

100



words every
Florida 4-H'er
should **know**

Florida 4-H

Youth Development Program

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Gainesville, FL 32611

www.florida4h.org

UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA
IFAS Extension



Florida 4-H Centennial

It all began in 1909 when corn clubs were organized for boys in Alachua, Bradford and Marion counties by J.J. Vernon, University of Florida dean of agriculture. Extension agents began teaching youth how to increase the production of corn on farms. In 2009, Florida 4-H celebrates its 100th birthday, themed, "Florida 4-H: A Century of Youth Success." Nationally, 4-H celebrated its century anniversary in 2002.



4-H Basics



Essential Elements of 4-H

Research has shown that youth need specific essential elements in order to develop into competent, contributing and caring adults. To simplify this concept, 4-H describes these as the essential elements of 4-H and incorporates these concepts into the activities and projects of youth.

The benefits of 4-H are evident through gaining practical life skills and intangible values. In 4-H, we categorize these values in four categories: belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity. Through these four elements, youth will gain:

Belonging

- » Positive Relationship with a Caring Adult
- » An Inclusive Environment
- » A Safe Environment

Mastery

- » Opportunities for Mastery
- » Engagement in Learning

Independence

- » Opportunities to See Oneself as an Active Participant in the Future
- » Opportunities for Self-determination

Generosity

- » Opportunities to Value and Practice Service to Others

The Essential Elements were developed by Dr. Cathann Kress, former director, Youth Development, 4-H National Headquarters, the former CSREES, USDA.

As of October 2009, the CSREES changed to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).



What do the four H's stand for?

Head

This represents mental development, a deeper knowledge and ability to reason. I train my head to think, plan and reason.

"I pledge my head to clearer thinking."

Heart

This represents emotional development, and developing interest, appreciation, and wholesome attitudes.

I train my heart to be true, kind and sympathetic.

"I pledge my heart to greater loyalty."

Hands

This "H" represents skill development, along with the ability to do, and habit of doing something well.

I train my hands to be useful, helpful and skillful.

"I pledge my hands to greater service."

Health

This represents physical development through understanding and appreciating a growing and changing body.

I train my body to render ready service, health and vitality.

"I pledge my health to better living."

"For my club, my community, my country and my world."



4-H Emblem

The official 4-H emblem is a green four-leaf clover with four white H's in the leaves. The H's stand for head, heart, hands and health.

The first emblem design was a three-leaf clover, introduced by O.H. Benson, sometime around 1907. From the beginning, the three "H's" signified Head, Heart and Hands. In 1911, Benson referred to the need for four H's -- suggesting that they stand for "Head, Heart, Hands, and Hustle. . ." "head trained to think, plan and reason; heart trained to be true, kind and sympathetic; hands trained to be useful, helpful and skillful; and the hustle to render ready service, to develop health and vitality. "

In 1911, 4-H club leaders approved the present 4-H emblem design. O.B. Martin is credited with suggesting that the H's signify Head, Heart, Hands and Health. It was universally accepted and has remained the same. The 4-H emblem was patented in 1924 and in 1939 Congress passed a law protecting the use of the 4-H name and emblem. In 1948, the law was slightly revised. It is protected under federal code 18 U.S.C. 707.

Every time the 4-H emblem is used, in graphic, "18 U.S.C. 707" must appear next to it.



Florida 4-H Youth Development

Florida 4-H Youth Development Program is the name of the 4-H program in Florida. The Florida 4-H program is administered through the Florida Cooperative Extension System at both University of Florida and Florida A & M University.

Florida 4-H staff, faculty and volunteers work with youth to develop positive opportunities, choices, and relationships and give the support necessary for youth to better interact in their communities.

The Florida 4-H program is headquartered in Gainesville, FL at the University of Florida.



4-H Projects

Projects are the primary tools used to help youth develop life skills. 4-H members begin by exploring their interests. The 4-H member decides what they want to learn and do as they explore their project. This allows the project to be self-paced, and gives youth important skills in setting and working toward their goals.

There are numerous projects available to Florida 4-H members. Florida 4-H project categories include: animal science, family and consumer sciences, communication and expressive arts, plant sciences, healthy lifestyles, leadership development, environmental sciences, career development, science and technology, career development and discovering 4-H.



Diversity

Florida 4-H encourages diversity among staff, faculty, volunteers and youth participants. All programs and related activities sponsored for, or assisted by, the Institute of Food and Agricultural Services (IFAS) are open to all persons without discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, and political opinions or affiliations.



4-H Mission

The Florida 4-H mission statement is: Florida 4-H creates supportive environments for diverse youth and adults to reach their fullest potential.



4-H Vision

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



4-H Motto

"To make the best better."



4-H Slogan

"Learn-by-doing"



4-H Colors

The 4-H colors are green and white. The white symbolizes purity. The green, nature's most common color, stands for life, springtime and youth.



