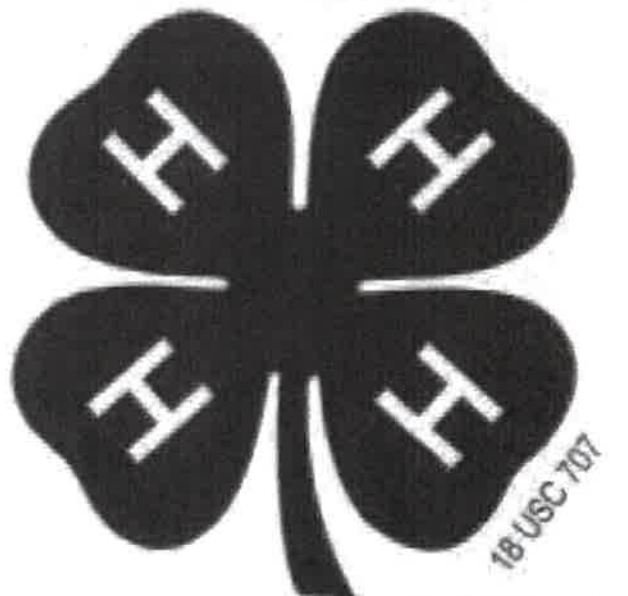


2016-  
2017

# Florida 4-H State Events & Activities Handbook



University of Florida IFAS Extension  
Florida 4-H  
2016-2017



UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA IFAS EXTENSION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION



**4-H Emblem** – The 4-H emblem is federally protected under Section 18 US Code 707 and belongs to the Congress of the United States. The official emblem is green with white H's – the 4-H colors. Refer to the policy page for specifics on use of the emblem.

**4-H Mission** – The Florida 4-H Youth Development program uses as learn-by-doing approach and caring adults to help youth gain the knowledge and life skills they need to be productive, responsible citizens. To achieve its mission, 4-H accesses the expertise and resources of the University of Florida and a nationwide network of Cooperative Extension Service faculty and staff.

**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** – Learning by doing

**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.

# INTRODUCTION

## GENERAL INFORMATION

All 4-H events should foster an opportunity to promote Positive Youth Development (PYD) among young people. The 4-H program does this by providing a holistic approach to working with young people by respecting multiple learning styles, personalities, and motivations. Additionally, all 4-H programs should be implemented following an Experiential Learning approach. All awards and recognition opportunities provided for 4-H members should be reflective of a holistic approach and is not limited to competitive events only; but includes cooperation, progress towards goals, and participation. Please reference the Florida 4-H Recognition Model which can be found on the main Projects page at <http://florida4h.org/> or the Volunteer Training Series: "Recognizing Young People" to learn more. All 4-H programs should give members positive, meaningful experiences and promote life skill development.

Strong county programs are foundational to the success of 4-H programming. District, State, and National Events complement county programs by offering many exciting opportunities ranging from educational conferences, workshops, and camps to competitive exhibitions, demonstrations, public speaking, and judging events. District and State Events should emphasize and support the county/club level program.

4-H events and activities are a planned part of the 4-H curriculum and are reflective of the 4-H Project. All events and activities should support an approved Curriculum/Project category:

- Science: Animals, Plants, Environmental, & Technology,
- Leadership, Citizenship & Communications,
- Healthy Living: Family and Consumer Sciences, Food, Personal Well-being & Safety.

All 4-H events and activities should be designed to allow youth to:

- gain experience and develop skills in gathering, preparing, and presenting educational information,
- enhance decision making capabilities,
- make public presentations,
- learn standards by which comparisons are drawn, and
- develop good sportsmanship.

Competitive events are just one of the many teaching methods used by 4-H leaders and Extension Agents. 4-H professionals and volunteers are encouraged to keep competitive events in the proper perspective, making sure the event or award does not become an end in itself. The emphasis should be placed on providing an educational experience for the 4-H'er and not on the importance of winning an award. It is imperative that we, as agents and leaders, realize that the real winner is the 4-H'er who learns about being a more responsible member of society as a result of their 4-H experience.

