



Pinellas County 4-H Clover Quarterly News

November 6, 2017

District IX 4-H Canoe Coastal Cleanup Event

District IX 4-H meeting will be at Weedon Island on December 2 from 12pm-3:30pm. We will have a talk about microplastics, snack and board meeting, followed by a service project of canoe cleanup of the mangroves. Anyone interested in getting more involved in a youth leadership position at a higher level, this is a great opportunity. Two-for-one event with leadership and service opportunities for the scholarship application! This year's statewide service project is L.I.F.E., so this project ties in perfectly with the environmental theme. This event will be free and open to the public for people that don't know about 4-H. We will be rotating the district meetings around this district, and we are first to host- thanks to our own Brighton from Earth Explorers who is serving on the district board this year. He has planned this entire event, and we are very excited! Stay tuned through our Facebook page for the Eventbrite to RSVP.

BARNES & NOBLES GIFT WRAPPING FUNDRAISER

On December 16, 2017 the Pinellas County 4-H Association will be fundraising through a donation only gift wrapping station at Barnes & Noble in Clearwater.

The Association is looking for volunteers to help with this fundraising project.

We need:

Gift wrappers

4-H members to present demonstrations in store
4-H members to read during Storytime

For more information please email association member Ms. Tina Allen at tinaallengifted@gmail.com

Location:
23654 US 19 North
Clearwater, FL 33765

Editorial

I can't believe the 2017-2018 4-H year is already well underway! We are so excited for all that we have coming up this year. Since the last year was a huge success in Pinellas County 4-H, I can't wait to see what we will accomplish this time around. Looking back on last year, I am so happy that so many people participated in County Events in Demonstrations and Share-the-fun, and would love to see even more participation this year. Many members moved up to districts some even to state and nationals. Pinellas County 4-H members competed and placed in many other events, such as photography, Marine and Forest Ecology, poetry contests, and more. I cannot express how proud I am of not only all the 4-H members, but also the incredible 4-H volunteers that make all these clubs and programs possible. I am especially proud of all of the volunteers that participated in the brand new SPARK Academy volunteer project leader training program. We now have a group of trained project leaders that can assist in schools, clubs, etc. I know they will be doing great things this year. Another huge thank you to the 4-H Association for fundraising and providing scholarships to the 4-H members. In order to meet our fundraising goal this year, we need to see more club participation at the county-wide fundraisers. This year, I would like more senior 4-H members to participate in the many state programs offered to seniors, such as 4-H Legislature, 4-H University, and overnight camping counselors. These are awesome opportunities for seniors and have been underutilized the past few years. Please consider these events, especially because the 4-H Association offers full scholarships to people competing at 4-H University who won best in division at District Events. All of these are great leadership opportunities and a great way to visit some of Florida's universities. I know this year will not be without challenges, with the budget cuts and storms impacting us. However, the Pinellas County 4-H family is strong and will continue to accomplish amazing things despite the challenges. Here's to the best 4-H year yet!

Alyssa Bowers

4-H Agent

Pinellas County 4-H Youth & Development Program
UF/IFAS Extension

An Equal Opportunity Institution. UF/IFAS Extension, University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Single copies of UF/IFAS Extension publications (excluding 4-H and youth publications) are available free to Florida residents from county UF/IFAS Extension offices.

4-H Club Reports



An Action-Packed Year for Garden & Rabbit Clubs

by George Avlonitis, 4-H Volunteer Club Co-Leader

Wow, what a full 2016-17 year it was for the Ochs 4-H Garden Club and the Hip Hoppers 4-H Rabbit Club! These are like “sister clubs” because they meet at the same location in Largo, have many of the same members and leaders, and do a lot together.

Ochs had a nice group of 4-H’ers who put most of the garden plots to good use with many delicious vegetables and herbs, a community plot of potatoes, and a lovely butterfly garden. The Hip Hoppers really enjoyed their rabbits and learned a lot about caring for rabbits and presenting them at fairs.

Both groups had good participation in the core 4-H activities, completing projects and giving presentations at both county and district Demonstration Days. But a few things made this year special: personal growth, relationships developed, and community service. All told, the 4-H’ers in these two clubs contributed 230 community service hours that were directly related to 4-H. These included helping at 4-H summer camps, promoting 4-H at local fairs, and fundraising for 4-H.

Horse-N-Around At The Mane Event

Leaders: Andrea Gabel, Sue Greenberg



Horse-N-Around At The Mane Event is a Pinellas County 4-H club that focuses on Horses. We strive to help youth between 8-18 years old who either own or lease a horse improve their leadership skills, build confidence, and learn how to work well as a team. They improve these skills by participating in Demonstration Day, planning club events, and volunteering with our other club, Kiddy Up.