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."

Otis Hall, State Leader of Kansas, was responsible for the original wording of the 4-H pledge, officially adopted by the State 4-H Leaders at the first National 4-H camp in 1927. The pledge remained unchanged until 1973, when it was revised to include "and my world."



4-H Creed

I believe in 4-H Club work for the opportunity it will give me to become a useful citizen.

I believe in the training of my HEAD for the power it will give me to think, plan and to reason.

I believe in the training of my HEART for the nobleness it will give me to be kind, sympathetic and true.

I believe in the training of my HANDS for the ability it will give me to be helpfull, skillful and useful.

I believe in the training of my HEALTH for the strength it will give me to enjoy life, resist disease and to work efficiently.

I believe in my country, my state and my community and in my responsibility for their development.

In all these things I believe, and am willing to dedicate my efforts to their fulfillment.



Florida 4-H Participation Form

This form is required by all members - youth and adults - for participation in all Florida 4-H events. It is kept on file at the county Extension office and is used when registering for events. It's the responsibility of the 4-H member and parent/guardian to keep this information up-to-date.



Age Divisions

Age divisions are important in the structure of Florida 4-H programs, competitions and events, because youth develop mentally, physically and socially at different stages. To ensure youth learn in a safe environment, youth are grouped by aged divisions. Generally, age divisions for most events and activities are the following:

Cloverbud (Ages 5-7 as of September 1st of the current 4-H year.)

Cloverbuds may exhibit or share project activities at a participation level (for feedback), and receive participation awards. Cloverbuds are ineligible to participate in competitive activities at any level.

Junior (Ages 8-10 as of September 1st of the current 4-H year.)

The junior division is the first opportunity youth can compete and participate in large animal projects or activities.

Intermediate (Ages 11-13 as of September 1st of the current 4-H year.)

This age group was reinstated as an age group in 2006.

Senior (Ages 14-18 as of September 1st of the current 4-H year.)

Senior level 4-H participation in Florida ends on their 19th birthday or graduation from high school, whichever comes first. Senior 4-H'ers have the opportunity to apply for scholarships to compete at state and national events.



4-H Program Year

In Florida, the 4-H year starts September 1 and ends August 31 of the following year. Each year, 4-H'ers and volunteers are required to enroll and complete a new participation form.



www.Florida4H.org

This is the web site address for the state's Florida 4-H program. Resources available at this address include a state calendar of events, project resources, clipart downloads, links to county Extension offices and much, much more.



4-H Flag

The 4-H flag is a white flag with the 4-H emblem in green. The 4-H pledge is recited in the presence of the 4-H flag.



Florida 4-H County Program



4-H Clubs

Clubs are the foundation of Florida 4-H. A 4-H club is a group of five or more youngsters guided by one or more volunteer adults. A 4-H club has a planned program that is ongoing throughout all or most of the year, and can meet in any location. Each club elects officers. In order for a club to use the 4-H name and emblem, it must be chartered through the county Extension office.

4-H charters, either in certificates or letter form, are required for any group to: 1) use the 4-H name and emblem and 2) be included in the tax-exempt status of 4-H. All 4-H clubs/groups, organized on either a formal or informal basis, using the name and emblem of 4-H must have some type of written evidence that recognizes them as part of the 4-H program conducted by the Cooperative Extension Service.

Florida has established criteria for enrolling as an official 4-H Club. Clubs must be chartered through a request to the local Extension Office, meeting the minimum criteria and a signature request for a charter. Official enrollment as a 4-H Club or receipt of a 4-H Club Charter gives the club the authority to use the 4-H name and emblem.

4-H clubs are organized and supported to provide community-based, positive, structured learning opportunities for youth during their developmental years. Kids in 4-H clubs participate in a wide variety of fun projects, based on members' interests. 4-H members build life skills like decision-making, communication, citizenship, and leadership. They also meet new friends, and--most important--have lots of fun!



4-H Afterschool

4-H Afterschool is a national initiative that is designed to increase the quality of after- school programs for millions of children in communities across America.



4-H In the Classroom

Also known as 4-H school enrichment, 4-H In the Classroom is a great tool for teachers who would like to incorporate 4-H activities and Extension researched-based curriculum into the classroom.



District Events

Florida 4-H has 13 districts. To compete at a district event, a 4-H'er has to first compete and qualify at their county level. County competitions qualify youth to compete at district events.



State Programs & Events



Florida 4-H/Tropicana Public Speaking Program

The Florida 4-H/Tropicana Public Speaking Program is an educational program aimed at teaching young people the techniques of effective public speaking. This educational program for 4th, 5th and 6th grade students is taught by classroom teachers and is incorporated into the established school curriculum. Although the contest varies by each county, winners are given a scholarship to attend 4-H summer camp.

