

## **Project: Berkshire County 4-H Tech Wizards**

**Project Leader: Angelica Paredes**

### **Project Overview**

The 4-H Tech Wizards program is designed to expose youth to technology, help them understand how to better utilize it, have some experiences with it and learn about different possible careers that involve technology. By becoming 4-H members, meeting for a set number of times as a 4-H group with a specific technology focus (using a broad spectrum of options) as a project, youth will learn about that technology as well as participate in community service. Each group will have the opportunity to have a family night where their families are invited to learn and see what the youth has been working on in the group.

### **Activity Summary – 2016**

- After School Workshops (65)
- Club Exhibits (6)
- Community Service Initiatives (5)
- Family Nights (6)

### ***Total Educational contacts***

	Youth Contacts	Adult Contacts
Direct Contacts	408	35
Indirect Contacts (Print, Web, etc...)		

### **Narrative Summary and Impact**

The National Mentoring Project, Berkshire 4-H Tech Wizards program is just that, a mentoring program designed to help youth focus on STEAM related projects in an effort to help them see more possibilities for themselves beyond high school. These youth are learning that there are many ways to have an impact on your community and environment around you, and that learning takes place everywhere. They have become eager to share their knowledge with others, and share how that knowledge helps them along the way.

Parents and family are an important part of every child's life, therefore through this program we try to incorporate the family into the program. We want every child to know that we are there for them to

help them as individuals, with their peers, and with their education. The families should know too that we are there to help them advocate for their child.

All youth are welcome and encouraged to participate in the greater 4-H program.

Highlight:

This year, the North Adams S.W.A.T. Robotics team (Students Winning at Technology) worked collaboratively to design, build, and program a robot using the LEGO NXT platform that would respond to a specific series of tasks. They participated in the Berkshire Robotics Challenge held at Berkshire Community College. The team continued to move up in the rankings, ultimately winning the competition for their first title in the nine years they have entered the event. The team's robot also won the award for Best Mechanical Design.

S.W.A.T was among the 26 Berkshire County teams who competed in this year's challenge with the theme, "Animal Allies." The more than 180 students ages 8 to 14 used programmable robots built from LEGO kits to complete a variety of missions involving hypothetical scenarios that focused on improving interactions between people and animals. The teams scored points based on completing tasks relating to service dogs, milking cows, beekeeping and other animal interaction.

Some quotes:

"Each year they grow as students. They figure out what works and what doesn't." – Team Coach

"We made a robot that would glide along without wheels." 4-H Participant

### **Collaborating Organizations:**

- **URI Extension Outreach**
- **Brattle Farm**