



TRY for the Environment



TRY stands for **Teens Reaching Youth** 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 includes five program areas to connect young people to real-world environmental problems allowing them to be key change agents contributing to real-world solutions.

The Teens Reaching Youth program has allowed our students to become experts on energy and sustainability issues. It has enabled them to become agents of change through education. - Don Taylor, Main Street Middle School teacher

TRY consists of five program content areas. You decide which program you want to teach! (More on back.)

→ Each content area consists of 6 different one-hour lessons that are fun, hands-on, and easy to teach!



Energy FUNdamentals highlights wind and sun energy engineering. Grades K-3



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



Food Systems explores the need to protect our soil, seeds, pollinators and climate. Grades 2-4



Forests & Trees investigates the basic concepts of forest & tree stewardship. Grades 2-4



4-H₂O examines the water cycle, watersheds, water quality and health, and aquatic life. Grades 3-4.

These programs are offered in partnership with the following organizations:



www.uvm.edu/extension/youth



TRY for the Environment



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 2-4 teens. All members must be in grades 7-12. (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 8, 2019**.
5. If accepted, your team must be able to attend a training as scheduled below.

	Energy FUNdamentals	TRY 4-H ₂ O	Forests & Trees	Food Systems	Climate Change / Waste Solutions
Training Date (snowdate)	Dec. 3, 2019 (Dec. 6 or 13, 2019)	Dec. 4, 2019 (Dec. 6 or 13, 2019)	Dec. 5, 2019 (Dec. 6 or 13, 2019)	Dec. 11, 2019 (Dec. 13 or 17, 2019)	Dec. 12, 2019 (Dec. 13 or 17, 2019)

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

All trainings will take place at the **Green Mountain Technology and Career Center** (738 Route 15 West, Hyde Park) from **8:30 am—4:00 pm**. You will need permission to miss school and you must stay for the entire training. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

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 Lauren Traister at 1-866-260-5603 x402 no later than November 8, 2019 so we may assist you.



www.uvm.edu/extension/youth

TEENS REACHING YOUTH FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



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 youth on these important topics.

Qualifications and Skills Required:

- Be in grades 7-12 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 things.

Responsibilities:

- Attend the full-day training for your program area. See information flyer for specific dates & location.
- Work with your TRY team to identify youth to teach and schedule your lessons. You will teach the full 6-lesson program to two different groups of at least 15 youth.
- Communicate regularly via email with the TRY Coordinator.
- Meet all deadlines and expectations.
- Meet regularly with your TRY Team and Mentor to prepare and practice lessons before teaching.
- Complete the Teaching Notification Form for each group at least 2 weeks prior to start date. (One per team)
- Complete the Participant Assessment Tally Sheet within one week of the end of each program. (One per team)
- Complete the TRY Volunteer Hours Sheet within one week of the end of each program. (One per team)
- Complete 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.
- Keep track of all TRY activity supplies. Make sure your teaching kit is organized and packed neatly before return.
- All teaching must be finished by May 22, 2020.

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.
- Certificate of Completion for your Personalized Learning Plan.

Time Commitment:

- Up to a 6 month commitment which includes: a full-day training (8 hours), approximately 15 hours of program logistics, preparation and evaluation, and 12 hours of program delivery.

TEENS REACHING YOUTH FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



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 and Skills 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.

Responsibilities:

- Participate in a TRY Mentor Webinar. (See application for dates & times).
- Attend the one-day training for your program area with your TRY team. (See flyer for dates & location).
- Assist your TRY team with identifying places to teach and getting lessons scheduled.
- Communicate regularly via email with the TRY Coordinator.
- Communicate regularly in person 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 at least two TRY lessons to observe and evaluate teen teachers. (You may need to attend more lessons depending on your TRY team.)
- Complete a TRY Mentor Survey at the end of the program.
- Make sure that your TRY team completes required TRY Forms on time.
- Assist your TRY team in keeping track of all activity supplies and organizing their teaching kit before returning.
- 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 6 month commitment which includes: TRY Mentor webinar (1 hour), a full-day training (8 hours), approximately 15 hours of program logistics, preparation and evaluation, and up to 12 hours of program delivery. (Hours may vary depending on your team needs.)



Teen Application 2019-2020

**** Due no later than November 8, 2019 ****

Please rank 1-5, with 1 being your first choice and 5 being your last. We try to match everyone with their first choice but this is not always possible. Only rank those that you are willing to teach.