The 4-H/Tropicana Public Speaking Program grew from a program established in 1952 by Mrs. Inez Pettigrew, a teacher at Palm View Elementary in Palmetto, Florida. When Tropicana adopted the program in 1969, the company associated the program with a local 4-H program. Since then, the public speaking course has expanded to accommodate hundreds of thousands of students all over the state of Florida.

The results of the Florida 4-H/Tropicana's dedication are evident in the confidence displayed by young people in making prepared or extemporaneous presentations later in their school and professional careers.

The program is sponsored by Tropicana Products, Inc., a division of PepsiCo.



OMK

Operation: Military Kids is a nationwide program began by the U.S. Army. Its goal is clear: to team with America's communities to provide support to youth of families impacted by deployment. As part of OMK, the Florida 4-H Military Program seeks to help Florida's military kids cope with the stress of having a deployed parent in the following ways:

- Working with schools to ensure that staff members and teachers understand the unique needs of military students.
- Educating the public on the impact deployment has on the families of those deployed and on the communities as a whole.
- Creating support networks for Florida's military youth when parents are deployed.
- Providing recreational, social, and educational programs for military youth.



Florida 4-H Congress

Every summer, hundreds of Florida 4-H teens invade Gainesville for five days of fun, socializing, education, competitions and awards. Florida 4-H Congress is an annual event that takes place the last week of July. It is a culmination of events for 4-H youth, ages 14 -18, throughout Florida who have competed at their county and district level and moved on to the state competitions for awards, recognition, scholarships and prizes.

In addition to the awards and competitive events, Congress serves as the annual meeting to elect State Council officers, youth who provide guidance to 4-H youth leaders.



Florida 4-H Legislature

Commonly known as “Leg” and pronounced “ledge.” Leg provides an opportunity for teen 4-H members, ages 14 – 18, to have a “learn-by-doing” experience in state government each summer.

When delegates participate in the Florida 4-H Legislature, they have an actual experience in all three branches of Florida’s government: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial. Florida 4-H laws are debated and passed or vetoed, by youth, in a mock legislative session at the Florida State Capitol.

This program was awarded the National Program of Distinction by National 4-H Headquarters in 2007.



Events & Activities Handbook

This handbook explains the rules under which all 4-H district and state events and activities are conducted. It is also recommended as a guide to conducting club and county events. It is very important that both volunteer leaders and 4-H agents understand and have 4-H'ers adhere to the general guidelines for all events and the additional specifications for competitive activities at District, State and National events.

All 4-H events should foster a strong educational 4-H program by providing physical, mental, social, and emotional growth experiences for individual 4-H members. Events should give 4-H members positive, meaningful experiences in life skills, leadership and citizenship development.



Community Pride

The Florida 4-H Community Pride program provides seed money that allows Florida 4-H'ers to learn about their community and improve the quality of their environment.

Objectives are to have youth:

- learn about and understand their community and the impact it has on their lives.
- know how to relate, individually and through group cooperation, in order to work effectively in community activities, programs, organizations.
- develop skills and knowledge in community leadership.
- gain experience in carrying out community projects to improve their environment.
- develop an interest in and love for their community.

The Community Pride program is funded by Chevron Texaco Corporation.



People in 4-H



4-H Agent

A person who leads and coordinates the county level 4-H program. Most Florida 4-H agents are faculty members of the University of Florida IFAS Extension. The county 4-H Extension agent decides what programs are offered within their county, as well as train and recruit volunteers, garner community sponsors and enlist new members. The role of the county 4-H Extension agent is crucial to the success of the local 4-H program.



4-H Volunteer

A person who freely volunteers their time to benefit the 4-H Youth Development Program without receiving any money for their time and efforts. There are numerous volunteer positions available at the county, state and national level that require various amounts of time and talent. Florida 4-H enlists over 13,000 volunteers to help support its program.



4-H Alumni

Someone who has graduated or was previously enrolled in a 4-H program at any time as a youth, volunteer or Extension professional.



4-H'er

A youth between the ages of 5 and 18 years-old who is enrolled in a county 4-H program. Florida 4-H'ers are the heart of the program.



Club Leader

Is a screened and caring adult volunteer who guides and assists youth in learning life skills through 4-H project work, 4-H club meetings, 4-H service projects, 4-H fundraising and more.



Teen Leader

Is a youth, ages 14 to 19, who donates their time to benefit the 4-H Youth Development Program by taking on leadership roles and responsibilities under the guidance of an adult mentor or 4-H staff. A teen leader is carefully screened and is trained to guide youth.



State 4-H Leader

The Associate Dean currently serves as the State 4-H Leader for the 4-H Youth Development Program, a part of the University of Florida's IFAS. The Associate Dean and Program Leader within the Florida Cooperative Extension report to the Dean of Extension and serves in the Extension Administration Leadership Team.



County Extension Director

This person directs Extension programs, agents and staff at the county level. The CED is responsible for all county Extension programs including agriculture, family consumer sciences, 4-H, horticulture, community development, marine science and others. The CED works closely with the District Extension Director and county government officials.



