



FLORIDA 4-H FACTS

4-H Youth Development Program of the University of Florida

UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
IFAS Extension
4-H Youth Development

The Florida 4-H Youth Development Program uses a 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 is one of the largest youth development programs in America with more than 6.5 million young people, ages 5-18, and 540,000 youth and adult volunteers.
- Florida 4-H is supported by over 14,000 adult and youth volunteers.
- 4-H has three primary program areas: science, engineering and technology; healthy living; and citizenship.
- 4-H is the only youth development program with direct access to technological advances from university research.
- 4-H's learning opportunities are intentionally designed around four essential elements necessary for positive youth development by providing youth with: supervised independence, a sense of belonging with a positive group, a spirit of generosity toward others and a wide variety of opportunities to master life challenges.
- The fundamental 4-H ideal of practical, "learn by doing" experiences encourages youth to experiment, innovate and think independently.
- 4-H programs are offered through community clubs; school-based, after-school and camp settings; and U.S. military installations worldwide.
- Recent studies indicate that youth spending time in positive youth programs, such as 4-H, are less likely to become involved in high risk behaviors, have higher school attendance and grades, better conflict management practices and better work habits.

Number of Youth Involved: 237,351

Organized Clubs* (community, in-school, after-school, and military)	19,692
Special Interest Clinics*	29,710
School Enrichment*	165,823
Day Camps/Residential Camps*	9,898
School Age Child Care*	11,382
Individual Study/Family 4-H*	846
Number of Girls: 50.7% (115,668) Number of Boys: 49.3% (112,271) <i>*Youth participating in multiple programs included.</i>	

Where Do 4-H'ers Live:

Farms	4%
Towns under 10,000 and in open country	22%
Towns and cities of 10,000 to 50,000	35%
Suburbs of cities over 50,000	17%
Central cities over 50,000 in population	23%

Grade Level of 4-H Members:

Kindergarten	5%
Elementary (1st-5th Grade)	66%
Middle School (6th-8th Grade)	24%
High School (9th-12th Grade)	5%
Post H.S. / Not in School / Special	Less than 1%

Florida 4-H Youth Development State Headquarters

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What is the 4-H Revolution of Responsibility?

It's a movement for positive change in every community in Florida. 4-H youth are a living breathing, culture-changing revolution for doing the right thing, breaking through obstacles and pushing our country forward by making a measurable difference right where they live.

JOIN | THE REVOLUTION OF RESPONSIBILITY

Research Shows 4-H Helps Young People Excel Beyond Their Peers

The 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development (<http://www.4-h.org/about/youth-development-research/positive-youth-development-study>) is a longitudinal study conducted by Tufts University that began in 2002.

4-H Youth Make More Healthy Choices

According to the study, 4-H'ers – regardless of their background, socio-economic status, race, and gender – thrive through the health/safety education and experiences they receive through 4-H programming. In fact, young people in 4-H are:

- 2.4 times more likely to delay sexual intercourse by Grade 11
- Shown to have had significantly lower drug, alcohol and cigarette use than their peers
- 2.3 times more likely to exercise and be physically active

4-H'ers Excel in School and the Sciences

The advantages of 4-H participation also include higher educational achievement and higher motivation for future education. Young people in 4-H:

- Report better grades, higher levels of academic competence, and an elevated level of engagement at school,
- Are nearly two times more likely to plan to go to college,
- Are more likely to pursue future courses or a career in science, engineering, or computer technology.

The study also finds that girls in 4-H are 1.6 times more likely to pursue science careers over their peers.

Young People in 4-H are Committed to Improving Their Communities

A notable trend of the study indicates that grade 11 4-H youth are 3.3 times more likely to actively contribute to their communities when compared with youth who do not participate in 4-H.

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