



Florida 4-H Connection

FLORIDA 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

A periodic newsletter for 4-H Alumni & Friends

University of Florida | Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences | Extension

Fall 2012

A message from the State 4-H Program Leader



Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Florida 4-H Connection, our newest attempt to keep 4-H alumni and friends connected to Florida 4-H. We invite your ideas for the content you'd like to see featured in future issues, including success stories of former 4-H members and volun-

teers or how you remain engaged with 4-H wherever you now live.

Our focus remains on providing positive youth development for youth, ages 5-18. Nearly 230,000 youth and more than 10,000 adult volunteers make Florida 4-H what it is today. This has been an especially busy and exciting year for Florida 4-H. 4-H State Headquarters has moved to a new building. (See photo within.)

The University of Florida is celebrating 150 years as Florida's Land Grant University. Also, after more than a year of holding listening sessions with and gathering input from thousands of citizens across the state, the UF/IFAS Extension 4-H Youth Development Program will be focusing on the highest priority needs identified in the process:

- Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (STEM)
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Citizenship & Leadership

4-H continues to promote an interest in learning as 4-H members "learn by doing" in a variety of 4-H educational programs and projects. A renewed focus will be on establishing 4-H clubs led by trained volunteers, and broadening 4-H program participation by valuing inclusiveness and increasing diversity so even more kids can benefit from a 4-H experience.

We hope you enjoy this very first issue and when done reading will consider sharing it with friends and co-workers or by simply leaving it in a prominent place for others to see. We intend to distribute a mailed issue of Florida 4-H Connection once a year and on other occasions via email. If you want to receive future issues be sure to visit florida4h.org/Alumni to sign up for an email subscription. Other ways you can stay connected with Florida 4-H are through [facebook.com/FL4HAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/FL4HAlumni), or [Twitter.com/Florida4H](https://twitter.com/Florida4H). Of course, if you'd like to stay more actively engaged, you can serve as a member of various 4-H advisory committees, as a local 4-H volunteer, donor, or more.

Best regards,

Keith G. Diem, Ph.D.
Associate Dean & State 4-H Program Leader



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LandGrant.ufl.edu

2012 Florida 4-H Hall of Fame Inductees

The Florida 4-H Hall of Fame was established in 2002 to recognize outstanding individuals who have made a contribution to the 4-H program. Established during the national 4-H program's centennial year, one hundred members were inducted into the Florida 4-H Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame's members include outstanding 4-H alumni, volunteers, Extension agents, program leaders, and supporters. Many tell us that being named to membership in the Hall of Fame is one of the most-treasured recognitions in their lives.



Jay Logan & Holly Logan (son-in law and daughter of Evalena Tatum Vann), Toby Turner, Gloria Roller Bohannon, Katherine "Kate" Smith, & Betty Jo Tompkins (President, Florida 4-H Foundation & 2009 Hall of Fame Inductee)

Gloria Roller Bohannon

Mrs. Bohannon has been a strong influence on the Hernando County 4-H program for more than 29 years. Through her service as a club leader, foundation member and leadership association member, thousands of youth and adults have been impacted by her meetings, presentations, leadership roles and active participation in county, state, and national events. Nominated by Mrs. Nancy Moores, Hernando County 4-H Agent, for her service to the 4-H community, Gloria was a strong voice in the creation of the local 4-H Leader's Association, and has also

served many years on the Hernando County 4-H Foundation Board, holding the positions of president and vice president. She is currently a member of the newly formed Hernando County 4-H Association. While providing volunteer time to the youth of Hernando and Pasco counties, Gloria has been employed at the Pasco Juvenile Detention Center for 41 years. Going far beyond her "job" as Staff Assistant, she has created and implemented various programs helping the residents of the center to learn things such as bookkeeping, record keeping, and how to raise animals.



Florida 4-H Connection Team

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Nationwide, 4-H has over 9 million members, including 230,000 in Florida. Florida 4-H offers youth, ages 5 - 18, diverse project topics available in all 67 counties, and with the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Founded in 1909, Florida 4-H is the youth development program of the Florida Cooperative Extension Service (CES), headquartered in Gainesville within UF's IFAS Extension. The CES is funded by a partnership between federal, state and county government agencies.