# INTRODUCTION

## *Judging Events*

A special activity in which a team of 4-H members and/or individual 4-H member test their knowledge about a particular project area against 4-H members from other counties. Judging events happen at various levels and events such as judging days or fairs.

Current areas of competition include: Horse, Livestock, Poultry, Land, Dairy, Meats, Forestry, Consumer Choices, Marine Ecology, Hippology, Horticulture, and Quiz Bowls for Horse and Dairy.

## *Judging Teams*

A group of 4-H members who come together to learn about a special project area such as horses, etc. Youth should be enrolled in the project supporting their team competition.

## *Large Animal Project*

An animal project that requires the 4-H'ers involvement or ownership and care of a large animal (i.e. sheep, goat, swine, beef, dairy, or horse). This would include any supporting events and activities in the large animal projects. Cloverbud members may not participate in a large animal project.

## *Life Skills*

Positive Youth Development programs offered through 4-H should target skills for life through various project interests that are fun, engaging, and relevant to members. Please review the Targeting Life Skills Model to learn more (Hendricks, 1998).

## *Project*

A series of six or more hours of learning experiences within an area of interest. Members learn and then share what they've learned. A 4-H project is what a 4-H'er learns, creates, or acts out, for example: learning to grow a garden, making a dress, or training a dog. 4-H members should work on at least one project each year and complete the records for that project.

## *Project/Record Book*

Youth are provided with a curriculum resource material that will guide their project activities through lessons (project book) or provide a manual for keeping records of their project (record book). Some project materials are electronic and can be included in the Project Report to support their project work.

## *Project Reports (Participation Summary)*

4-H members are encouraged to keep a record of their project plans, goals, and how they worked to achieve these goals along with citizenship and leadership activities as is age appropriate. These report forms were developed in support of the Awards and Recognition program and overtime help young people build their 4-H portfolio. Reports by age division can be found on the Awards and Recognition page of the 4-H website.

## *Specialty Camps*

Refers to a subject specific camp (horse, marine, entomology, etc.) that may require previous experience in the subject matter prior to participation.



# GUIDELINES FOR MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

## Guidelines for Membership & Participation


All *policies*\* should be validated by reviewing the official listing of policies on the Florida 4-H website and will be denoted by an asterisk.

### Non-Discrimination Policy

The University shall actively promote equal opportunity policies and practices conforming to laws against discrimination. The University is committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veteran's Readjustment Assistance Act. \*

### Age Policy

Age classifications are designed to give youth involved in 4-H events and activities the optimum experience in their respective program and to be developmentally appropriate for 4-H members. It is important for one to be aware of the various age requirements for participation in an event or activity. Age requirements may vary for 4-H events and activities held within the State and at Regional or National levels.



Eligibility for enrolled 4-H'ers (those who have met previously stated enrollment criteria) is determined by the student's age as of September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current program year for which they are enrolled. Any exceptions should be specified for a specific event. Age classifications for events and activities should be determined as of September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current 4-H program year and be as follows:

**Cloverbuds: 5-7 Years of Age**

**Juniors: 8-10 Years of Age**

**Intermediates: 11-13 Years of Age**

**Seniors: 14-18 Years of Age**

Membership age of youth participation is determined by the youth's age as of September 1 of the current program year (September 1 – August 31). The minimum age of a 4-H'er is 5 years old and the maximum age for a 4-H'er is 18 years old, or completion of high school, whichever comes first. Youth whose membership age is beyond 18 who have qualified for a National contest (as a culminating event for their project learning) shall be eligible to participate in the event as long as they qualify as per National Contest policies.

Youth classified as an "exceptional student" and thus determined eligible for a special program by the State Board of Education [Florida Statute 1003.01(3)(a)] shall be eligible to participate in 4-H until the age of 21 years old (National 4-H upper age limit) or completion of high school, whichever comes first. \*

## GUIDELINES FOR MEMBERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

chaperone a youth who is legally 18 and considered an adult, Florida 4-H will support the agents' decision not to allow that youth to participate in overnight events. The following will apply:

1. Youth will be considered a 4-H participant and must adhere to all event rules, expectations, and the 4-H Code of Conduct.
2. Youth who are actual age 18 will not be roomed with any youth age 17 or younger.
3. Youth who choose to attend college classes during the event must be checked in and checked out in the presence of their adult in charge on the event log.
4. Youth who are actual age 18+ are considered an "adult" if they are involved in any illegal activity which includes but is not limited to; fighting, drug or alcohol possession, etc.



