

## The Benefits of a Summer Camp Experience

by Melissa Schroeder

WATKINS GLEN, NY - Hidden Valley 4-H camp provides a welcoming space where we strive to create a summer camping experience that provides the opportunity for both campers and staff to explore new friendships, try out new program activities and work on independence as they are away from home for the week or the summer. Last season we celebrated our 80<sup>th</sup> year of camping in the historic Watkins Glen State Park.

Summer camp is a great option for parents who are looking for options for their children during the summer months. Hidden Valley 4-H Camp provides both day and residential camp options, with flexibility for campers and families in how you can book both day and residential spots. We provide four activity periods with Nature, Arts, Aquatics and Sports and Recreation along with evening activities that include an opening and closing campfire. Our closing campfire also includes the tradition of "honor camper" where four campers are chosen to represent the Head, Heart, Health, and Hands areas of the 4-H Pledge. Campers also experience the raising of both the

United States flag and the 4-H Flag each morning and the lowering in the evening.

Hidden Valley 4-H Camp is nestled in the mid -point of one of the most highly visited NYS State Parks, the outdoor spaces are beautiful, and we have easy hiking trails in abundance. Often times our families return to the area to visit, or parents treat their children to a week at camp while they visit area and Watkins Glen State Park during the busy summer tourist season.

If you are looking for a fun, child-friendly camp for your children this summer, we still have a few openings left in our summer camping season for both residential and day camps. We are accredited through the American Camp Association (ACA) which provides a rigorous set of safety standards that we adhere to, and we also receive permitting to operate through the New York State Department of Health. You can find additional details here <https://www.hiddenvalley4hcamp.org/>



### Let's Hear from the Campers!

**Campers were polled about the benefits they saw from going to camp, here's what they said:**

**"Camp helped me make new friends." (96%)**

**"Camp helped me to get to know kids who are different from me." (93%)**

**"The people at camp helped me feel good about myself." (92%)**

**"At camp, I did things I was afraid to do at first." (74%)**



## Do You Know the 4-H Pledge?

**I pledge...**

**My head** to clearer thinking.

**My heart** to greater loyalty.

**My hands** to larger service.

**My health** to better living.

For my club, my community, my country and my world.

If you know a youth interested in joining 4-H reach out to 4-H Coordinator, Kim Seaman at [kns57@cornell.edu](mailto:kns57@cornell.edu) or call (607)-535-7161 x3218. Fiber Arts, Esports and Forensics clubs are always welcoming new members. You can also contact Kim if you're interested in starting a club.



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### 4-H Esports Club

**June 6, 2026 - Human Services Complex - Rm. 115 - Montour Falls, NY - 1:00pm - 3:00pm**

Are you passionate about gaming and eager to connect with other youth who share your interests? Our 4-H Esports Team is the perfect place for you! Our team offers a fun, supportive environment where young gamers can improve their skills, learn teamwork, and enjoy friendly competition. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned player, our Esports Team welcomes all youth who want to have fun, develop new skills, and build lasting friendships. **Register for this FREE event at [www.cceschuyler.org/events](http://www.cceschuyler.org/events).**

### Master Gardener Volunteers' Plant Sale - Hector, NY

**June 7, 2026 - Diamond on Seneca - 10:00am-2:00pm**

Join CCE Schuyler's Master Gardeners for a day full of plants, garden decor, plant merchandise and food while enjoying spectacular views at a new location: Diamond on Seneca! **For a full list of vendors, visit [www.glengrown.com](http://www.glengrown.com).**

### Master Gardener Volunteers' Plant Sale - Montour Falls, NY

**June 11, 2026 - Montour Falls Fireman's Field - 4:00pm-7:00pm**

Can't make the June 7th plant sale in Hector? Swing by the CCE Schuyler's Master Gardeners' second plant sale at the Montour Falls Farmers' Market on June 11th. Give yourself a second chance to purchase garden decor, plant merchandise food and more! **For a full list of vendors, visit [www.glengrown.com](http://www.glengrown.com).**

### 4-H Forensics: The Case of the Office Espionage

**June 23, 2026 - Elizabeth B. Pert Library - 5:00pm-6:00pm**

Do you have a youth interested in mystery books and solving mysteries? Stop by our 4-H Forensic's club at the Elizabeth B Pert Library in Hector NY, June 23rd for a fun who-done-it STEM experience! This event is perfect for young wannabe sleuths ages 8-18 years old looking to solve a "crime" with their forensic science skills. Pre-registration is preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. **Register for this FREE event at [www.cceschuyler.org/events](http://www.cceschuyler.org/events).**

### 4-H Stir it Up! Around the World

**June 23, 2026 - Elizabeth B. Pert Library - 6:00pm-7:00pm**

Travel around the world through food! Join us for "4-H Stir it Up! Around the World." Learn about nutrition, teamwork, science, and culture. Participants will explore how food connects people around the world while practicing kitchen safety, measuring skills, creativity, and problem-solving. This event is for ages 8 to 16 and will be held at The Elizabeth B Pert Library. **Register for this FREE event at [www.cceschuyler.org/events](http://www.cceschuyler.org/events).**

### 4-H Fiber Arts Club

**June 27, 2026 - Human Services Complex, Rm 119 - 10:00am-12:00pm**

Do you know of a youth interested in crocheting, knitting and more? The Fiber Arts 4-H Club brings together youth passionate about knitting, crocheting, weaving, sewing and other fiber arts crafts and aims to foster creativity and help youth develop new skills. This month's project is Macramé! Stop by Room 119 at the Human Services Complex in Montour Falls, NY to create your own Macramé bracelet and key chain. This event is perfect for youth ages 8-16 years old. To reserve your Macramé project supplies, please **register for this FREE event at [www.cceschuyler.org/events](http://www.cceschuyler.org/events).**

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### SCNY Ag News Events Newsletter:

Find out about upcoming events in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Horticulture in the Southern Tier through the SCNY Ag News.



SCAN HERE

## Hidden Valley 4-H Camp 2026 Registration Is Now Open!



Visit [www.hiddenvalley4hcamp.org](http://www.hiddenvalley4hcamp.org)

## EVENT HIGHLIGHT:



## Hidden Valley 4-H Camp 2026 Season Begins July 5th

Are you looking for a fun summer job that can also grow your leadership skills? Come join us at Hidden Valley 4-H Camp! Help us deliver an amazing education experience to our campers and work in the beautiful Finger Lakes of Upstate NY! **Peruse our available jobs today at <https://cceschuyler.org/jobs>.**



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