

Notes:

# Constitution of the Gadsden County



## 4-H Program

(Adopted 02/22/2011)

## **Constitution of the Gadsden County 4-H Program**

We, the members, of the Gadsden County 4-H Program promote youth development through learn-by-doing experiences do hereby establish the Constitutional by-laws for the Gadsden County 4-H Youth Development Program in accordance to Federal, State, and County guidelines.

### **Vision**

Florida 4-H aspires to be the leading youth development program that creates positive change in youth, families, and communities.

### **Mission**

Florida 4-H creates supportive environments for diverse youth and adults to reach their fullest potential.

### **Article I**

#### **Name, Scope, Emblem, Slogan, Motto, and Colors**

- Section 1. **Name and Scope:** The name of this organization shall be the Gadsden County 4-H Program. This program shall operate according to Federal and State 4-H program guidelines in conjunction with county specific guidelines to help Gadsden County youth and adults reach their fullest potential.
- Section 2. **Emblem:** The four-leaf clover with the letter “H” in each leaflet representing the equal training of the Head, Heart, Hands, and Health and signifying “Good Luck” and Achievement shall be the official symbol of the Gadsden County 4-H Program.
- Section 3. **Slogan:** Learn by Doing” is the official 4-H slogan.

Gadsden County Extension  
Website

[gadsden.ifas.ufl.edu](http://gadsden.ifas.ufl.edu)

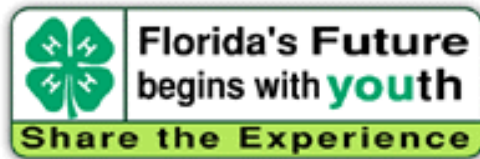
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## The 4-H Pledge

I Pledge  
my Head  
to clearer thinking,  
my Heart  
to greater loyalty,  
my Hands  
to larger service, and  
my Health  
to better living, for my club,  
my community, my country,  
and my world.



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- Section 4. **Motto:** “To Make the Best Better” is the official 4-H motto.
- Section 5. **Colors:** The 4-H colors are green and white. The white represents purity. The green represents nature’s most common color and it represents youth, life, and growth.

### Article II

#### Membership types, General participation

4-H is open to all youth (5-18) regardless of race, color, creed, ethnic origin, physical handicap, gender, or economic status.

- Section 1. **Membership Types:** Youth can be members in 4-H via a community club, school club, after school club, At-large, or Military 4-H.
- Section 2. **General Participation:** Youth who are not registered 4-H members can participate in 4-H programs that are designated open to public.

### Article III

#### Club operations and member guidelines

- Section 1. **Club operations:**
- Each club shall be organized and lead by trained adult volunteers in accordance to Federal, State, and County guidelines.
  - 4-H clubs shall operate by established State and County guidelines and according to Federal Affirmative Action Guidelines.
  - Each club shall elect officers according to County guidelines

- d. Fundraising must be pre-approved by County 4-H Agent according to county guidelines.
- e. Clubs can set specific guidelines relating to earning of additional benefits such as club jackets, trips, etc. as long as all youth receive documentation outlining how they can earn these additional benefits when they join the club. Proposed guidelines must be submitted to County 4-H Agent for approval prior to club vote.
- f. Clubs should meet at least 8 times a year to conduct business, and do a community service project.
- g. Business meetings shall be conducted following County guidelines.

Section 2.

**Member guidelines:**

- a. As a club member, youth have equal opportunities to help their club succeed.
- b. Youth can vote if present at meetings.
- c. All Gadsden County Club officers that miss more than 3 meetings (excused or not) can be removed from office by club leader and County 4-H Agent.
- d. If a 4-H member violated Florida's Code of Conduct, a review panel will be assembled to determine the consequences. Youth can be expelled indefinitely from 4-H if a severe violation occurs.
- e. If a 4-H member, who is a club or County Council officer, is suspended for violation of the Florida Code of

**4-H Saddle Club Membership Guidelines**

1. General membership (also refer to overall 4-H rules)
  - Members can participate in any open 4-H gathering or event.
  - Members can come to meetings.
  - Receive a jacket after 3 years of membership.
2. Member in good standing
  - Attend at least 7 meetings during the year.
  - Participate in fund-raising.
  - Participate in community service.
  - Benefits include receiving a jacket after two years of membership.
  - Benefits include use of club funds for show fee, field trips, etc.
3. Stellar member
  - Attend a minimum of 10 meetings per year with pre-arranged excused absence for other two meetings.
  - Meet all requirements for member in good standing.
  - Benefits include earning a jacket after one year of membership.

Approved by the 4-H Office on February 14, 2005

These rules can be changed by a majority vote and approval from the 4-H Office.

## Appendix

### Individual Club Guidelines

Specific guidelines are set by each club and approved by the 4-H Office.

You should read these additional guidelines to understand the criteria for extra club benefits or privileges.

Conduct, they will be removed from all offices and can not return after serving suspension but can continue to be a 4-H member for the remaining 4-H Year. Eligibility to hold an office the next 4-H year will be determined by Club leader and County 4-H Agent.

- f. Select a Project Area (no more than 3) and submit a completed project book(s) by set deadline.

#### **Article IV Volunteers**

Section 1.

##### **Volunteers:**

- a. Volunteer types and roles and responsibilities shall be established according to Federal and State guidelines.
- b. Volunteers must be at least 20 years of age. Senior level 4-H youth can be junior leaders for their clubs. (change 20 to 21)
- c. Prospective volunteers will be screened according to State and County 4-H guidelines.
- d. Volunteers can be terminated for not meeting up to agreed upon responsibilities, unsafe and/or unlawful conduct.

#### **Article V Committees**

Section 1.

##### **Advisory Committee:**

- a. There will be a functioning 4-H Advisory Committee that will meet at least twice a year to provide guidance for the Gadsden County 4-H program.

- b. Members shall serve 2 years.
- c. A rotational system will be used to replace Advisory Committee members once their term is up.

Section 2. **Expansion and Review:** This committee will be formed once a year by combining the Advisory and County Council to examine current club boundaries, and future areas of club expansions.

Section 3. **Special Committees:** These committees will be formed on an as need basis and dissolved once tasks have been completed.

**Article VI  
Parliamentary Procedures**

Section 1. The most recent edition of Robert’s Rules of order shall be the authority on all points of Parliamentary Procedures not otherwise specified in the constitution or standing rules of the council.

**Article VII  
Amendments**

Section 1. 4-H Advisory Committee must be notified three weeks prior to vote dates about an Amendment to the Constitution.

**Article VIII  
Ratification**

Section 1. Ratification (acceptance) of this constitution will be by a majority of the votes of board members present.

**IX  
Scholarships/Sponsorships**

Having a written procedure is very important for access, equity, and opportunity. This procedure will be followed for monies donated to Gadsden 4-H program or special events that are not designated for a specific youth. If youth is unable to attend camp, monies will be allocated to other youth based on the following guidelines:

- a. Economic need: This will be based on the income eligibility form submitted as part of the camp packet. Partial or whole scholarships may be awarded.
- b. Number of children from household attending camp.
- c. If extra donated funds are available for camping, then across the board scholarships will be applied to offset the cost of residential camp for all attendees.  
(Note: Camp counselors and counselors-in-training already receive a discounted price. Scholarships will go to regular campers first then any extra can be applied to counselors or counselors-in-training.)
- d. All other non-designated money will be used to support the Gadsden County 4-H Program.