

CROP - CREATING  
RURAL OPPORTUNITIES  
PARTNERSHIP

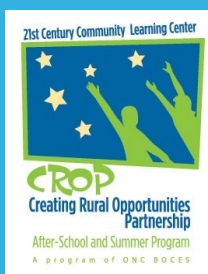
## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

**CROP  
Partnership:  
Hawk Circle  
Wilderness  
Education**

**Updates from all  
fourteen CROP  
sites**

**Loretta  
McCormick After  
School Achieve-  
ment Awards**

**CROP Program  
Successes**



# The Harvester

CROP—CULTIVATING THE MINDS OF TOMORROW

## Program Manager's CROP Corner

Another CROP year is upon us and we couldn't be more excited! Our CROP year will run from September 16- June 19 this year, allowing us to serve families later into June than ever before.

Our All-Staff Training on September 12 was attended by 106 staff members. Thanks to Stamford Central School for hosting! Our guest speaker Amy Huff, Educational Achievement Coordinator from Native American Community Services in Buffalo, delivered a phenomenal keynote address on being "Confident and Comfortable" in working with kids. She also worked with Activity Leaders and high school Peer Leaders in two inspiring breakout sessions.

This year, CROP is excited about two new STEM initiatives including a return to RoboRAVE, an international robotics competition at Oxford Academy and a new partnership with NASA for three of our programs (South Kortright, Hunter, and Jefferson). CROP kids in the NASA program will solve design challenges based upon real mission data and experiences that occur during human and robotic exploration of the solar system. CROP students will videoconference regularly with NASA astronauts and scientists through the year to discuss their proposed solutions.

Finally, we are thrilled to welcome new coordinators at three of our sites this year. Dawn Handy of Worcester, Khristen Balcom of Margaretville, and Jean Barry of Laurens are off to a tremendous start. We are grateful to all of our hardworking, talented staff for their efforts in starting the year on the right foot for our kids!



**Liz Forster** Prog. Manager



**Carolyn Cooper** Asst. Prog. Manager

## Calling all Parents! Support Your CROP Program!

### Attend an Event

In addition to providing a safe, afterschool learning environment for your child, the CROP grant also seeks to connect you with your child's education. This year, attend a CROP event such as your school's Lights On Afterschool Event, a spaghetti dinner, literacy event, Math & Movement night, or Catch Me Cooking with Cornell Cooperative Extension. By supporting CROP events, you demonstrate the importance of funding to our schools.

### Volunteer

Our sites are always looking for parents to volunteer at their child's program. Read a book, assist with homework, teach students how to make a healthy snack, share your experience climbing a mountain, help chaperone for a field trip or an in-classroom presentation, or more! Contact your site coordinator for more information.

### Attend a CROP Advisory Council Meeting

This spring, we will host evening Advisory Council meetings at each of our 14 sites to discuss topics chosen by the Site Coordinators. Last year's topics ranged from student mental health needs to parent engagement, student behavior, and connecting with school-day teachers. We need parent input and advice on all of these topics to make CROP run smoothly! Please watch for more info about these meetings or **contact** Liz Forster at [Lforster@oncboces.org](mailto:Lforster@oncboces.org) to learn more.

# Hawk Circle Summer Camp & Peer Leader Institute



This past June, a group of CROP's high school Peer Leaders attended the first ever Peer Leader Institute at our partner Hawk Circle, in Cherry Valley. The institute was the first of its kind and was designed specifically to develop leadership skills in our high school staff members. Students engaged in variety of mini workshops designed to develop their leadership skills in working with youth in our program while also participating in wilderness activities like fire building and spear hunting.



Later in June, 24 middle schoolers from Andes, Gilboa Jefferson, Laurens, Morris, Hunter, Roxbury, South Kortright, and Worcester attended the annual Hawk Circle summer camp offered to CROP students. Hawk Circle Wilderness Education teaches authentic native skills, crafts and games, offering youth opportunities to experience the natural world in a profound way. CROP kids eagerly anticipate Hawk Circle visits during the program year, because they know they'll experience engaging, hands-on activities that will sharpen their senses, teach them new skills, connect them to the natural world . CROP is grateful for our vibrant ongoing partnership with Hawk Circle in meeting the needs of kids in our program.





## NEWS FROM OUR SITES, PAGES 3– 7

May  
22nd

Checking  
on our  
beds!



Radishes  
(on the right)  
are coming up  
very nicely.

Spinach...  
(on the left)  
not so much.

Maybe they'll  
just take a  
little longer.

