THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT EXTENSION | Sea Grant Lake Champlain | LAMOILLE Regional Solid Waste Management District

Become a Teen Teacher!

TRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR 2020-2021

TRY stands for **T**eens **R**eaching **Y**outh and is an environmental leadership opportunity for students in grades 7-12. It is an environmental education program taught by teens and designed to increase environmental literacy and responsibility in younger youth. TRY for the Environment connects young people to real-world environmental problems by allowing them to be key change agents contributing to real-world solutions.

NEW for 2020-2021: Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the TRY program will be limited to **two content areas.** Each content area will consist of three, 45 minute lessons that are designed to be **delivered virtually - either when students are in the classroom or at home**. As in past years, teens will be required to teach the lessons to two different groups of students. We will offer the TRY teaching opportunity to teens twice - Session 1 (January - March with training in December) and Session 2 (March - May with training in February). 10 teams will be accepted for each session - 5 teams in each content area.

Content areas include:

Climate Change Through Waste Solutions focuses on the 4Rs—reduce, reuse, recycle and rot. Grades 1-3

4-H2O dives into watershed science, exploring water quality, quantity and biologic monitoring. Grades 3-4.

Important Note: All teen teacher trainings will be delivered online. You will be required to watch pre-recorded videos and do some team work before attending two live virtual training sessions. The live training sessions are scheduled for:

Session 1

- Monday, December 7 and Tuesday, December 8, 2020 from 4:00 - 5:30 pm (Waste Solutions)
- Thursday, December 10 and Friday, December 11, 2020 from 4:00 - 5:30 pm (4-H2O)

Session 2

- Monday, February 15 and Tuesday, February 16, 2021 from 4:00 - 5:30 pm (Waste Solutions)
- Thursday, February 18 and Friday, February 19, 2021 from 4:00 - 5:30 pm (4-H2O)

YES! I want to be a TRY teen teacher.

Getting your TRY team started is easy:

1. Read the TRY Teen Teacher Position Description and decide that you want to be a TRY Teen Teacher.
2. Organize a team of 2-3 of enthusiastic 7-12 graders. You do not have to be enrolled in 4-H to apply.
3. Ask an adult to be your team mentor. Make sure they read the TRY Adult Mentor Position Description.
4. **Each member of your team and your adult mentor must submit an application by November 2, 2020 for Session 1 or by January 15, 2021 for Session 2.**
5. If accepted, your team must be able to attend the live training sessions as listed above.

Go to **www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements** to download the application packet.

For more information contact:
Lauren Traister
4-H Teen & Leadership Program Coordinator
Lauren.Traister@uvm.edu
1-866-260-5603 x402

If you require a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program, please contact us no later than November 2, 2020 for Session 1 and January 15, 2021 for Session 2 so we may assist you.

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TEENS REACHING YOUTH FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

2020-2021 Applications

** Due no later than November 2, 2020 (Session 1) or January 15, 2021 (Session 2) **

Teen Teacher Application Instructions:

1. **Identify students to teach**. Your team will be required to teach the TRY lessons to two different groups of at least 10 students. We know that not all teachers will be willing to give you class time this year. So, we want you to **be proactive, reach out to teachers now** and see if they are willing to let you teach their students virtually. You can use TRY Sample Email_Waste or TRY Sample Email_4H2O when making your request. Just remember that if you don't hear back in a day or two that you should follow up again. **Once you have received a commitment from two teachers you will list their name, school and grade on the online application.**

2. Complete the **online application** at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TRYteenapplication

3. Type your answers to these **four questions** in a Word document. Make sure that your name is at the top of the page. Scan and email to Lauren.Traister@uvm.edu

   A. Why do you want to be a teen teacher for TRY for the Environment?

   B. TRY requires team members to make a significant commitment to the program. Describe a time when you had to make a commitment and how you honored that commitment.

   C. TRY requires you to learn your program's curriculum, teach lessons, take initiative, and be a positive role model. Tell us about a time when you had to learn something new, teach others, take initiative and/or be a role model.

   D. What skills do you possess that will help you and your team be successful?

4. Download the **TRY Permission Form** and ask a parent or legal guardian to sign. You can find this form at www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements. Scan and email to Lauren.Traister@uvm.edu

< Adult Mentor Application Instructions on the Back >

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TEENS REACHING YOUTH FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

2020-2021

** Due no later than November 2, 2020 (Session 1) or January 15, 2021 (Session 2) **

Adult Mentor Application Instructions:

1. Complete the **online application** at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TRYmentorapplication

2. Email a **letter from your school or school district** indicating that you have completed a background check to work with youth;

   Or

3. Complete and submit the **4-H Volunteer Application**.

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Position Description: TRY Teen Teacher

Purpose: To provide the opportunity for teens to practice and improve their transferable skills by teaching elementary students about critical environmental issues facing Vermonters.

