

If You Thought You Knew
Everything About 4-H,
Think Again.



Florida's Future
begins with **youth**

Share the Experience



Discover The Power
Within **YOUTH**.
Become a 4-H Volunteer.



You have a lifetime of experience

Each of us has lived a unique life — traveling different roads, seeing different things. We've experienced the world in our own way, giving each of us a unique blend of perspective, knowledge, skills and talents. We've learned many of life's lessons on our own, and some we've been taught by others. Just think how much the next generation could benefit from your lifetime of experience.



“Florida 4-H was perhaps one of the earliest influences in my life. It taught me at an early age to exercise my head, heart, hands and health for the betterment of myself and the world around me. I will always be thankful for the foundation it provided my life, and for the exceptional volunteers who made it all possible.”

— Bob Graham

United States Senator from Florida



Sharing your experiences can enrich a young life

Kids can get only so much from textbooks. They need to explore new things and develop “real life” skills in order to gain self-esteem. These are the key ingredients for becoming happy and productive citizens. But, even though they are eager to learn, today’s kids all too often don’t have the opportunity to benefit from the diverse experiences of adults. Kids are our future leaders; their minds are open and they appreciate the guidance and advice that comes only with experience — your experience.



“I joined 4-H when I entered the fourth grade. After that, 4-H was a large, important part of my life growing up. We were very involved in all the activities that were offered, doing all the projects that we could. I did all this under the watchful eyes of our 4-H volunteer, who was the County Extension Agent back then. He was more important than any male influence in my life other than my father. 4-H instilled in us values that transferred well into my adult life. Essentially, it taught me how I wanted to live. It was invaluable.”

— Allen Boyd
United States Congressman from Florida



Sharing is rewarding and gratifying for *you*

There is a special sense of accomplishment in helping a new generation of young people grow into upstanding adults. It's rewarding to see a young mind develop, spurred on by your involvement and guidance, and realize that someone else really appreciates what you have to offer. The benefits to you go beyond just good feelings — you will meet new people, travel to new places and learn new skills. You'll see what it's like to be a kid today — and you'll find that *you* are learning a thing or two from *them*!



“My experiences in 4-H were especially memorable thanks to the many volunteers that I interacted with. Together, we worked to learn and gain different perspectives from each other. Through them I learned valuable lessons on responsibility, working with adults, and leadership.”

— Rhea Chiles

Former Florida First Lady
and Founder of the
Lawton Chiles Foundation



4-H gives adults the opportunity to help kids

4-H is a “learn-by-doing” educational program for kids ages 5-18. It promotes positive values, social responsibility, and lifelong learning. Adult volunteers are the foundation of 4-H, which engages youth in all aspects of learning and development as a whole person as symbolized by the 4-H emblem:

- **Head:** Learning to think and make decisions.
- **Heart:** Developing acceptance, appreciation and welfare of others.
- **Hands:** Developing skills and pride and respect for work.
- **Health:** Understanding a growing and changing body and practicing healthful living.



“My 4-H volunteers were some of the best teachers I had growing up. The dedicated souls who labored in the show rings, drove us across the state and gave us so much shaped my life in a positive way and instilled a commitment to service in us all. Now, more than ever, young people need caring, responsible role models to mold them and prepare them for society, the workforce and their own future role as parents.”

—Adam Putnam

United States Congressman from Florida



If you thought you knew all about 4-H, think again

4-H has evolved since its inception in the early 20th Century. While the principles have remained constant, the activities and projects have kept pace with the times to appeal to new generations of youth. 4-H is *not* just a program for farm kids. 4-H provides programs in cities and suburbs as well as in rural and farming areas. It encompasses a wide range of projects to include the culturally diverse interests of youth all across Florida. Local clubs often plan and conduct their own events. Professional staff work with youth and adult volunteers to develop programs based on the specific needs of each Florida county. There is no “one-size-fits-all” approach for a state as diverse as Florida!



“I joined 4-H as a sixth-grader, participated in their competitions, and went to their camps. It left a lasting impression on me. 4-H remains vitally important in getting young people interested in agriculture and agricultural support occupations. We have a shortage of volunteers today, and I’d encourage everyone to consider helping.”

— Charles H. Bronson

Florida Commissioner of Agriculture



Your ideas can become local 4-H projects

Many adults in your community are already involved in 4-H — making friends, having fun, and working together to make a difference in the lives of others. Some projects that are already making a difference:

- Chaperoning community service events.
- Participating in beach, river or park cleanups.
- Growing produce to give to local food banks.
- Organizing bike-a-thons or walk-a-thons.
- Volunteering at an animal shelter.
- Participating in adopt-a-grandparent.
- Creating backyard bird and animal habitats.
- Volunteering at local soup kitchens.

Your life experience and knowledge of your community can help generate even more ideas for involving local youth in rewarding projects.



“Growing up in 4-H, I remember the adults who helped me learn and grow as a person. Their investment of time told me that I was important to them and it made the difference for me.

Volunteering to work with young people is one of the most rewarding things that anyone can do. I invite you to partner alongside us and become a 4-H volunteer. You can never see the look of gratitude on a young person’s face or feel the moment of triumph in a challenge overcome, if you don’t volunteer. You will never know the difference you can make if you don’t try.”

— Damon Miller, Assistant Dean,

State 4-H Youth Development Program



Are you ready to get involved?

4-H cannot exist without volunteers like *you*. Your desire to work with young people and influence their lives in a positive way is the first step toward becoming a 4-H volunteer. 4-H volunteers are provided with extensive resources to assist Florida's youth. Volunteering just one evening a week with 4-H can make a difference! Call or visit us on the web to find out how you can be a part of this important program.



1-866-4H-CLUBS

(1-866-442-5827 toll-free)

www.florida4H.com



In Florida, 4-H is part of the Florida Cooperative Extension Service based at the land-grant universities and receives support from the combined efforts of the county, state and federal governments. 4-H is managed by professional staff and is supported by the university research base to meet the needs of local Florida citizens.

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