### Andes

Fifth through eighth grade students at Andes enjoyed a spring and summer-long greenhouse project. With the help of Activity Leader Grace Bacon and high school science teacher Ed McGee, students prepped garden beds, and planted a variety of greens and vegetables to harvest and serve at school. As a real-world literacy project, students kept digital journals to document the progress of their garden.



### Roxbury

At Roxbury CROP kids love hands-on STEM projects! Here, students make stop motion animation videos with their LEGO creations.

### Hunter-Tannersville

Many of our summer CROP students receive a free, hot meal each and every day through the USDA's Summer Meals program. The meals are open to the public and offered free to children up to age 18. We are grateful to our cafeteria staff who help make this important summer service possible!



To supplement the nutritious meals offered through the cafeteria, CROP kids at Hunter-Tannersville planted and maintained their school garden!

## Worcester

On the **WCS CROP** facebook page, Lauralynn Meiser (Activity Leader Superhero), shared....

*"Our Summer CROP 2019 "Into the Wild" community service project is done! The Nature Trail was started years ago by Mr. Fyfe's science class but had grown in and needed a clean-up. The kids picked up trash, re-raked the trails, and fixed borders. Through lots of hard work, they also made a stump seating area and decided to go a step further and spruce it up a little with some imagination and some paint. They marked the trail, made a fairy and gnome garden and a dinosaur land, and hid a few superheroes off the trail. They painted some rocks, inspirational slates, and made a wood slice chalk board too! One student and her dad even made an amazing log bird-house to add to the trail. At the end of the program, they "revealed" the trail to the other groups and read the three books they wrote and illustrated themselves. They may have come home tired or sore from working at this (and maybe full of bug bites...), but they really made a difference. I hope it was as great of an experience for them as it was for me! At the end, we also had a guest speaker who shared some survival skills and talked about "always being prepared!" The theme Into the Wild has really been a wild experience for us! "*



## Morris

Students at Morris enjoyed fun themes— like The Circus— each week of summer CROP. Social & Emotional Learning was also a focus this summer at Morris CROP. Students in each group were greeted by signs such as the one pictured here to help them better understand and manage their feelings.

## Windham-Ashland-Jewett

Students in the K-1 group are working on math skills this fall with activities including this fun puzzle challenge. Students had to assemble a “backwards” puzzle. Instead of using the image on the front, they had to put it in order based on numbers written on the back. The kindergarteners used a 20-piece puzzle, and the first graders worked on a 36-piece puzzle. This is a great example of a simple, differentiated lesson to reinforce skills based on age.







## Charlotte Valley

CROP kids at Charlotte Valley enjoyed a STEAM Camp as part of their summer program!

## Milford

"The 3rd and 4th grade summer group shared a really funny reader's theatre with the K/1st grade group, cafe staff, CROP staff and school administrators. It was



different scenes of foods being prepared for a nutritious breakfast based on the use of the different types of energy. The 3rd and 4th graders learned about these types of energy prior to creating their solar ovens that they used to make smores. Great job 3rd and 4th graders! Shout out to Peer Leaders Thomas and Emily who helped fill some speaking roles in the plays- you ROCK!" - Jen Dutcher, Site Coordinator



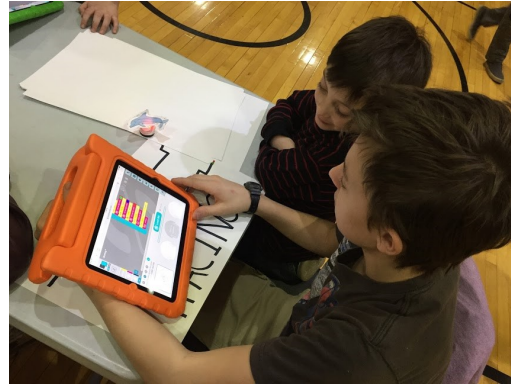
## Laurens

Marie Mish's middle school group at Laurens kept their math skills sharp over the summer with math-based card and dice games.



## Gilboa-Conesville

Gilboa's April CROP Museum highlighted kids' projects from spring clubs. From art projects to inventions and coding, students shared the leadership of planning a event for parents and community members and showed off new skills they learned through hands-on club projects.



## South Kortright

**Pictured right:** Students launch model rockets in commemoration of the Apollo 11 launch anniversary.

In other news, South Kortright's CROP program hosted their annual "Empty Bowls" dinner in June. This event raises awareness about hunger, and families that attended brought non-perishable



food as a donation for the event. Over the summer, these donations, along with some from other sources, were used by students in the 6th-8th grade group to fill backpacks with food to send to needy families each week. As we get back into the school year, activity leader Becky Maeder-Chien continues the service learning by leading a group of students who travel to the Hobart Food Pantry each week to collect and pack food items for the backpacks. Thanks to South Kortright CROP students and staff for making a powerful difference in the community.



