



# Florida 4-H: Facts & Impacts

## Providing Positive Youth Development

The UF/IFAS Extension 4-H Youth Development Program uses a learn-by-doing approach to help youth gain the knowledge and skills they need to be responsible, productive citizens. This mission is accomplished by creating safe and inclusive environments, involving caring adults, and utilizing the expertise and resources of the University of Florida and the nationwide land grant university system.

For more than 100 years, 4-H has been committed to the idea that youth are the single strongest catalyst for change. Over 206,000 youth, ages 5-18, and more than 16,000 youth and adult volunteers make Florida 4-H what it is today. After more than a year of gathering input from thousands of citizens across the state, Florida 4-H is focusing its future on the highest priority needs identified in the process:

- Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (S.T.E.M.)
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Citizenship & Leadership

A renewed focus will be on establishing 4-H clubs led by trained volunteers, and broadening 4-H participation by valuing inclusiveness and increasing diversity so even more kids can benefit from a 4-H experience.



4-H is one of the **largest** youth development programs with more than **206,000 youth** ages 5-18, and 16,000 youth and adult volunteers in the state of Florida



## How Do We Reach Youth?

*Number of Florida Youth Involved:*

4-H Clubs **22,281**

4-H Camps **7,597**

Special Interest Programs **27,309**

School Enrichment **154,465**

After School Programs **1,998**

# What Does 4-H Offer Youth Today?

## 4-H Youth Excel in School & the Sciences

According to the 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development conducted by Tufts University

- Young people in 4-H report better grades, higher levels of academic competence, and an elevated level of engagement at school.
- 4-H youth are two times more likely to plan to go to college to pursue a degree in science, engineering, or computer technology.



## 4-H Youth Make More Healthy Choices

4-H members, regardless of their background, socio-economic status, race, or gender, thrive through health and safety they receive through 4-H programs.

In fact, young people in 4-H are

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

## Committed to Improving their Communities

- Grade 11 youth are 3.3 times more likely to actively contribute to their communities when compared with youth who did not participate.



## Top 5 Project Areas

1. Communications and Expressive Arts
2. Animals
3. Agriculture Awareness
4. Biological Sciences
5. Environmental Sciences

## Ethnicity/Race of Youth

Hispanic or Latino: 38,558  
American Indian or Alaskan Native: 1,205  
Asian: 3,666  
Black or African American: 39,516  
Pacific Islander: 353  
White: 152,861  
Other: 8,509

## Residence of Youth

City (over 50,000): 44,015  
City Suburbs: 52,858  
Towns (10,000-50,000): 62,918  
Towns (less than 10,000): 38,906  
Farms: 7,700

read more at... [florida4h.org](http://florida4h.org)