



Frequently Asked Questions

For updates and new information, please visit our website

<http://www.florida4h.org>

What is 4-H?

4-H is the **nation's largest** youth development organization. Over 230,000 members in the state of Florida help to make up the community of more than 6.5 million young people across America. 4-H is a non-formal, practical educational program for youth. Florida 4-H is the youth development program of Florida Cooperative Extension, a part of the University of Florida IFAS.

How did 4-H Originate?

4-H in Florida began in 1909 in several counties in north Florida. 4-H began an official part of the **Cooperative Extension** was officially established by the US Congress in 1914.

What do the four Hs stand for?

Head, Heart, Hands, and Health

What is the Vision?

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

What is the Motto, the Slogan & the Pledge?

(Motto) To make the best better.

(Slogan) Learn by Doing.

(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.

Who can Join?

4-H is open to **all youth**, ages 5-18, determined as of September 1 of the current 4-H program year and open to all counties in the state of Florida. 4-H serves youth from all backgrounds and interests. It reaches both boys and girls through 4-H clubs, special – interest groups and short-term projects, school-age child care, individual and family learning and mentoring, camping, and school enrichment.

What are the Policies?

Policies offer valuable stability and support for 4-H programming. Florida 4-H has developed a policy manual that guides the operation of all Florida 4-H programming.

What is the 4-H Impact?

There are over 230,000 youth involved in 4-H and 4-H project areas in Florida.

Isn't 4-H just for kids who live on farms?

No! **4-H is for all youth, wherever they live - on farms, in suburbs, in cities.** 4-H serves youth from all backgrounds and interests. It reaches boys and girls through 4-H clubs, special-interest groups and

short-term projects, school-age child care, individual & family learning & mentoring, camping, and school enrichment. Most 4-H members are from towns and cities and they participate in contemporary projects such as bicycle care and safety, consumer education, aerospace and model rocketry, public speaking, and animal sciences. 4-H offers membership without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability, or handicap.

What is a 4-H club?

Clubs are the **foundation** of the 4-H program. A 4-H club is a group of five or more youngsters guided by one or more adult volunteer leaders. A club can be any size—from a small group of kids from one neighborhood to a larger club consisting of youth from all over the county.

Does it cost money to join 4-H?

In some counties and/or clubs there is a small fee to cover curriculum materials. Uniforms are not required. Most 4-H project information, activities, and events are available at cost, which is usually minimal. Each club chooses whether to charge dues.

Where does 4-H get its funding?

Florida Cooperative Extension, of which 4-H is a part, receives funds from a cooperative partnership of three levels of government: federal (via the Science and Education Administration of the US Department of Agriculture), state (via the University of Florida), and county (through the county Board of Commissioners). 4-H also receives support from private sources.

Who “runs” the 4-H program?

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Is 4-H in my county?

Yes! 4-H is in every county, including yours! In Florida, thousands of members are in **hundreds of local 4-H clubs**. Thousands more are involved in 4-H through school enrichment, short-term programs, and camping. In addition, thousands of adults volunteer their time to assist with the 4-H program. You can become part of 4-H by contacting your county 4-H office.

How can I find out more about 4-H in my county?

Contact the 4-H staff in the Florida Extension office in the county where you live. Florida Cooperative Extension (or 4-H) may be listed in the white pages of your phone book, or may appear under “County Government.” If not, check the yellow pages under “Clubs” and “Youth Organizations and Centers.” You can also visit the UF 4-H Website at www.florida4H.org, or call the State 4-H Headquarters at UF IFAS (352-846-4444) to obtain the phone number and address of your county 4-H office.

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