Benefits:

- Develop transferable skills, including leadership, communication, teamwork, problem solving, and others.
- Become a valuable team player in the Vermont environmental and educational community.
- Build your resumé for work, scholarships, and college applications.
- Make a difference by educating younger students on these important topics.

Qualifications, Skills and Technology Required:

- Be an enthusiastic 7-12 grader with a strong interest in learning and teaching about environmental issues. It's even okay if you don't have any knowledge of the issues or know how to teach. We will train you!
- Motivation and desire to take a leadership role in your school/community.
- Strong commitment to the responsibility of being a TRY Teen Teacher.
- Must be organized, a team player, a strong communicator, and willing to learn new skills.
- Must have access to a computer and internet as well as a quiet space to teach remotely.

Responsibilities:

- Watch the pre-recorded training videos before the live virtual training sessions.
- Prepare your assigned lesson and practice with your team ahead of the live training sessions. Each team will teach their lesson at the live training sessions to the other teams.
- Attend the live training sessions for your content area. See information flyer for specific dates.
- Work with your TRY team to identify students to teach and schedule your lessons. You will teach the full 3-lesson program to two different groups of at least 10 youth. (Note: this requirement may change due to Covid-19 guidelines.)
- Meet all deadlines and expectations, including regular communication with the TRY Coordinator via email.
- Meet regularly with your TRY Team and Mentor to prepare and practice lessons before teaching.
- Submit the Teaching Notification Form for each group at least 2 weeks prior to start date. (One per team)
- Submit the Participant Assessment Tally Sheet within one week of the end of each program. (One per team)
- Submit the TRY Volunteer Hours Sheet within one week of the end of each program. (One per team)
- Submit the TRY Reflection Questions at the end of the program. (One to be completed by each team member.)
- Be a positive role model to your students.
- All teaching must be finished by March 31, 2021 for Session 1 and May 31, 2021 for Session 2.

Resources Provided:

- Training and ongoing support from TRY Coordinator and partner organizations.
- All resources needed to teach lessons.
- TRY t-shirt to wear when teaching.
- Certificate of Completion for your Personalized Learning Plan.

Time Commitment:

- Up to a 4 month commitment which includes: training, program delivery and overall program logistics, preparation and evaluation.

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Position Description: TRY Adult Mentor

Purpose: To help TRY Teen Teachers achieve success by offering guidance, support and assistance.

Benefits:

- Become a valuable team player in the Vermont environmental and educational community.
- Help teens develop transferable skills and see the growth in their learning.
- Support the TRY program and help continue its success.

Qualifications, Skills and Technology Required:

- Age 21 or older with a strong interest in working with teens.
- Be able to help teens prepare lessons, gain skills, stay organized and meet program expectations.
- Must be organized, a team player, a strong communicator, and willing to learn new things.
- Background check required unless currently approved to work with youth.
- Must have access to a computer and internet.

Responsibilities:

- Watch the pre-recorded training videos before the live virtual training sessions.
- Make sure TRY Team prepares for their assigned lesson and practices ahead of the live training sessions. Each team will teach their lesson at the live training sessions to the other teams.
- Attend the live training sessions for your content area. See information flyer for specific dates.
- Assist your TRY team with identifying places to teach and scheduling teaching sessions.
- Communicate regularly via email with the TRY Coordinator.
- Communicate and check in regularly with your TRY team.
- Guide and assist your TRY team in meeting all TRY program deadlines and expectations.
- Help your TRY team practice each lesson before teaching.
- Attend TRY lessons to observe and evaluate teen teachers. (All virtual programs require a certified adult volunteer to be present.)
- Make sure that your TRY team completes required TRY Forms on time.
- Be a positive role model to your TRY team.

Resources Provided:

- Training and ongoing support from TRY Coordinator and partner organizations.
- All activity supplies needed to teach lessons.
- TRY t-shirt to wear when teaching.

Time Commitment:

- Up to 4 month commitment which includes: training, program delivery and overall program logistics, preparation and evaluation.

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TEENS REACHING YOUTH FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The University of Vermont EXTENSION

Dear [teacher name]:

We will be applying to be **teen teachers** in the TRY 4H20 program. TRY stands for Teens Reaching Youth and it is **a teen-led environmental education program** designed to teach environmental literacy and responsibility to younger youth.