Landmark Entities



University of Florida

UF is a major, public, comprehensive, land-grant, and research university. It is Florida's oldest, largest and most comprehensive university and among the nation's most academically diverse public universities. To learn more about UF history, degree programs and faculty, visit www.ufl.edu.



Florida 4-H Camps

4-H camps throughout the state of Florida include Camp Cherry Lake in Madison; Camp Cloverleaf in Lake Placid; Camp Ocala in Altoona; and Camp Timpoochee in Niceville.

Groups that enjoy the use of the 4-H Camp include 4-H members, volunteers, and community families and businesses, as well as churches and other educational institutions.



Florida 4-H Districts

In the Florida 4-H program, there are 13 districts. Each district includes four to six counties within a similar region of the state. 4-H districts hold district level meetings, elect leadership, conduct district competition qualifying events for state competitions, and plan and carry out district events and activities for area youth.



National Events



National 4-H Week

This event is normally the first full week of October. 4-H'ers, volunteers and staff promote and celebrate 4-H at the county, state and national level.



National Congress

This four day event, held in Atlanta, Georgia, provides youth an educational experience that includes recreational, social, and cultural activities. Florida 4-H awards up to 30 grants for youth to attend National Congress every year. Youth who submit a senior portfolio to their county 4-H office before the deadline may be granted an interview as part of the competitive selection process for the award trip.



Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF)

This is an exciting educational week for senior 4-H'ers that takes place in our nation's Capitol. This event allows 4-H'ers, who choose to attend, the opportunity to explore how their individual actions can make a difference in our world. Conducted in Washington, D.C., CWF uses our nation's Capitol as a classroom to foster youth appreciation, understanding, and involvement in civic responsibility, government operations, and current issues.



National 4-H Conference

Florida 4-H awards approximately four grants for youth to attend National 4-H Conference every year. Youth who submit a senior portfolio to their county 4-H office before the deadline may be granted an interview as part of the selection process for this award trip. At this event, senior 4-H'ers work with volunteers and professional staff at the national level to contribute constructive ideas on how to improve 4-H and strengthen 4-H public awareness efforts.



National 4-H Contests

4-H youth who qualify at the state level may be eligible for the following National 4-H Contests:

- Eastern National 4-H Roundup
- National Livestock Judging Contest
- Western Nationals
- National Poultry and Egg Contest
- National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest
- Dairy Quiz Bowl Contest
- Beekeeping Essay Contest
- National Forestry Invitational
- National WHEP Contest
- National Range Competition
- National Shooting Sports, and
- National Junior Horticulture Association



Awards & Recognition



Award Ribbons

Recognizing the accomplishments of 4-H'ers is important. Ribbons are earned by 4-H'ers for their participation in 4-H contests, shows, judging events or project work. Typically, Blue, Red and White ribbons are awarded depending upon the level of skill mastered, with Blue signifying achievement.

Some contest placement may also include Green, Yellow and Pink ribbons.



Scholarships

Scholarships are awarded to 4-H'ers who have earned recognition for project work, citizenship and/or leadership. Scholarships may be given for any number of reasons, including to attend summer camp, or 4-H events. Funding for scholarship comes from various sources including county or state 4-H Foundations, private donors, club fundraising, corporate and community partners.



Recognition for Excellence

From the very beginning of 4-H, competition has been used as a way to teach young people agricultural and home economics skills. As the program evolved to emphasize teaching life skills, 4-H and human development specialists examined the appropriateness of competition. They questioned whether it is a tool for helping young people develop into self-directed, productive, and contributing citizens.

The goal of competition in 4-H is uniquely different from the competition in many other programs in which young people participate. All 4-H teaching-learning experiences contribute towards helping young people learn life skills so they can become self-productive and contributing citizens.

Commonly used recognition systems include peer-to-peer competition and the Danish system of achievement standards.. Peer-to-peer competition is when youth compete with each other for prizes, position, or financial reward. It encourages youth to compete against one's peers for the opportunity to be named the winner.

In 4-H, most judging involves the Danish system of judging. Judges do not compare one person's work with another, rather the evaluation is made against a standard. A judge looks to see whether requirements or standards are met.

The purpose of using the Danish judging system is to give every 4-H member the recognition deserved for the work that was done. It also helps young people recognize the need to improve their skills and to "make the best better."



State Judging Contests

Having one's accomplishment evaluated can be motivating and educating for 4-H'ers. The judging process in 4-H is like real life. 4-H'ers set goals, work to achieve them, and reap rewards for their efforts. 4-H'ers are given the opportunity to exercise and exhibit their knowledge or skill in a particular 4-H project area.

When judges critique their work or performance, it serves as a guide to further improvement. The judging process is probably more valuable than the award or recognition. To plan, practice, and present a finished product is to "learn-by-doing." To graciously accept constructive criticism of one's work is a real life experience.