## Margaretville

Kindergarteners at Margaretville enjoy books in the summer program's quiet reading room.



## Jefferson

Jefferson's summer CROP middle schoolers loved their Little Crop on the Prairie theme; they sewed simple bags, made their own bread and homemade butter, and practiced math facts on slates.



## Stamford

Summer CROP students at Stamford enjoyed a field trip to Via Aquarium in Schenectady as part of their animal research projects. Students loved seeing firsthand the animals they learned about during their safari animal "guess who?" They were given facts about different animals that lived in the safari. They had to draw what they thought the animal looked like and then they were given fact sheets about the animals. — Tish Voorhees, Stamford Site Coordinator



## Loretta McCormick After School Achievement Awards

Last June, CROP presented the fifth annual Loretta McCormick After School Achievement Awards. Recipients at the CROP-wide level are pictured at right and below.

Nominees at the individual school level were as follows:

**Student Participants:** Delaney Coveny, Morris Central School; Allyson Kappel, Alexis Legg, and Lizet Molina-Rodriguez, Hunter Tannersville Central School, and Trevor Romano, Charlotte Valley Central School.

**High School Peer Leaders:** Anna Bell, Laurens Central School; Sophia Biagini, South Kortright Central School; Kyle Blake, Morris Central School; Donald Fahrenkopf, Roxbury Central School; Chazden Ford, Gilboa-Conesville Central School; Megan Paradis, Hunter-Tannersville Central School; Maya Powers, Worcester Central School; and Robert Williams, Jefferson Central School.

**Adult Professionals:** Julie Bright- Activity Leader, Stamford Central School; Alison Gridley- Site Coordinator, Worcester Central School; Kristi Hadden- Site Coordinator, Roxbury Central School; Shaylyn MacCracken- Activity Leader, Charlotte Valley Central School; Marie Mish- Activity Leader, Laurens Central School; Joanna Rappleyea- Activity Leader, Worcester Central School; Virginia Robinson- Activity Leader, Morris Central School; and Diane Turner- Site Coordinator and Activity Leader, Morris Central School.

**About Loretta McCormick:** Loretta McCormick was a dedicated and inspiring leader of the ONC BOCES Creating Rural Opportunities Partnership (CROP) Program. She was well known for her enthusiasm and commitment to the CROP Program. She worked hard to see CROP realize its vision of excellence in the after-school program so that all students can learn, achieve and have the confidence to succeed in our ever changing world. These awards are named in her honor.

**2020 Award Details:** Parents, school staff, and the public are welcome to submit nominations each year. Nomination forms for our sixth annual awards will be available in February 2020 on our website [oncboces.org/LorettaMcCormickAwards.aspx](https://oncboces.org/LorettaMcCormickAwards.aspx)



*Jennifer Dutcher, Site Coordinator Recipient, Milford*



*Dominick Bolster,  
Student Participant  
Recipient, Laurens*



*Faelynn Mickel, Peer  
Leader Recipient,  
Charlotte Valley*



*Denise Rossman, Activity  
Leader Recipient, Hunter  
-Tannersville*



# Evidence of CROP Program Success

One of the requirements of our grant is that we receive an evaluation from an external evaluator each year. Bluepoint Consulting performs 56 site visits each year and analyzes surveys, attendance data, and other outcome data for this report. Our 2018-2019 report from Bluepoint Consulting concluded:

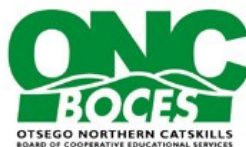
“The CROP Programs offer a large variety of engaging lessons and activities that help students increase academic achievement and develop skills of social and personal responsibility while improving emotional well-being. Students report satisfaction with CROP programming as 84% reported finding CROP activities interesting while over 87% tried at least two new things during the year. Parents also felt CROP was beneficial to their students as 99% reported that CROP is a safe environment for their children, 93% reported they felt that CROP helped their students do better in school, and 91% saw an improvement in their students’ grades. Teachers also report a positive impact on their students who participate in CROP, with 80% reporting a slight, moderate, or significant increase in academic performance. CROP participants also saw an increase in grades between the first and fourth quarter as 60% of students that needed to improve in English Language Arts did improve by the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, and 57% of students that needed to improve in math improved their math grades. The Evaluation Team of Bluepoint Consulting concludes with certainty that CROP programming is having a discernible and measurable positive impact on the academic and social performance of CROP participants.”

21st Century Community Learning Center



**CROP**  
Creating Rural Opportunities  
Partnership

After-School and Summer Program



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