___ Energy FUNdamentals ___ Climate Change / Waste Solutions ___ Food Systems ___ Forests & Trees ___ TRY 4-H₂O

Print Clearly, Use Pen

Name _____ Gender _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Do you text? (*circle one*) Yes No

Grade (*circle one*) 7 8 9 10 11 12

School (*full name, no abbreviations*): _____

Date of Birth _____ T-shirt Size (*circle one*) Adult SM MED LG XL XXL

Race (*please check*) ___ White ___ Black ___ American Indian ___ Asian ___ Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

___ Decline to Answer Other/Explain: _____

Ethnic Background (*please check*) ___ Non Hispanic ___ Hispanic ___ Decline to Answer

List other TRY team members: (1) _____

(2) _____ (3) _____

TRY team adult advisor: _____

< Turn Page Over for More of the Application >

On a separate sheet of paper, please answer the following questions:

1. Why do you want to be a teen teacher for TRY for the Environment?
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. What skills do you possess that will help you and your team be successful?

Check Here: I have included a letter from my school indicating that they are aware that I will need to miss school on either December 3, 2019 Energy FUNdamentals; December 4, 2019 TRY 4-H₂O; December 5, 2019 Forests & Trees; December 11, 2019 Food Systems; December 12, 2019 Climate Change/Waste Solutions or the scheduled snow dates.

Check Here: I understand that the TRY training is from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm and that I must stay for the entire training.

Check Here: My parents/legal guardian understand that I will miss a full-day of school for the TRY training as well as I may miss some class time if my TRY team decides to teach our lessons during the school day. Options for teaching your lessons include in-school classrooms, afterschool programs, youth groups, vacation camps, library programs, and more.

Check Here: My parents/legal guardian and I have read the TRY Teen Teacher Position Description and understand the commitment I am making if chosen for the TRY program.

Check Here: My parents/legal guardian have signed the TRY Permission Form (front and back) and I have included it with my application.

I have discussed the responsibilities of TRY with my parents and am prepared to fulfill all of the commitments.

Your Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

If you require a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program, please contact Lauren Traister at 866-260-5603 x402 no later than November 8, 2019.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED (not postmarked) NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 8th TO:

UVM Extension
attn: TRY for the Environment
29 Sunset Drive #2
Morrisville, VT 05661

or scan your documents and email to:

Lauren.Traister@uvm.edu

TEENS REACHING YOUTH FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



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 -

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.





Adult Mentor Application 2019-2020

**** Due no later than November 8, 2019 ****

Please rank 1-5, with 1 being your first choice and 5 being your last. We try to match everyone with their first choice but this is not always possible. Only rank those that you are willing to teach.

___ Energy FUNdamentals ___ Climate Change / Waste Solutions ___ Food Systems ___ Forests & Trees ___ TRY 4-H2O

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Do you text? (Circle one) Yes No T-shirt Size (Circle one) Adult SM MED LG XL XXL

List other TRY team members: (1) _____ (2) _____

(3) _____ (4) _____

What is your occupation? _____

On a separate sheet of paper, please answer the following questions:

1. Why do you want to be a mentor for a TRY team?

< Turn Page Over for More of the Application >

Do you currently work in a school or have you completed a background check to work/run programs in a school? (Circle one) Yes No

Check One:

I have included a letter from my school or school district indicating that I have completed a background check to work with youth.

I do not currently have clearance to work with youth and am submitting the 4-H Volunteer Application so that I may work with a TRY Team.

Check Here: I understand that I need to attend a TRY Adult Mentor Webinar and I plan to attend:

(circle one) Jan 7, 3:00-4:00 pm Jan 8, 7:30-8:30 pm Jan 9, 7:00-8:00 pm

Check Here: I am aware that I will need to attend the one-day TRY for the Environment training for my chosen program area with my team on either December 3, 2019 Energy FUNdamentals; December 4, 2019 TRY 4-H₂O; December 5, 2019 Forests & Trees; December 11, 2019 Food Systems; December 12, 2019 Climate Change/Waste Solutions or the scheduled snow dates.

Check Here: I have read the TRY Adult Mentor Position Description and understand the commitment I am making if chosen for the TRY program.

Your Signature _____ Date _____

If you require a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program, please contact Lauren Traister at 866-260-5603 x402 no later than November 8, 2019.