4-H judging contests include, as examples:

- Forest Ecology Judging Event
- Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program
- Land Judging Event
- Florida 4-H State Marine Ecology Event
- Marine Photo Contest
- Horticulture Identification and Judging Event
- Consumer Choice Judging
- State Photo and Poster Contests
- Hog-n-Ham
- Florida 4-H Congress
- Fashion Revue
- Youth Dog Show
- Horse Judging
- Poultry Judging
- Meats Judging and Identification
- Livestock Judging
- Dairy Judging, and
- Dairy Goat Judging



Fair Premium

This is money given to 4-H members for individual and team achievements when participating in contests, shows or exhibits at some county, regional and state fairs.



Standards of Excellence

Performance standards are a set of guidelines for member participation. In Florida, there are several options for youth and/or clubs to work toward. As members or groups complete the levels of standard, they are presented an award.

In 4-H educational programs, standards are used in two ways. First, state specialists provide a benchmark in specific subject matter for young people to use as they plan and work toward their goals. Examples of tools judges use include scorecards and judging sheets.



Awards & Recognition

Offering young people an opportunity to achieve is a vital part of the 4-H philosophy. In Florida 4-H, youth should be recognized for their efforts and mastery toward 4-H project work.

The five different types of recognition in the 4-H Recognition Model are:

- Participation in Educational Experiences
- Progress Toward Self-Set Goals
- Achieving Standards of Excellence
- Excelling in Peer Competition, and
- Excelling in Cooperation within a Group



Awards Banquet

This annual event, usually at county and state levels, recognizes 4-H'ers and volunteers for their efforts and mastery toward 4-H project work and 4-H participation.

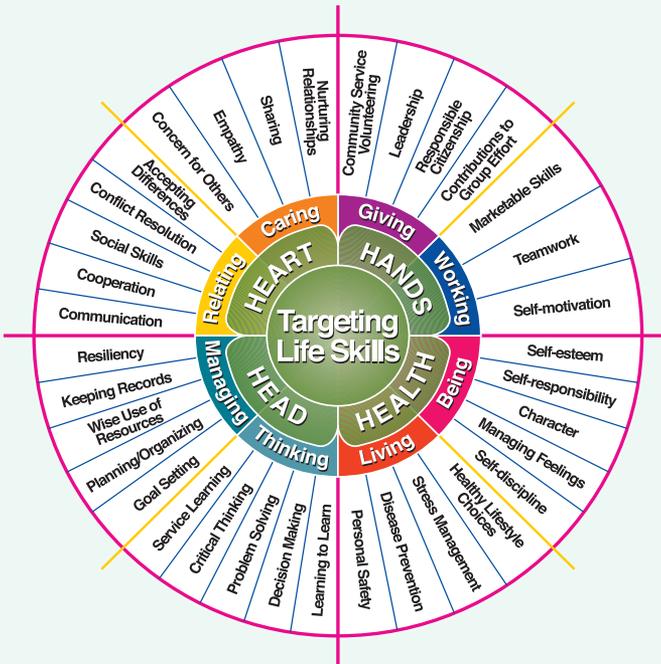


Life Skills



Life skills

Life skills are competencies that assist people in functioning well in the environments in which they live. Nationally, 4-H has identified 35 different life skills that youth can develop through their participation in this positive youth development program.





Oral Reasons

This is a brief oral presentation youth give as part of a judging competition where they justify why they placed things, such as animals, plants or products, in a particular order.



4-H Demonstrations and Illustrated Talk

These are timed “show-and-tell” presentations where youth use posters and other visual aids to demonstrate or illustrate their 4-H project work. These presentations can take place at the county, district, and at state level events.

Youth compete among peers in a primary category of their choice, for example: animal science, civic and leadership development, communication and expressive art, environmental education, family and consumer sciences, workforce preparation and career development, healthy lifestyles, plant sciences, and science and technology.



Record Book

Documentation of a completed 4-H project is displayed in the form of an annual record book. It is a record of all 4-H project work in a specific year. Completed record books should include a project book, project report, project story, and photos with informative captions. Every year, 4-H'ers are encouraged to turn in their record books for evaluation and judging.



Showmanship

Youth have the opportunity to showcase themselves and an animal's physical and behavioral attributes. 4-H showmanship contests include: dog, horse, goat, beef, swine, rabbit, poultry, and other livestock.



Fashion Revue

Youth compete in county and state contests in sewing garments, or selecting pre-made garments suitable for specific categories.

Fashion review allows 4-H youth to develop the skills necessary to plan, select, or construct clothing and enhances their ability to determine which accessories are suitable. In general, the categories for both constructed garments and pre-made garments are: active play, school wear, dress for work, my choice, and special occasion.