As part of our application we are required to identify two classrooms that are willing to have us teach the TRY lessons between [January 1 – March 31, 2021 or March 1 – May 31, 2021]. **We are hoping that you would allow us to teach your students!**

Let us tell you a little bit about the TRY 4H20 program. The lessons are geared for students in **grades 3-4** and focus on watershed science and understanding water quality issues. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, this program has been modified for the 2020-2021 school year. This year there will be **3 lessons**, approximately 45 minutes each. **We will teach your students virtually – either when they are in the classroom with you or at home.** The lessons have been designed to be engaging, educational and fun for students!

The three lessons, aligned with Next Generation Science Standards as well as support the Common Core Standards, are:

- The Water Cycle
  - *Students will learn about the Lake Champlain Watershed.*
  - *Students will understand the process of the water cycle.*
- Exploring Water Use and Conservation
  - *Students will understand the amount of water their daily activities use.*
  - *Students will learn how to track the water they use.*
- Stewardship-Conserving and Protecting Our Waterways
  - *Students will consider how they can be stewards of a watershed.*
  - *Students will be able to list specific best management practices for keeping water in their everyday lives clean and healthy.*
  - *Students will generate ways of sharing their watershed knowledge.*

Can we set up a time to discuss this further? Our application is due no later than {put either November 2, 2020 for Session 1 or January 15, 2021 for Session 2} so we would need a commitment from you before that date.

Thank you for your consideration!

[Your names and contact information]

Dear [teacher name]:

We will be applying to be **teen teachers** in the TRY Waste Solutions program. TRY stands for Teens Reaching Youth and it is **a teen-led environmental education program** designed to teach environmental literacy and responsibility to younger youth.

As part of our application we are required to identify two classrooms that are willing to have us teach the TRY lessons between [Session 1: January 1 – March 31, 2021 or Session 2: March 1 – May 31, 2021]. **We are hoping that you would allow us to teach your students!**

Let us tell you a little bit about the TRY Waste Solutions program. The lessons are geared for students in **grades 1-3** and focus on the 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle), composting, and Vermont's Universal Recycling Law. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, this program has been modified for the 2020-2021 school year. This year there will be **3 lessons**, approximately 45 minutes each. **We will teach your students virtually** – **either when they are in the classroom with you or at home**. The lessons have been designed to be engaging, educational and fun for students!

The three lessons, aligned with Next Generation Science Standards as well as support the Common Core Standards, are:

- Hey, That's Not Trash!
  - *Students will learn why it's important to reduce, reuse, recycle and compost (rot).*
- Why Reduce and Reuse Matter
  - *Students will understand that reducing waste conserves resources, reduces what goes into the landfill, and is a way to be a good steward of the Earth.*
  - *Students will understand the importance of reusing materials and learn how different items can be reused.*
- Compost Champions and My Waste Solutions!
  - *Students will learn how composting works, specifically for food, while emphasizing the requirements of Vermont's Universal Recycling and Composting law.*
  - *Students will identify action steps that they can take to reduce, reuse, recycle and compost in their lives at school, at home and in Vermont.*

Can we set up a time to discuss this further? Our application is due no later than {put either November 2, 2020 for Session 1 or January 15, 2021 for Session 2} so we would need a commitment from you before that date.

Thank you for your consideration!

[Your names and contact information]

TEENS REACHING YOUTH FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The University of Vermont EXTENSION

This form **must** be completed for all TRY teen teachers.
Please submit completed form with your TRY application.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY and COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS (front and back, use pen)

Youth's Name:_____

Parent/Guardian Name:_____

Phone Number:_____

4-H Program Risk and Release

I, as parent/guardian with legal responsibility for this participant, give permission for my son/daughter to participate in the UVM 4-H Program. I understand that participation may involve certain risks of physical activity and that UVM will provide each participant with due care, but that UVM cannot insure that the participant will remain free of injury. I nonetheless wish to have the participant participate in the UVM 4-H Program and voluntarily assume full responsibility for any risks of loss, property damage or personal injury that may be sustained by the participant, or any loss or damage to property owned by the participant, as a result of participating in the UVM 4-H Program. I, for myself, my heirs, assigns and next of kin, agree to: (i) covenant not to sue UVM and its trustees, employees or agents and indemnify and hold harmless UVM, and its trustees, employees and agents from any and all losses, penalties, damages, settlements, costs or other expenses or liabilities arising out of the participant's participation in the UVM 4-H Program; and (ii) release, waive, and discharge UVM and its trustees, employees and agents, from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions, and causes of action whatsoever arising out of or related to any loss, damage or injury that may be sustained by the participant, or to any property or belongings of the participant, while participating in the UVM 4-H Program. This release, however, is not intended to release UVM from causes of action arising out of the sole negligence of UVM, its trustees, employees or agents. UVM reserves the right to dismiss a participant if in their view, the participant poses a significant safety risk to himself/herself and/or others. I have read this Release of Liability, fully understand its terms, understand that I have given up substantial rights by signing it and sign it freely and voluntarily without any inducement.