## CRITERIA FOR 4-H COMPETITIVE & NON-COMPETITIVE EVENTS

when youth are participating in certain projects, i.e. livestock, ATV, or shooting sports, safety should be considered. \*

### *Participation & School Grades*

A students' Grade Point Average (GPA) cannot be used as a criterion for entry into a 4-H event. \*

The Florida Statutes K-20 Educational Code Chapter 1006: Support for Learning (f.s. 1006.15) states that *"to be eligible to participate interscholastic/interscholastic extracurricular student activities, a student must maintain at least a 2.0 or above grade point average (GPA) on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, for the semester immediately preceding participation, or cumulative GPA in courses required by s.1003.43(1)."*

Several Fair Boards have adopted this rule, also called the Raise Bill, passed in 1984 as one of the conditions governing eligibility to participate in livestock shows and sales. While the Cooperative Extension Service (CES) supports the law's intent (i.e. to encourage high school students to enhance their academic performance), CES does not preclude participation in 4-H programs on the basis of GPA because:

1. 4-H in Florida is not an extracurricular student activity conducted by the schools. 4-H is the community-based educational program of the University of Florida and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, conducted in cooperation with USDA and county governments. 4-H livestock shows are designed as an important component of the 4-H educational experience and are not considered a school-related extracurricular activity.
2. 4-H must make its programs available to all youth 5-18 years old, as set forth by the State Department of Education, Department of Universities, and USDA in their non-discrimination criteria. To use other criteria as a basis for participation is considered illegal. Additional information about the University of Florida IFAS statement of organization and operations can be found at <http://regulations.ufl.edu/chapter6/>. The non-discrimination policy can be found at the same web site under 6C1-1.0061.
3. Privacy of information laws state that student records are not open to non-school personnel, including county 4-H faculty, without student/family approval. Thus, county 4-H faculty are not in a legal position to monitor or enforce the GPA rule.

### **State Competitive Events**

Competitive events within the Florida 4-H program occur at the county, district or area, state, and regional or national levels. Most competitions require some qualifying level of participation. This progression may be county to district to state OR county to state OR district to state. The time and location of events vary and it is important to reference event specific pages and pay special attention to information disseminated through the weekly update and posted on the Events calendar.

These additional guidelines relating to district and state level junior, intermediate and senior competitive events must be complied with, regardless of participation category. Additional participation (non-advancing) categories for cloverbuds, juniors and intermediates may be established by counties and/or districts to encourage greater participation by younger 4-H members. This is an agent decision.

## CRITERIA FOR 4-H COMPETITIVE & NON-COMPETITIVE EVENTS

individual and team winner at the state level. Please adhere to guidelines for National contests as is applicable.

### Guidelines and Regulations

- No living vertebrates (i.e. fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, or mammals) may be brought to district or state level events.
- Demonstrations or illustrated talks must be between 3-12 minutes for juniors and intermediates, and 5-12 minutes for seniors.
- A team demonstration is one in which two team members participate both in speaking and presentation. No more than two members per team.
- State entries must have competed at the county/district levels. Participation guidelines for county/district level activities that do not culminate at the state level are at the discretion of planning committees at the county/district.
- Each presentation (i.e. demonstration, illustrated talk, share-the-fun activity, speech, etc.) will be the same from district level to state level. A 4-H'er should definitely improve on his/her activity but it must remain basically the same. If a 4-H'er is participating at the state level with a similar illustrated talk or demonstration to the previous year, the demonstration or illustrated talk must be changed to include more depth and growth. Participants must provide all equipment and supplies for their presentations. (Efforts may be made at competitive events to provide technical equipment; however, youth should bring connectors/adaptors/laptops/jump drives as a backup.) Competitors are responsible for all aspects of their preparations and set-up of their competitions. Only competitors are allowed in the set-up/dressing room at State Competitions.
- The demonstration/illustrated talk and public speaking competitions combine two forms of achievement and recognition for youth. These are: a.) Standards of Excellence as established by experts and defined by the scorecards for demonstrations/illustrated talks and/or public speaking and reflected by a ribbon color (blue, red, white). By measuring personal progress against standards of excellence, youth can gain insight into their own efforts and abilities and set goals for improvement. b.) Peer Competition where a panel of judges subjectively identifies, in a concrete time and place, the best team or individual. It is a strong motivator for some youth, but is inappropriate for youth under the age of eight.