Share the Fun

This talent contest is held once a year within each county. This exciting contest allows 4-H'ers to discover their talents, develop hidden potential, and provide the opportunity to share those gifts with others, all in a safe and positive environment. The winners from the county competitions go on to compete at the district level. Senior winners at the district level are eligible to compete at Florida 4-H Congress in Gainesville, FL.



Hog-n-Ham

This program teaches youth about pork production and processing through hands on experiences. Youth learn hog selection, feeding and management, record keeping, harvesting, processing and curing.

Youth purchase hogs and feed them for three months and then harvest them at the University of Florida under the guidance of faculty. After harvesting and processing the meat, participants sell their meat, complete a record book and give a project demonstration.



Hippology Contest

This contest provides an opportunity for 4-H members to use multiple skills in one horse related activity. Youth blend their knowledge and experience in horse judging, horse bowl, demonstrations, public speaking, and showmanship. This contest consists of a written exam, judging halter and performance classes, feed identification, team problem solving and visual identification of equine equipment. State winners have the opportunity to compete at regional and national events.



4-H Shooting Sports

This program teaches youth to promote the highest standards of safety, sportsmanship, and ethical behavior. It also encourages an appreciation and understanding of natural resources. This program consists of air rifle, small bore rifle, archery, shotgun, muzzle loading and hunting disciplines. Volunteers for this program must be Florida 4-H certified.



Citizenship

Since its inception, Florida 4-H has placed emphasis on the importance of young people being engaged, well-informed citizens. By connecting to their communities and leaders, youth understand their role in civic affairs and are able to expand their role in decision-making processes. It's clear that civic engagement provides the foundation that helps youth understand the big picture of life and learn the skill sets that will allow them to become wise leaders for the 21st century.



Quiz Bowl

Florida 4-H'ers participate in a family of games of questions and answers on a variety of topics, most commonly with two teams of three or four players each and a moderator.



Skill-a-thon

It's a "knowledge assessment" that involves fun, hands-on educational activities. Participants in a skill-a-thon move through a learning series of stations that test their subject knowledge and abilities in a specific subject.



Parliamentary Procedure

Roberts Rules of Order book serves as a guide to Florida 4-H parliamentary procedure. It provides common rules and procedures for deliberation and debate in order to place the whole membership on the same footing and speaking the same language. This procedure is used for a variety of 4-H meetings, including club, committee and council meetings.



Awards & Scholarship Portfolio

This completed application is used for both scholarships and award trips. Florida 4-H Senior Portfolio & Scholarship include a cover page, resume, narrative, letters of recommendation, and official transcripts. Scholarship portfolios must include a statement of financial need.

Completing an Awards Portfolio will allow youth to compete for national awards trips and scholarships. The process teaches youth essential marketing and presentation skills. Youth will complete an application, create a resume, write a narrative about themselves, and submit the information as a packet to be eligible for an interview.



Youth Leadership



Council

A council is a body of youth leaders who are elected by their peers at the county, district and state level in Florida 4-H. As elected officials, they establish goals for the direction of Florida 4-H each year. They also decide on community service projects, youth state initiative, plan workshops and events and represent Florida 4-H at various functions.



Executive Board

This board consists of state council members, appointed committee members and two voting delegates from each county. The State Executive Board meets three times a year to plan events, revise the constitution and improve the quality of the 4-H program for the youth in Florida. These weekends are designed to provide leadership opportunities and training to senior 4-H'ers from across the state. State officers work in partnership with adults to organize these weekends, lead activities and workshops. The 3rd Executive Board Weekend is open to all senior 4-H'ers who desire to attend.



Youth - Adult Partnerships

Florida 4-H focuses on giving youth positive and safe interactions with trained, screened adults. Youth-adult partnerships happen when young people and adults become engaged together in their communities. This relationship between youth and adults encourages teamwork through mutual teaching, learning, and doing.



SRTLC

SRTLC stands for the Southern Region Teen Leadership Conference. This regional, multi-state 4-H conference was created to develop leadership, citizenship, diversity, team-building, communication and other life skills in youth. It serves to strengthen connections throughout the Southern region in 4-H by motivating participants to become involved through creating and implementing action plans. This is a youth-adult partnership event.



LAW

Senior and Intermediate State (Leadership Adventure Weekend) is a weekend-long event for 11-13 year-old 4-H'ers from across Florida to participate in fun leadership workshops and other activities.

This weekend event is held at 4-H Camps in Florida. Senior 4-H'ers (aged 14-18) in district and state leadership positions plan this event and teach the workshops and activities, informing intermediates of the numerous benefits to serving and leading in 4-H. For example, Senior 4-H'ers and adults teach afternoon activities, funshops, and Mock Legislature centered around a theme. The yearly theme for the conference fits those for Florida 4-H Senior Executive Board events for that program year.