Parent/Guardian Signature:_____ Date:_____

- Continued on other side -

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Medical Emergency Authorization

In case of sudden illness or an accident to the above named participant requiring immediate treatment or surgery while he/she is a participant in this activity, I authorize the 4-H staff to take such action as seems appropriate to protect the health and physical well-being of the above participant. This authority extends to any physician(s) and/or surgeon(s) selected by the staff to perform medical and/or surgical procedures including examinations and tests necessary to preserve the health and physical well-being of the above named participant. All efforts will be made to contact the parent(s) or guardian(s) in case of emergency.

Parent/Guardian Signature:_____ Date:_____

If you cannot be reached, we should contact: _____Phone _____

Health Information

The following information is provided to aid staff in dealing with the well-being of your child. The participant has the following health conditions (e.g., allergies, asthma, physical limitations, medications needed, etc.)

Health conditions we should be aware of:

_____

_____

Indicate any activities in which you do not want your child to participate:

_____

*** If any medications (including aspirin) will need to be taken during the program, you will need to complete a Permission for Medication Form.*

Photo Release

At many 4-H programs, photographs and videos are taken of participants. Sometimes these pictures or videos are used to tell people about 4-H and its programs. Pictures or videos may be sent to newspapers or used for brochures, flyers, web pages and social media sites. Photos or videos placed on websites and social media sites will not be accompanied by any personal information about the youth in the photo.

The University of Vermont Extension 4-H Program may use my child's image in print, electronic, and/or video format for publishing in promotional material. I release all claims against the University with respect to copyright ownership and publication including any claim for compensation related to the use of the materials.

❑ Yes, you may photograph or videotape my child and use for promotional purposes.

❑ No, you may not photograph or videotape my child.

4-H GROWS HERE

THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT EXTENSION

VOLUNTEER/PARTICIPANT COVID-19 ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK

The virus that causes COVID-19 is highly contagious. It is possible to develop and contract COVID- 19, even when individuals follow all of the safety precautions recommended by the CDC, the State of Vermont, and the University ("UVM"). UVM Extension is following all coronavirus guidelines issued by the CDC and other experts to reduce the spread of infection. However, by engaging in on- or off-campus activities, UVM program participants can never be completely shielded from all risk of exposure or illness caused by COVID-19 or other infections.

As a volunteer, parent or guardian,

- I will monitor my/ my child's health prior to participation for COVID-19 symptoms, which can include the following: cough, fever, chills, muscle-pain, shortness of breath, sore throat or new loss of taste or smell ("Symptoms").
- I will not participate/allow my child to participate if I/they have Symptoms or have been exposed to someone who has exhibited COVID-19 Symptoms or that has tested positive for COVID-19, or if I/they have a test pending.
- I agree that to the best of my/their ability, I/ my child, will follow all 4-H or other program safety guidelines and will practice safe physical distancing and clean hygiene at all times during their participation in UVM program activities.

By signing this agreement, I acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and voluntarily assume the risk that I/ my child(ren) may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by participating in 4-H/UVM program activities, and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death. I understand that the University requires its employees and students to follow its policies and public health guidelines, but it cannot control the behavior of any particular individual. I further understand the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 while participating in 4-H/UVM program activities may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of myself and others, including, but not limited to, UVM employees, volunteers, and program participants and their families. I voluntarily agree to assume all of the foregoing risks and accept sole responsibility for any injury to me/my child(ren) (including, but not limited to, personal injury, disability, and death), illness, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, of any kind, that I/ my child(ren) may experience or incur in connection with my/my child(ren)'s attendance at 4-H/UVM program activities ("Claims"). I understand that if I/my child(ren) fail to abide by the terms of this acknowledgment, I/my child(ren) may be barred from participation in future 4-H activities in UVM's sole discretion. I will also communicate by email to our UVM contact if/as soon as I become aware that I/my child(ren) is confirmed to have a COVID-19 infection and has participated in a 4-H or other UVM program event in the fourteen (14) days prior to confirmation of the infection and share information that will allow UVM to determine who may have been exposed.

Name of participant/volunteer: _____ Name of parent/guardian: _____

Volunteer/Parent/guardian signature:_____

Date signed: _____

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