At state competitive events both "standards of excellence" and "peer competition" as described above are used. Youth participants must meet the standards/criteria set forth for the event based on the score sheet before being considered for the "best" or "top three placings" among their peers. Therefore, placings and trophies are not awarded merely for participation in the event. This judgement of quality of performance against the standards are made by the panel of judges and an average of the scores will determine the color of the ribbon awarded. All judges' decisions are final.



## CRITERIA FOR 4-H COMPETITIVE & NON-COMPETITIVE EVENTS

- Dramatic and Novelty: Skits, stunts, pantomimes, monologues, puppetry, ventriloquism, impersonations, etc.
- General: Acts which include two or more of the above classifications

### Acts and Competition

- Acts may be presented by an individual or a group.
- Group acts should be limited to a maximum of five participants.
- Entertainment groups with more than five members are discouraged because of the difficulty in facilitating a group that size. However, this does not rule out participation by such a group if their talent is of exceptional quality and they meet all other requirements. Such an act must be cleared through the State 4-H Headquarters prior to District Events (contact State 4-H Events Coordinator). Acts with more than five participants who are not cleared through the State 4-H Office in advance will not be allowed to perform at Florida 4-H University.
- The time for each act can range from 3-5 minutes. Participants will have a one-minute warning and then the act will be called at 5 minutes.
- Acts may be presented by an individual or a group.
- Group acts should be limited to a maximum of five participants.
- Entertainment groups with more than five members are discouraged because of the difficulty in facilitating a group that size. However, this does not rule out participation by such a group if their talent is of exceptional quality and they meet all other requirements. Such an act must be cleared through the State 4-H Headquarters prior to District Events (contact State 4-H Events Coordinator). Acts with more than five participants who are not cleared through the State 4-H Headquarters in advance will not be allowed to perform at Florida 4-H University.
- The time for each act can range from 3-5 minutes. Participants will have a one-minute warning and then the act will be called at 5 minutes.

### *Gator Pit*

A new entrepreneurial competition that allows youth to showcase their savvy business skills while showcasing a product, design or creative idea. Youth will submit a written application and be chosen to participate in an educational track with a culminating showcase during 4-H University. This contest is not progressive and youth will directly apply for state competition.

### *Graphic Design Contest*

The graphic design program provides 4-H members an opportunity to use their creativity and artistic ability to promote their project areas or 4-H program. 4-H'ers are encouraged to develop their visual communication skills by also identifying locations to display their created materials as a means to communicate to external audiences about 4-H. This contest is open to all 4-H age divisions. Cloverbud members are encouraged to participate, but their materials will not be sent on to the state for competitive review.

## CRITERIA FOR 4-H COMPETITIVE & NON-COMPETITIVE EVENTS

received from county personnel, state event committees, specialists, or the Florida 4-H State Council. The programming emphasis may change from year to year, but the primary objectives remain essentially the same.

In addition to the below events and activities Florida 4-H also offers statewide specialty camps and open enrollment residential camps. Residential camp is an opportunity that should be offered to all youth regardless of their length of participation in 4-H.

Florida 4-H University is also a statewide event that provide opportunities for youth to Learn, Lead, and Serve while they explore multiple project areas and are provided opportunities to share their experiences learned.