Jr. Congress

Also known as YAW (Youth Adventure Weekend) or District Congress (although there's no competition at this event). This overnight weekend event is planned by senior 4-H'ers specifically for junior (ages 8 – 10) and intermediate (11 – 13) Florida 4-H'ers. Each Florida 4-H district plans their own Jr. Congress event. Youth participate in recreational events, workshops, and other activities planned by Senior 4-H'ers that allow youth to explore Florida 4-H.



Flag Retirement

Once the United States flag becomes worn, torn or faded, it is time to replace it with a new flag by “retiring” the old flag, with dignity and respect, through a formal ceremony.

In Florida 4-H, youth who participate in the flag retirement ceremony usually recite United States history and reflect upon the freedom given to us as U.S. citizens. The process for retiring the flag includes cutting the flag into pieces and taping them together. At the flag retirement ceremony, Florida 4-H’ers respectfully dismantle the pieces and place them in a camp fire for incineration. Many organizations and private citizens approach Florida 4-H to retire their U.S. flags.



State Council Project

Each year youth from the State Council jointly decide upon an initiative for all of Florida 4-H'ers to participate. The state council projects are recommended projects for youth and usually are developed from themes or program initiatives. The State Council Project is created by and for Florida 4-H'ers.



Club Officers

Club officers are elected representatives of a 4-H club. These members meet, discuss, plan and assist in carrying out 4-H programs and activities. 4-H club officers include president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. Some clubs also have additional positions such as reporter, parliamentarian, sergeant-at-arms, and historian, for example.



Cooperative Extension Past & Present



Florida Cooperative Extension Service

The Florida Cooperative Extension Service was established in 1914. Extension is a partnership between state, federal, and county governments to provide scientific knowledge and expertise to the public.

The University of Florida (UF), together with Florida A&M University (FAMU), administers the Florida Cooperative Extension Service. At the University of Florida, Extension is located in the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), along with the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) and the Florida Agricultural Research Experiment Stations, and is called UF/IFAS Extension.



IFAS

The University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

(UF/IFAS) is a federal-state-county partnership dedicated to developing knowledge in agriculture, human and natural resources, and the life sciences, and enhancing and sustaining the quality of human life by making that information accessible.

While extending into every community of the state, UF/IFAS has developed an international reputation for its accomplishments in teaching, research and extension. Because of this mission and the diversity of Florida's climate and agricultural commodities, IFAS has facilities located throughout Florida.



UF's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) administers the degree programs of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS). With 24 undergraduate majors, more than 50 areas of specialization and 20 graduate programs, CALs is an educational leader in the areas of food, agriculture, natural resources and life sciences. The college prepares many students for professional studies in dentistry, law, medicine, pharmacy and for graduate study in science and technology.



Land Grant University System

Land-grant universities are institutions of higher education in the United States that have been designated by each state legislature or Congress to receive unique federal support. There are more than 100 colleges and universities in the U.S. that comprise of the nation's Land-Grant university system. The University of Florida is a land-grant university.



Morrill Land Grant Act

This act began as a political movement calling for the creation of agriculture colleges. The first Morrill act of 1862, allocates land in each state for the purpose of creating educational institutions. The purpose of the land-grant college was:

“without excluding other scientific and classical studies and including military tactic, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the legislatures of the States may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions in life.”

A second Morrill Act in 1890 was created to ensure that former Confederate states did not deny admission into colleges and universities based upon race or allowed for a separate land-grant institution for people of color.

In the Sunshine state, the University of Florida and Florida A & M University are both land-grant institutions.



Seminole Tribe of Florida Indian 4-H

The Seminole Tribe of Florida Indian 4-H has come a long way, dating back to 1955 and first known as Seminole Indian 4-H. Some of the earlier programs were chicken projects and cooking and sewing classes for both boys and girls. In

1992, the Special Indian Agent Program was re-established through the U.S. Farm Bill. Funding was made available for a special program known as the “Extension Indian Reservation Program.” At this time, the Seminole Indian Tribe became a “county” for administrative purposes, and therefore was assigned their own Extension professional.

In 2006, the special “Indian” program became known as the “Federally Recognized Tribe Extension Program.” Today, Seminole Indian 4-H is one of the most successful programs in “Indian Country.” The Seminole Tribe has traditionally been an agricultural and animal husbandry community. The Seminole Tribe of Florida has six reservations: Brighton, Big Cypress, Immokalee, Hollywood, Tampa and Fort Pierce.



Smith-Lever Act 1914

The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 establishes the Cooperative Extension Service and provides federal funds for cooperative extension activities. The act also authorizes special extension projects. Current projects funded under this authority include the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, Farm Safety, Integrated Pest Management, and Children, Youth and Families at Risk.



Partners/Affiliations



4-H Hall of Fame

The Florida 4-H Hall of Fame was created in 2002, as a National 4-H Centennial project, to recognize and celebrate those people who have made a significant impact on 4-H and its millions of members over more than 100 years. The Florida 4-H Hall of Fame honors Florida 4-H volunteers, supporters, staff and pioneers who made major contributions to 4-H at the local, state and national levels.



