



Marion County 4-H Handbook

A guide for member and volunteer engagement

#4HGrowsHere



Who We Are

4-H is a national non-profit organization that helps youth develop knowledge and skills necessary to become productive members of society. Marion County 4-H teaches youth about leadership, responsibility, citizenship and communication through fun, educational programs for youth ages 5-18. 4-H has something for everyone and anyone can join.

About Us

The 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.

The 4-H Motto

“To make the best better”

The 4-H Slogan

“Learn by doing”

4-H Emblem



4-H Project Areas:

- Animal and Agricultural Science
- ATV Safety
- Business and Citizenship
- Clothing and Textile Science
- Communication and Expressive Arts
- Community Action
- Creative Arts
- Engineering and Technology
- Environmental Science
- Food and Nutrition
- Healthy Living
- Leadership
- Natural Resources
- Personal Development
- Practical Skills
- Robotics
- Shooting Sports



Understanding 4-H Projects

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-Her learns, creates, or acts out (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 record book for that project.

Large Animal Project : An animal project that requires the 4-Hers 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.

Project Work Through 4-H

Each project book contains a wealth of information and activities for planning and conducting a project. The projects can be completed by participating in activities through organized project groups or by carrying out the activities individually under the guidance of a parent or other adult.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does a 4-H member have to select a project?

Yes. However, there are two ways to select a project, either as an individual project or as a group project.

How does a member select a project?

When choosing a project, consider your interests, background, what is necessary to start your project, and what is available to help you complete it.

County fairs and the state fair often have age requirements different than those for project enrollment. When participating in a fair event, be sure to review the related guidelines.

Once you've selected your project(s) for the year, request the record book(s) from your 4-H club leader. Look to see if the project you selected needs an additional resource book. Each project book is \$5 unless stated otherwise by the Marion County Extension office.





Membership

Eligibility

In order to join the Marion County 4-H program, youth must either live in Marion County or attend a Marion County school. If there is a specialty club in Marion County that is not offered in the home county, then the youth must ask the county they would like to participate in if they may participate in that county instead of in their county of residence.

4-H Membership Expectations

The expectations for 4-H membership include a balance of 4-H project work, active participation in monthly 4-H club meetings, participation in 4-H activities and events, and working towards improving one's personal growth.

4-H Age Categories (As of September 1st)

Cloverbuds: 5-7 Years of Age

Junior Participants: 8-10 Years of Age

Intermediate Participants: 11-13 Years of Age

Senior Participants: 14-18 Years of Age

Restrictions for Cloverbuds

- Project/Program participation restrictions for this age group are due to safety, insurance, and developmental capabilities. Children 5-7 years old will not be allowed to enroll in any large animal projects (i.e. sheep, goat, swine, beef, dairy or horse) or participate in any livestock, horse shows or shooting sports programs.
- Competitive Event Participation 4-Hers who are 5-7 years of age are ineligible to participate in competitive activities at any level (club, county, district, state, national, or international). However, they may exhibit or share project activities at a participation level for feedback. "Participation" ribbons/ awards will be given to this age group.

Membership Fee

There is an annual \$20.00 per person membership fee for community club members with a family maximum of \$60.00. Once a member is registered in 4-H Online a link will be sent to the family with payment instructions. There is no charge for Cloverbuds or school programs. If you have concerns about payment of the fee, please contact our office at 352-671-8400.

4-H Specialty Clubs in Marion County

- Shooting Sports:
 - Shotgun
 - Archery
- Horse
- Robotics

These specialty clubs participate in various 4-H competitions and shows. If interested in joining one of these clubs please contact the Marion County 4-H office or visit marioncountyfl.org/4-h. You will be provided with the club leader's information and will contact them to learn more about their club requirements.



Selecting a 4-H Club

There are numerous community clubs as well as school based clubs throughout Marion County that have various areas of interest. To select a 4-H club, log on to www.marioncountyfl.org/4-h or call the 4-H office to find a club in your area. Once you have a club in mind you will then contact the club leader directly to determine if that club best meets your needs and if space is available. After you select a club, you will then log on to 4honline.com to create a family profile and complete your enrollment process. If you do not have internet access or are experiencing issues with the system, please contact the 4-H office to guide you through the enrollment process. Members are expected to attend monthly meetings, complete projects and other club activities. Youth that wish to show in the Southeastern Youth Fair are required to attend 75% of their club meetings in order to show. Clubs are required to submit monthly attendance sheets and annual club secretary and treasurer books to the 4-H office for review.