4-H Club Reports

4-H EARTH EXPLORERS

Pinellas County Earth Explorers have had a busy 2016-17 year with 4-H. This was the first year for the club and they tackled it like old pros. All youth completed The Fins and Scales Marine Book and the Reach for the Canopy forestry book. The kids worked hard towards their goals and 100% of the youth achieved! We are especially proud of our two young Cloverbuds, Ellis G. and Wesley W. who also completed 2 project books and brought joy and laughter to our meetings.

We spent the fall studying marine life and learning all about vertebrates, invertebrates and marine and coastal plants. Junior Team members Emmerson R., Jocelyn W., Meleah G, and Wyatt G. received 2nd place in the state level Marine Ecology contest in November 2016. Emmerson R. received 2nd place junior at the state contest as well. Several youths received awards for Marine Photography.

After the holidays the focus turned to forest ecology. Youth lead meetings on different aspects of our natural world. We all learned how to measure our pace, read topographical maps, and learned to identify hundreds of trees, plants and animals.

The junior team did it again at the Forest Ecology contest and took 1st place in the state of Florida. The intermediate team of Miriam W., Brighton R., Anastasia G, and Dominic F took third place in the state contest as well. Brighton R and Emmerson R both received 2nd place for their age group in the state. Many youths were recognized for the new Forest Ecology Poetry contest as well. We have some talented young writers in this club!

4-H club members hosted four community service projects to help our environment. They cleaned beaches and parks and learned about giving back to those in need with the October Sock Drive event. Our intermediates shared their passion for 4-H at numerous events like the Pinellas Country Fair, community fall festivals, St. Petersburg

Discover something new with the Brooker Creek Explorers!

The Brooker Creek Explorers 4-H Club is a general interest group that meets monthly from September to May. The club is hosted by Pinellas County's Brooker Creek Preserve in Tarpon Springs.

Explorers work both independently and collaboratively during the year. Annually, a member selects a project of focus based on his or her own interests. These projects are planned, executed, and completed independently to strengthen self-motivation, responsibility, and discipline. During the monthly meetings, members lead an activity or demonstrate a skill from their projects. Skills such as problem solving and teamwork are emphasized when together as a club.

The preserve also offers youth programs before each meeting to support environmental education. Open to the public as well, these programs help enhance project learning or give an opportunity to explore new interests. New members will find multiple opportunities for public speaking, service, and leadership for growth and to contribute to the club. "My favorite part of 4-H is spending time with my friends. At Brooker Creek, we get to do different stuff, like seeing tadpoles and going on hikes", explained Annie Fox. Her brother Paul said, "It was a fun and good experience designing a poster for the Pinellas Country Fair."

In the past year, the club conducted multiple community service projects, ranging from refugee relief kits to cleanup of the Preserve. The club also participated in the National Youth Science Day and the county's project Demonstration Day. This year the club plans to compete in the State Horticulture Contest and Share-the-Fun talent events.



DROID FACTORY WORKSHOP

SATURDAY JANUARY 13, 2018

9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

PINELLAS COUNTY EXTENSION

For youth ages 8 to 13

Registration Fee: \$10.00

For more information contact **Mr. H** at
shernandez2@pinellascounty.org

Pinellas County 4-H 2017-18 Calendar of Events

December 1 st - 3 rd	Leadership Adventure Weekend @ Camp Timpoochee
December 2 nd	District IX Meeting @ Weedon Island 12pm
December 9 th	4-H/FFA Horse Judging School, Gainesville
December 9 th	State Indoor Archery Match @ Easton Newberry Sports
December 10 th	Gift and Plant Sale @ Florida Botanical Gardens, 10am-4pm
December 16 th *	Barnes and Noble Gift Wrapping Fundraiser, B&N Clearwater and online
January 13 th	Star Wars Droid Factory Robotics, 9am-3pm @ PCE
January 17 th	4-H Association Meeting, 6:30pm @ PCE
January 20 th	State Insectathon Competition
January 19 th -21 st	Second Executive Board @ Camp Cherry Lake
January 27 th	4-H State Archery 3D Match @ Easton Newberry Sports
February 8 th -19 th	Florida State Fair
February 10 th	4-H State Fair Showcase
February 10 th	Florida State Fair horse and livestock judging practice
February 17 th	Traditional Archery Match @ Easton Sports Complex
February TBD	Ranch Horse Clinic
February 22 nd	4-H Day at the Capitol
March 10 th	Horse Judging Reasons Workshop, Gainesville
March 16 th - 18 th	Third Executive Board @ Camp Cherry Lake
March 17 th	Wonder Women of Science, 9am-3pm @ PCE
March 24 th	State Archery Match @ Easton Newberry Sports
March TBA	National 4-H Conference in Washington D.C.
March TBA *	Demonstration Day and Share the Fun @ Pinellas County Extension