RETURN YOUR APPLICATION TO:

UVM Extension
attn: TRY for the Environment
29 Sunset Drive #2
Morrisville, VT 05661

or scan your documents and email to

Lauren.Traister@uvm.edu



UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT EXTENSION 4-H VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND SCREENING PROCEDURE

While volunteerism is crucial to the success of 4-H, it is a privilege, not a right to be a 4-H volunteer. Because of the influence that volunteers have on youth, it is critical that volunteers be selected so that the integrity of the volunteer efforts can be maintained.

Effective April 15, 2003, University of Vermont Extension implemented a new 4-H volunteer selection policy and procedure that includes a background screening process with the Vermont Criminal Information Center (VCIC). All 4-H volunteers who will work directly with youth will be required to go through the 4-H Screening Process.

4-H Screening Process:

4-H Volunteer Leaders are considered representatives of University of Vermont Extension when carrying out 4-H work, and must adhere to the following procedure when applying to become a 4-H volunteer:

1. Complete the **University of Vermont Extension Volunteer Application form**.
2. Read and sign the **Code of Conduct form**.
3. Complete the **Vermont Child Abuse and Neglect/Adult Protective Services Registry Form**. In addition, please be advised that UVM Extension will also conduct a Vermont Criminal Information Check and the State Coordinator will review any convictions listed, using the volunteer criteria:
 - a. Conviction of a criminal offense will not automatically disqualify the applicant from eligibility for a volunteer position.
 - b. The severity of the crime and length of time since the last conviction will also be considered.
 - c. A history of no convictions doesn't necessarily guarantee applicant a volunteer position.
4. Your **references** will be sent a form to be completed and returned to the Extension Office. If you have resided in Vermont less than one year, at least one reference must be obtained from previous residence and you will be asked to complete an FBI background check which will require fingerprints. Please let your County 4-H Educator know so they can provide you with directions.
5. Meet with the County 4-H Educator to complete an **interview**.
6. Upon acceptance as a 4-H volunteer you will receive an official appointment letter, 4-H volunteer leader card and a copy of your **Code of Conduct**.

Please be advised that 4-H Volunteers are considered mandatory reporters by the State of Vermont and have a legal and ethical obligation to report any suspicions to your local 4-H Educator and to the Department of Child and Family Services.



UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT EXTENSION VOLUNTEER APPLICATION FORM

For office use only: Interview, References, Convictions, RSO, Driver, Approved



Please print in ink, complete both sides, and return to your designated UVM Extension Office

First Name Last Name Preferred Name

Home Phone Cell Phone Work Phone

Email

Address Town Zip

How long have you been at this address? I prefer to receive mailings via Email US Mail

Are you: Hispanic Non-Hispanic Male Female

Residence: On a farm Town < 10,000 Town 10,000 to 50,000

Are you: White Black American Indian Asian Hawaiian & Pacific Islander

If you are in the military, check the branch and the component:

Army Air Force Navy Marine Corps Coast Guard Active, Reserve or Guard? Active Reserve Guard

Are you a 4-H alumni? Yes No

Name(s) of child(ren) currently in 4-H:

Current Employer: Occupation:

Employer Address:

Will you be affiliating with an existing club? If yes, which club?

If not, will you be starting a new club needing assistance to join a club

Why are you interested in volunteering for the University of Vermont Extension 4-H program?

Blank lines for answer to why interested in volunteering

What are your skills, interests and hobbies?

Blank lines for answer to skills, interests and hobbies

With which age groups do you prefer:

Cloverbuds (Ages 5-7) 8-12 years 13-18 No preference

Please list previous volunteer experience (list current or most recent experience first):

Table with columns: Organization, Volunteer Role, Year(s)

HISTORY: Answering “Yes” to these questions is not grounds for automatic rejection. More information may be requested from you before you can be considered a volunteer for University of Vermont Extension 4-H.

1. Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offense? Yes No
2. Have you ever been convicted for sale or use of controlled substances? Yes No
3. Have you ever been charged, investigated or convicted of child neglect/abuse or domestic violence? Yes No
4. Have you ever had your license suspended or driving privileges revoked? Yes No
5. Are you aware of anyone currently sharing a residence with you having been convicted of a felony in the last 10 years? Yes No
6. Are you aware of anyone currently sharing a residence with you having been charged, investigated or convicted of child neglect/abuse or domestic violence? Yes No

If the answers to any of the questions asked above change during the course of your service to 4-H, you are to notify University of Vermont Extension.