Collegiate 4-H

This is an organization for college students to join together as adults to serve their community, lead their peers, and address current issues. It's an opportunity to bring 4-H issues, community service and values to college students.



Florida Department of Education

State funding for the Florida 4-H Youth Development Program comes through the Florida Department of Education which funnels the money to the University of Florida and then directly to IFAS. The Florida Department of Education is a stakeholder, vital to the Florida 4-H program.



Stakeholders

A stakeholder is a person, group, or organization, that is vital to the survival of an organization, such as Florida 4-H. An example of a stakeholder is the county commissioners. They are vital to the operation of Florida 4-H in each county. It is important for Florida 4-H to effectively communicate its values, mission, goals and needs to stakeholders, so that they in turn will continue providing financial support and advocate issues.



Partners

A partner is a group, individual, organization (or even a company), that joins with Florida 4-H to accomplish mutual goals. Partnerships allow organizations to pool resources together for mutual benefit. Florida 4-H partners with many organizations on a national, state, county and community level.

An example of a national partnership is the 4-H Afterschool program that is supported by J.C. Penney Afterschool Funds. The donation from this fund helps families across American enroll or keep their children enrolled in 4-H Afterschool programs.

The Florida Cattlemen's Association is an example of a state and community partner with Florida 4-H. This organization partners with Florida 4-H Foundation, Inc. to provide many services and resources to the state office as well as county 4-H programs.



Florida 4-H Foundation, Inc.

Founded in 1963, the Florida 4-H Foundation is a private, non-profit organization that provides financial support to Florida 4-H. The Florida 4-H Foundation provides mini-grants to 4-H clubs, scholarships to youth, grants to county programs, funding for 4-H Camps and provides administrative funding for other state projects. The Foundation is able to provide these funds through continuous fundraising efforts, annual events and seeking on-going support from companies and individuals.

Examples of fundraising events include the annual Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc./Florida 4-H Golf Classic, and the Tallahassee Auction. The Foundation also recognizes the efforts alumni have made to the success of the organization through the Florida 4-H Hall of Fame.



4-H Parent Involvement

Florida 4-H is a family affair! And this means that parents of 4-H'ers are an important part of the program. Parents can bring a wealth of resources to the program by volunteering or sharing their professional expertise and knowledge with their county 4-H program. Active parents mean active members!



USDA

This acronym stands for the United States Department of Agriculture, which is located in Washington, D.C. Funding for the 4-H program comes, in part, through the USDA, an executive branch of the federal government, and is channeled through one of its agencies the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), formally known as the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) and given directly to each state 4-H program. NIFA provides resources to 4-H through the establishment of the National 4-H Headquarters.

The USDA, NIFA, and the 4-H National Headquarters work in partnership with each state's Cooperative Extension Service, land-grant universities, private partners, and other programs to promote the power of youth through 4-H.

As of October 2009, the CSREES changed to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

In addition, the 4-H name and emblem are protected by a federal act. The USDA provides legal protection for the 4-H name and emblem and is why the phrase, "protected under 18 U.S.C 707" appears next to the 4-H emblem at all times.



4-H Mall

If you want to go shopping for 4-H gear, this is the place to go. The National 4-H Council, the private organization that provides funding and support to 4-H globally, created this “virtual” mall for anyone to buy 4-H curriculum books and merchandise.



Florida Fairs

The Florida Federation of Fairs is the Association that represents agricultural fairs in Florida. This federation helps promote all the fairs in Florida. There are 52 fairs in Florida. For more information about your local fair, visit <http://www.floridafairs.org/index.html>.



National 4-H Council

National 4-H Council is a national, private non-profit partner of 4-H. The National 4-H Council provides grants, establishes programs/initiatives, designs and publishes curriculum and reference materials, and creates links fostering innovation and shared learning to advance the 4-H youth development movement. Through its marketing efforts, the National 4-H Council builds a world in which youth and adults learn, grow, and work together as catalysts for positive change. Council partners with 4-H at all levels, including national, state and local.



Florida 4-H Volunteer Association

Although volunteers have been a part of Florida 4-H since its inception in 1909, the Florida 4-H Volunteer Association became official in 2005. The two main purposes of the volunteer association are to foster educational development for the more than 10,900 Florida 4-H volunteers and to improve communication for 4-H volunteers within the organization.



Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Millie Ferrer-Chancy, Interim Director, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture, publishes this information to further the purpose of the May 8 and June 30, 1914 Acts of Congress; and is authorized to provide research, educational information, and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions, or affiliations. Single copies of extension publications (excluding 4-H and youth publications) are available free to Florida residents from county extension offices. Information about alternate formats is available from IFAS Information and Communication Services, University of Florida, PO Box 110810, Gainesville, FL 32611-0810.