Becoming a Volunteer

Marion County 4-H depends on the service of well-trained volunteers and professionals to help us better serve the youth in our county. If you have a special skill, area of expertise or just want to lend a helping hand, please contact the Marion County 4-H office to see where you fit in o this wonderful organization. All volunteers are expected to pass the volunteer screening process and trainings. If you wish to become a club leader, additional trainings and meetings are required. All club leaders and volunteers must complete the University of Florida and Marion County volunteer applications and pass the background screening process.



4-H County Council

County Council is an elite group of youth that have demonstrated skills in leadership, citizenship, communication and responsibility. These members help aid the Marion County 4-H program in their decision making process. The 4-H County Council works to complete community service projects and other 4-H community activities as well as attend monthly meetings. Marion County 4-H youth must be invited to an interview for County Council by the 4-H agents. The council is composed of representatives from clubs throughout the county.

District Council

Marion County is a part of the District 7 Council along with Sumter, Citrus, and Hernando counties. To become a member of District Council, you must first be an active member of County Council.

State Council

Youth have the opportunity to run for office at the state level. Marion County has had many youth run and become a 4-H state officer. Being a state officer requires additional expenses and attendance at various state events.



Marion County Events

Community Service- Community Service, is an important part of a young person's life. Developing a concern for others, the community, and the area in which we live is something that must be learned. Conducting a 4-H community service project as an individual or within a club will help our young people learn the importance of the responsibility each of us has to HELP make our community a better place in which to live. Marion County 4-H participates in the 4-H Community Pride project each year. Please contact the 4-H office about the county wide community service events we are participating in.

National 4-H Week- This celebration takes place the second week of October each year. During this week, 4-H members from across the nation will participate in a series of events. Each year Marion County 4-H organizes activities for the week including the Kickball Kickoff and the National Youth Science Day Experiment. Information advertising the events that are happening during this week are sent out to 4-H families.

Holiday Bakeoff- This project allows adults and youth can work together to make their favorite holiday treat. There is a project book, competition and awards ceremony. Items are then boxed and sold as a 4-H fundraiser. For more information contact the 4-H office.

County Events- Demonstrations and speeches held in a contest setting for Juniors, Intermediates, and Seniors in various categories. Placing is awarded based on achievement of standards, as evaluated by a panel of judges. Qualifiers for the District level events are selected at the County level. District Events qualifiers move on to compete at 4-H University.

Southeastern Youth Fair- Active Marion County 4-H members can participate in the Southeastern Youth Fair. For a complete list of projects, contests, and deadlines please visit their website seyfair.com or call the SEYF office at 352-629-1255.

Seminole Garden Project- 4-H members ages 5-18 can participate in this gardening project. Seeds and fertilizer are donated to members to start a garden. Participants will be judged on their garden, record book, and vegetable plate. Participants can also compete in the scarecrow and cucumber in a bottle. contest. All submitted produce will be donated to a local food bank.

Day Camps- During the summer Marion County 4-H offers a variety of summer day camps that focus on topics such as STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), healthy lifestyles, agriculture and natural resources. For more information contact the 4-H office.

ATV Safety- Marion County offers an ATV Safety program for youth ages 10 and up. This program offers an e-course, curriculum and even a Rider Course Certification. For dates and information contact the 4-H office.





Get Ready: County Events in 2017

Sign up today with your leader or call the 4-H office

Registration deadline (Friday, January 13, 2017)

When: Saturday, January 28, 2016

Where: Marion County Extension Auditorium

(2232 NE Jacksonville Rd. Ocala, FL) **Time:** Registration Begins at 8:30am; Judges/Room Monitor Orientation Begins at 8:00am

This is a good opportunity for all Marion County 4-Hers showing animals at the Southeastern Youth Fair who must complete a record book by doing a demonstration... come and join us!

What is County Events?

County Events provides youth an opportunity to share their projects through communication venues (public speaking or demonstrations). In clubs, youth should be giving demonstrations and talks to practice a valuable skill for life. County Events occurs annually during the last weekend of January.

*Cloverbuds may participate but are NOT judged. They will get feedback and receive a participation ribbon.

Juniors, Intermediates and Seniors are judged in their divisions and receive a review sheet and score.

Demonstrations & Illustrated Talks

Topic should be from the 4-H project

Division	Junior	Intermediate	Senior
Duration	3-12 minutes	3-12 minutes	5-12 minutes
Format	Individual or Team	Individual or Team	Individual or Team

Categories

- Animal Sciences
- Civic & Leadership Development
- Communication and Expressive Arts
- Environmental Education
- Family & Consumer Sciences
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Plant Sciences
- Science & Technology
- Workforce Prep & Career Development

A **Demonstration** is a "show & tell" presentation in a specific curriculum area, using posters, props, or PowerPoint to communicate your presentation content.