REFERENCES: List three (3) persons not related to you who are familiar with your character and qualifications. References will be checked and kept confidential.

1. Name: _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____
Mailing Address: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____
2. Name: _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____
Mailing Address: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____
3. Name: _____ Relationship to Applicant: _____
Mailing Address: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____

I authorize the University of Vermont Extension to contact listed references. I understand that misrepresentation or omission of facts requested in this application is cause for rejection as a 4-H volunteer. I agree to fulfill the responsibilities of this volunteer position to the best of my ability if appointed.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

The following guidelines are to assist volunteers leaders in understanding what conduct is expected while serving in the capacity of a 4-H Volunteer Leader.



CODE OF CONDUCT – University of Vermont 4-H Adult Volunteer Leader

Upon receiving a 4-H Volunteer Leader’s Card, signed by the designated 4-H Extension representative, all 4-H Volunteer Leaders shall:

1. Respect the individual rights, safety, and property of others;
2. Be an active participant in the local volunteer 4-H organization and participate in routine volunteer leader training opportunities and activities;
3. Maintain a courteous and respectful manner, exhibit good sportsmanship, demonstrate reasonable conflict management skills, and act with dignity and pride;
4. Remember that the purpose of 4-H is youth development, and act in a way supportive of the 4-H Youth Development Program and its policies and procedures;
5. Recognize and support the responsibilities of the 4-H program staff in setting program standards, priorities and direction through clear communication and direct feedback;
6. Observe all policies, procedures or practices relating to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status, and any other basis prohibited by law;
7. Make reasonable efforts to provide equal opportunities for youth, to participate in project activities, awards programs and other activities and events; and make reasonable efforts to provide access to 4-H related information;
8. Provide a safe environment, free from sexual harassment, violence, verbal or mental abuse, neglect or other harmful behavior;
9. Abstain from alcohol and/or illegal drugs (or be under the influence thereof) while involved in any 4-H event, meeting or activity;
10. Refrain from the use of tobacco products while involved in any 4-H event, meeting or activity;
11. When acting as a chaperone, never leave the delegation being supervised or the grounds of the 4-H event unless approval is received from the adult in charge of the event or delegation;
12. Forward all lease agreements or use permits with schools or other public or private facilities to the UVM Extension 4-H Office for review and approval;
13. Process any 4-H funds through the local 4-H club, 4-H project group or local 4-H foundation; and keep financial records and make them available for auditing upon request of UVM Extension;
14. When working with animal projects, treat animals in a humane manner and teach program participants appropriate animal care and management;
15. Acknowledge that it is a privilege to represent 4-H Youth Development Programs and act as a positive role model for youth, providing encouragement and support of each member’s self-esteem.



PENALTIES FOR INFRACTIONS

Infractions of the Code of Conduct should be reported by anyone observing them to 4-H Youth Development representatives and/or UVM Extension Administrators. Penalties may include any or all of the following:

1. Discussion with the 4-H leader on the expectations outlined in the code of conduct.
2. Referral to the appropriate law enforcement agency.
3. Termination as a 4-H volunteer leader.

By my signature, I acknowledge receipt of this document and acknowledge that I have read and agree to abide by the guidelines in this document. I understand that my appointment as a 4-H volunteer leader is contingent upon my agreeing to this document and failure to comply with these guidelines may result in termination as a volunteer.

NAME OF 4-H LEADER (Print)

SIGNATURE

DATE



Agency of Human Services

Adult Protective Services, 103 S. Main Street, Ladd Hall, Waterbury, VT 05671-2306
AND

Child Abuse Registry Unit, 103 S. Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-2401

CONSENT FOR RELEASE OF REGISTRY INFORMATION

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____
Street#/Box # Town

Male _____ Female _____ Last 4 digits of your Social Security Number: XXX XX _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of birth (city, state) _____

Other *FIRST* names I have used, if any (i.e. Nicknames, Aliases): _____

Other *LAST* names I have used, if any (i.e. Maiden Names, Aliases): _____

I hereby authorize release of any information of reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation substantiated against me and contained in the **Vermont Adult Abuse Registry** and/or the **Vermont Child Protection Registry** to:

The University of Vermont Extension 4-H

Signature

Date