



## News from the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders

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### Students ‘Shadow’ County Staff

**SOMERVILLE** – The Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the 4-H Youth Development Program of Rutgers Cooperative Extension recently co-sponsored “4-H Careers & County Government Day” in celebration of National Job Shadowing Day. The program is held roughly every two years in Somerset County.

About 125 students in sixth, seventh and eighth grades from around the county spent part of the day “shadowing” employees and managers of various county divisions to learn how day-to-day government works and to explore career opportunities.

“‘4-H Careers & County Government Day’ is an opportunity for area youth to learn firsthand the ins and outs of county government and the many services, programs and activities offered by the county,” said Freeholder Director Peter S. Palmer. “Job shadowing helps kids make realistic career choices as they personally explore the skills and education needed to work in a particular field.”



Somerset County Freeholder Director Peter S. Palmer welcomes close to 125 students in sixth, seventh and eighth grades for ‘4-H Careers and County Government Day.’ Students visited divisions to learn how day-to-day government works and to explore career opportunities. The program, which is held roughly every two years, is co-sponsored by the Board of Freeholders and Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

The day’s activities began with a welcome by Freeholder Director Peter S. Palmer. After the morning orientation, students went to their respective divisions.

The Planning Division took students to the Recycling Center for a tour. After lunch students participated in a workshop to discuss energy conservation and renewable energy facilities. They learned about the newly formed Energy Council and ways to “go green” in the home and office.

**Peter S. Palmer, Freeholder Director \* Rick Fontana, Freeholder Deputy Director  
Robert Zaborowski, Freeholder \* Jack M. Ciattarelli, Freeholder \* Patricia L. Walsh, Freeholder**  
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The Division of Consumer Affairs/Weights and Measures brought students to a local gas station and oil company to check the accuracy of their pumps and trucks using special meters. They also went to a local mall to check scanners.

Several students went to the Raritan Senior Center, where they played games with the seniors, lunched, and learned about working with older adults and the county Office on Aging.

At the Public Information Office, students wrote a press release and operated a digital camera. They worked with a graphic artist to create a flier using photos they had taken and then printed it at the county print shop.

The Prosecutor's Office brought students on a tour of the Somerset County Jail and Evidence Room. They also visited the courthouse and sat in on several court matters, including a motion for a new trial and criminal arraignments.

Students visiting the Traffic Safety Division learned how to make traffic signs.

The Sheriff's Office presented fingerprinting and K-9 Unit demonstrations, while the Police Academy offered practical training in drill and ceremony marching and unarmed defense.

At the Park Commission Lord Stirling Stable, students were divided into three groups and rotated between the program coordinator, stable manager and stable supervisor. They learned about the various activities and programs at the stable, staffing, horses and daily tasks of running a stable. They also had hands-on experience in mucking stalls and grooming horses.

And for those students interested in becoming park rangers, students visited various parks. The rangers showed them how to measure ice thickness on a pond and how to inspect a playground.

At the Vocational and Technical Schools, students visited the cosmetology, printing, plumbing, horticulture and culinary arts departments. They received manicures, viewed T-shirt silk screening, saw how plumbing fixtures are installed, observed how recipes are prepared in the culinary classrooms and saw a floral arrangement demonstration. They sampled foods and toured the greenhouse.

Last but not least, students visited the planetarium, computer department and facilities and grounds division at Raritan Valley Community College.