed the program announcement and agree to support my child in this program. By signing this, I/we agree to support my child in their participation in the NJ 4-H S.H.A.R.K. Program. I/we agree to fulfill obligations that come with this program, including but not limited to providing payment(s) on time, providing transportation when necessary for my child, and offering encouragement to my child in this program.

\* Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: This application will not be returned.**

\*Signature indicates implied consent that these materials will be reviewed by the selection committee.

*Cooperating Agencies:* Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.



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Research · Education · Exploration

## LIABILITY RELEASE AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby affirm I am voluntarily engaging in the recreational activities planned for my trip with Field School Scientific Training LLC, which activities may include, but are not limited to, scuba diving, snorkeling, boating, and collecting scientific data from potentially dangerous marine organisms, including (but not limited to) sharks.

If I engage in scuba diving, I affirm that I am a certified diver or a student diver under the control and supervision of a certified scuba instructor, and that I am aware that scuba diving (as well as snorkeling and freediving) have inherent risks which may result in serious injury or death. I certify that I am fully aware of and expressly assume all risks involved in scuba diving, snorkeling, freediving, boating, and collecting scientific data from potentially dangerous marine organisms.

I understand and agree that neither **Field School Scientific Training, LLC** dba Field School, nor the owners, officers, employees, agents, contractors, or assigns of the above-listed entity (hereinafter referred to as “Released Parties”) may be held liable or responsible in any way for any injury, death or other damages to me, or to my family, estate, heirs, or assigns, that may occur as a result of my participation in this trip or as a result of the negligence of any party, including the Released Parties, whether passive or active.

I understand that Field School is not responsible for any accident or medical expenses I may incur, and that Field School does not provide me with any kind of accident or medical insurance. I further understand that, for these reasons, Field School strongly recommends that participants purchase independent accident or medical insurance before the trip begins.

I further state that I am of lawful age and legally competent to sign this Liability Release Agreement, or that I have obtained the written consent of my parent or guardian. I understand the terms herein are contractual and not a mere recital, and that I have signed this Agreement of my own free act and with the knowledge that I hereby agree to waive my legal rights. I further agree that if any provision of this agreement is found to be unenforceable or invalid, that provision shall be severed from this agreement. The remainder of the agreement will then be construed as though the unenforceable provision had never been contained herein.

I understand and agree that I am not only giving up my right to sue the Released Parties but also any rights my heirs, assigns, or beneficiaries may have to sue the Released Parties resulting from my death or injury. I further represent I have the authority to do so and that my heirs, assigns, or beneficiaries will be estopped from claiming otherwise because of my representations to the Released Parties.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, BY THIS INSTRUMENT, AGREE TO EXEMPT AND RELEASE ALL THE ABOVE-LISTED ENTITIES AND/OR INDIVIDUALS, WHETHER SPECIFICALLY NAMED OR NOT, FROM ALL LIABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR PERSONAL INJURY, PROPERTY DAMAGE OR WRONGFUL DEATH, HOWEVER CAUSED,

INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, PRODUCT LIABILITY OR THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASED PARTIES, WHETHER PASSIVE OR ACTIVE.

I HAVE FULLY INFORMED MYSELF AND MY HEIRS OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS LIABILITY RELEASE AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT BY READING IT BEFORE SIGNING IT ON BEHALF OF MYSELF AND MY HEIRS.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (Day/Month/Year)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian (where applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (Day/Month/Year)

#### PERMISSION TO USE PHOTOGRAPHS

I, \_\_\_\_\_, grant to Field School Scientific Training LLC, and to its representatives and employees, the right to take photographs of me and my property in connection with my trip on Research Vessel Garvin. I authorize Field School Scientific Training LLC, and its assigns and transferees to copyright, use, and publish the same in print and/or electronically.

I agree that Field School Scientific Training LLC may use such photographs of me with or without my name and for any lawful purpose, including (but not limited to) such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, and web content.

I have read and understood, and agree to the above.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (Day/Month/Year)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent/Guardian (where applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (Day/Month/Year)