### Animals

Horsemanship School, Dairy Conference, Livestock Judging Clinics, Southeast Youth Dairy Retreat

### Environmental Science/Nature and the Outdoors

Shooting Sports Instructor Certifications, Forest Ecology Clinic, Marine Ecology Clinic

### Plants and Gardening

### Ag Venture

### Science and Technology

4-H Day at Legoland, National Youth Science Day

### Citizenship & Leadership

State Council, Executive Board, Florida 4-H Day at the Capitol, Month of Service, State Service Project, 4-H Legislature, Leadership Washington Focus, Citizenship Washington Focus, Intermediate State, Leadership Adventure Weekend, Southern Region Teen Leadership Conference, National Congress, National Conference

### Communication & Expressive Arts

### Family & Consumer Sciences & Healthy Living

Food Smart Families, Living on My Own Simulations

### *Florida 4-H Curriculum and Project Categories*

The following category definitions were updated in June of 2015 and reflect the categories appropriate for 4-H Projects including demonstrations and illustrated talks as well as other events where 4-H members are sharing what they have learned as a result of participating in a 4-H Project. A print friendly pdf version of the below project listing can be found on the events website.

## CRITERIA FOR 4-H COMPETITIVE & NON-COMPETITIVE EVENTS

### Citizenship & Leadership

*Citizenship, Community Service, Global Education, Leadership Development, and Career and Workforce Preparation*

Includes all presentations related to citizenship, community service programs, global education leadership development and workforce preparation and career development. These topics are broad and can include presentations on different cultures and ethnicities, conducting service in your community, the art and science of becoming a leader, and the skills necessary for political participation and starting a business.

### Communication & Expressive Arts

*Leisure & Performing Arts*

Includes all aspects of leisure activities and recreation, including cycling, music, clowning, arts & crafts, cake decorating, floral arranging, wood working and metal crafts.

*Communication & Media Arts*

Includes the "topic" of public speaking, American Sign Language and other forms of communication, all phases of photography, graphic arts, computer graphics, video and other current technologies used in communication media.

### Family & Consumer Sciences

*Childcare and Child Development*

Includes all presentations related to the growth, development, personality and character development of children and youth. These topics might include infant development, child development, babysitting, nuclear families, self-esteem, step-families, family communication, parent-adolescent communication, single-parent families, teen parents, and coping with crises.

*Clothing and Sewing*

Includes all presentations related to clothing design, selection, buying, care, construction, textiles, accessories, personal appearance, and grooming.

*Money Management*

Includes all presentations related to comparison shopping, sales approaches, advertising, consumer rights and responsibilities, labeling, credit, money management, banking, investment savings, and time management.

### Healthy Living

*Food Preparation*

Includes all presentations involving preparing foods to eat. Demonstrations should show the steps involved in preparing foods, including food how to safely handle and measure ingredients. In an effort to support current Dietary Guidelines, preparing food items moderately low in fat, sodium, and sugar is recommended.

## GUIDELINES FOR COUNTY EXTENSION FACULTY

### Guidelines for County Extension Faculty

#### *Policy Reference*

- 4-H membership is available to all youth ages 5-18 without regard to race, color, gender, sexual orientation, handicap, or national origin. However, selected projects or programs do have enrollment restrictions. Not all projects or program activities are deemed appropriate for all age ranges due to either developmental appropriateness, safety, or other considerations. \*
- When 4-H members and volunteers participate in open shows and other events that conflict with 4-H policies (such those that allow competition or showing large animals which are being permitted for cloverbud age youth), it is important for youth, parents, and volunteers to avoid giving the impression that they represent 4-H during those activities such as by wearing 4-H attire while participating. \*
- Extension/4-H faculty and staff are not permitted to provide significant support for or actively promote open shows and other events that conflict with 4-H policies (such those that allow competition or showing large animals which are not being permitted for cloverbud age youth). 4-H volunteers and parents who provide assistance to such events should avoid giving the impression that they represent 4-H during those activities such as by wearing 4-H attire while participating. \*

If 4-H is not a partner with the Fair Board or sponsoring organization in planning and conducting the program and these groups choose to control participation (allowing children under 8 years of age to participate, using GPA or other criteria not acceptable to 4-H), then 4-H members may be invited to participate as private citizens. However, the sponsoring organization will be responsible for monitoring GPA and/or other participation criteria. In this situation, the cooperating organizations may not use the 4-H name and emblem in the title of the event, promotional material, or fund raising activities.