An Illustrated talk is a presentation without props, but does use visual aids such as posters or PowerPoint.

County Regulations for Demonstrations / Illustrated Talks Performances:

Regardless of category entered, the following regulations apply:

- Y All Marion County 4-H members must wear official 4-H dress code.
- Y No living vertebrates (i.e. fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, or mammals) may be brought.
- Y Demonstrations or illustrated talks must be between 3-12 minutes for juniors and intermediates, and 5-12 minutes for seniors.
- Y A team demonstration is one in which two team members (same age division) participate both in speaking and presentation. No more than two members per team.

The final results and awards will be announced and presented the day of the contest. All contest tabulations will be declared official at the awards ceremony.

County Events provides valuable teaching and learning experience. Participating youth learn presentation techniques and receive feedback for improvement as well as registration for other efforts.

For more information you can watch, *It's Showtime How to Demonstrate the 4-H Way* video in YouTube
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WTyHTCKv8c>

> **How to sign up?** Send an email to Kimberly.Condurso@marioncountyfla.org or call (352)671-8400 before **January 13** including your: **Name, club, age, category and title of your demonstration.**

4-H Beyond the County Level

Judging Teams- A special activity in which a team of 4-H members and/or individual 4-H members test their knowledge about a particular project area against 4-H members from other counties. Marion County has teams that compete at the State and National levels for meats, livestock, poultry, horse, forestry and marine ecology. For more information or to join a team, contact the 4-H office.

Hog 'N Ham- The Florida 4-H Hog and Ham Program is a statewide 4-H program which takes the participant through the total process of pork production from beginning to end. Youth select a feeder pig and grow it to harvesting weight, all while keeping records on feed amounts and costs, health care, expenses, weights, etc. After harvesting the hog and processing it into wholesale or retail cuts, 4-Hers cure the hams and prepare bacon and sausage for smoking. The project concludes by participating in a retail comparison project, completing a record book, and presenting a demonstration or illustrated talk to the other participants. This activity is available to a limited number of senior 4-H members.

District Events- District competitions are in the demonstrations and speech categories as well as Share the Fun. Share the Fun allows members to discover their talents, develop them and have opportunities to share those gifts with others. The objective of the show is to enhance the following areas: appreciation of talent, leadership, confidence, interesting special training and the ability to discover opportunities for wholesome recreation.

4-H University- Hundreds of 4-H teens from throughout the state participate in educational workshops, competitive events, engage in citizenship via community service projects, State Council elections, and healthy lifestyle & social activities at this week long event at the University of Florida. They learn about STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and other important subjects from University of Florida faculty members, providing an opportunity to spark their interest in possible career interests and, for many youth, to be introduced to a college environment for the very first time. 4-H University also provides an excellent opportunity for youth and adults (staff and volunteers) to build leadership as they work in partnership in planning and implementing the event.

Legislature-Senior 4-Hers come together to develop their skills debating, analyzing legislation, and speaking publicly all while making new friends and having a whole lot of fun. At this civic education event, youth write bills, then act as lobbyists, Representatives, or Senators to pass the bills through committee and then present and debate them on the Capitol House or Senate Floor. Youth have the opportunity to debate issues and experience the legislative process hands-on. Legislature is open to 4-Hers ages 13 to 18 as of September 1 of the current 4-H year.



4-H Beyond the County Level

4-H Month of Service- Florida 4-H is challenging youth from across the state to participate in a community service project during the month of October. We want to show Florida how much 4-H members can accomplish when we work together and give back to the community. We are happy for youth to participate in many types of service projects in October, but we are especially excited to see youth take part in a Clothing the World project. Youth have to opportunity to be recognized for their efforts. For more information about this event visit florida4h.org.

Intermediate State- This event is for youth ages 11-13. During this weekend event, youth will participate in educational workshops along with FUN SHOPS such as Podium Pizzazz, Clothing the World, and shooting sports. Youth will also enjoy relaxation and recreation as they attend a campfire, 4-H dance, sports, and games. For more information about this event visit florida4h.org.

Camp- Marion County camps one week out of the summer at 4-H Camp Cherry Lake located in Madison, FL. Campers must be at least 8 years old by September 1st. Counselors in training must be at least age 13 and attend counselor trainings. In order to be a counselor you must be at least 14 years of age, have served at least one year as a CIT and attend all counselor trainings. For more information contact the 4-H office.

Executive Board-The Florida State 4-H Council Executive Board consists of 4 delegates from each of the 13 4-H districts, up to 30 Executive Board Appointees, and the 8 Florida 4-H State Officers. The Executive Board is a group of youth from across the state that represent their county and district. The members attend working committee meetings at Executive Board Weekend Events, during which they offer input into events such as 4-H University, Legislature, 4-H Day at the Capitol, and Intermediate State. Committee members also play a vital role in the implementation of those events. Other committees work on planning and implementing a state-wide community service project, fund raising, entertainment, and communication support. This event happens three times a year. For more information about this event visit florida4h.org.

Leadership Adventure Weekend- This weekend will focus on a train-the-trainer type event for teen leaders. We will touch on club, county, & district officer responsibilities, team building, district & county council, communication and leadership skills along with being an ambassador for 4-H among other topics. The goal is to train participants to go back and repeat these trainings at a district, county, and club level. For more information about this event visit florida4h.org.

Florida State Fair Showcase-Florida 4-H showcases talented 4-H performers at the Florida 4-H Showcase during the Florida State Fair. For more information about this event visit florida4h.org.



4-H Beyond the County Level



Day at the Capitol– This educational event provides hands-on “learn by doing” experiences for youth. 4-H youth learn about the legislative and governmental processes and Florida’s significant “firsts” in the foundation of the United States as they participate in workshops, tours and observations of our government at work. This will provide youth the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills to become more informed citizens. 4-H youth also have the chance to come together and share the positive impacts of the Florida 4-H Program. Participants meet and hear from their elected officials.

4-H Day at Gator Football- The Gator Ticket Office offers a special discounted ticket for all 4-H members, employees, alumni, as well as their family and friends during the 4-H Day at Gator Football game. For more information about this event visit the florida4h.org website.

4-H Day at Legoland- This event is an opportunity for 4-H members and their families to explore the LEGOLAND theme park at a deep discount, while raising funds for 4-H clubs, camps, and other educational programs. LEGOLAND is a great way to have fun with the entire family and learn about science, engineering, and technology. Tickets are sold at a discounted price. For more information about this event visit the florida4h.org website.

Tailgating BBQ Contest- This tailgating contest is sponsored by Sonny’s BBQ & Winn Dixie Supermarkets. The purpose of this new contest is to promote the use of animal protein in the diet by teaching the art and science of safely preparing beef, pork, poultry, and seafood in an outdoor setting. Investment in this activity will provide 4-H youth with life skills, including decision making, healthy lifestyle choices, and communication.

Southern Region Teen Leadership Conference- SRTLTC is a first-of-its-kind, multi-state 4-H conference created to bring together 4-H teens and adults to empower & inspire them to make a positive change across the southern region through youth-adult partnerships. For more information visit florida4h.org



4-H National Trips

Leadership Washington Focus- This leadership program is for youth entering grades 7 through 9. The program will take place at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center, just one mile from the Washington, D.C. border. Middle school 4-H delegates will build confidence in their ability to motivate and direct others in meaningful action. For more information visit florida4h.org

Citizenship Washington Focus- This leadership program is for high school youth. Delegations from across the country attend this 6 day program at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center, located just outside Washington, D.C. The program is aimed at enriching young people's lives by broadening their appreciation and respect for themselves and others in the world. Participants attend workshops, committees, field trips and social events, giving them hands-on opportunities to learn and grow. Participants learn and practice skills that will make them better citizens and more successful individuals. For more information visit florida4h.org

National 4-H Conference- Held in Washington D.C. this event focuses on leadership, youth empowerment, community service, career development, and cultural diversity. There are many outstanding workshops along with keynote addresses that round out the experience. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for 4-H members. Youth must be selected for this trip. For more information visit florida4h.org

National 4-H Congress- Held in Atlanta, Georgia, this event focuses on leadership, youth empowerment, community service, career development, and cultural diversity. There are many outstanding workshops along with keynote addresses that round out the experience. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for 4-H members. Youth must be selected for this trip. For more information visit florida4h.org



Senior Portfolio Awards

Completing a Senior Portfolio will allow you to compete for national award trips and scholarships. The process will improve your skills of marketing yourself. You will complete an application, create a resume, write a narrative about yourself, and submit the information as a packet to be eligible for an interview.



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<http://www.facebook.com/MarionCountyFL4H>

#TrueLeaders

For more information visit the sources
below:

www.4-h.org

www.florida4h.org

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>

<http://ifasbooks.ifas.ufl.edu>

www.eXtension.org

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