For more information about Florida 4-H, visit www.florida4h.org or contact your county Extension office. All programs are open to all persons regardless of race, color, age, sex, handicap or national origin.

Founded in 1902 nationally, 4-H is now the largest youth organization in the world.

Katherine “Kate” Smith

Nominated for her involvement in the Florida 4-H program for more than 37 years as a 4-H parent, volunteer, secretary and program assistant, Mrs. Smith is one of those volunteers whose blood really does bleed green. One of her former 4-H'ers, Brandi Altman, says, “She always brings everyone out of their shells; She brings out the best in everyone and encourages you to be a better person.” Ms. Kate, as she is affectionately known, has helped create two generations of competent, caring, and contributing citizens, that are also committed to 4-H. Specifically: the residential camping, citizenship, and leadership programs. Currently, Ms. Kate serves as a 4-H volunteer in a local 4-H club, and as a key leader in the camping program. Youth, volunteers and professionals all describe Ms. Kate as a passionate and committed person who truly cares and firmly believes in making the best better.

Toby Turner

Since the early 1980's, Mr. Turner has been a steadfast and generous supporter of the Indian River County 4-H program. Through his volunteer position as the manager of the Indian River County Firefighters' Fair, Mr. Turner has helped expand and enrich the county 4-H livestock program. During the past 30 years, each time 4-H outgrew an area, Mr. Turner oversaw the plans for expansion, and continues to be instrumental in acquiring more space to showcase the 4-H program as club membership grows. From the original livestock pavilion, to an expanded exhibitors' parking lot and fair entrance, to storage

and office facilities at the county fairgrounds, Mr. Turner has always supported the 4-H program as an integral and essential part of the county fair. In addition to his 4-H support, the Firefighter's Fair that Mr. Turner manages is itself a charity, with all proceeds benefitting the community through scholarships, grants, and paying the medical bills of burn victims.

Evalena Tatum Vann

For more than 30 years, Mrs. Vann was involved with the Sarasota County 4-H program. She and her husband, Charlie, worked with countless children during that time as club leaders of the Sarasota 4-H Livestock Club. Mrs. Vann was an active member of the Sarasota County 4-H Foundation, the local Fair Board and the Bee Ridge Women's Club. She was nominated by Mr. Casey Welch — one her many 4-H'ers — for her service to her community in the fields of education, history and community service. Mrs. Vann helped to build and sustain the 4-H program in Sarasota County. For many years, the Vann family provided urban 4-H youth with the opportunity to keep their livestock projects at their family home; allowing these 4-H'ers to have the experience with livestock that they otherwise would not have had living in the city. In addition to being an active member in the 4-H community, during her long volunteer career, Mrs. Vann received many awards that recognized the impact of her citizenship and her hours of volunteering.



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How can you make a difference in your community and help others?

Ask the Mighty 4-H'ers of Duette. The story of "The Fire House the 4-H'ers Built" began in 1982 when the Mighty 4-H'ers of Duette were looking for a community service project. With fire safety a major concern of the community, they were able to persuade the Florida Division of Forestry to loan them a 1973 brush truck and with \$350 donated by Chevron, plus materials, time, and labor by the 4-H'ers and their parents, they got the truck up and going. On Dec. 14, 1982, the Mighty 4-H'ers of Duette Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. was granted a charter by the State of Florida.

Ask District XIII 4-H Council whose main objective this year was to reach their community to help overcome poverty and to teach others how to help. They wanted to make an impact in the lives of impoverished people. Throughout the year, they took on different projects that impacted the lives of the impoverished in the community and beyond.

Ask the Nassau County 4-H Club who decided they wanted to reach out to more people in need. With the community in mind as well as fallen veterans, Callahan Country Kids 4-H Club created a project entitled "Caring Hearts Doing Their Part" that

helped to support the elderly, fallen veterans, and people in need of food.

Ask the Sarasota 4-H'er who taught her community the importance of becoming CPR certified. The major goal of this project was to certify youth and adults in CPR to construct a safer atmosphere in the community, and at local 4-H events. She taught her community how to perform and prepare CPR and how this skill can be applied in emergencies to save lives.

Ask the Gilchrist County 4-H'ers. The Gilchrist County 4-H SWAT Club (Students Working Against Tobacco) learned about the dangers of candy flavored tobacco and how tobacco companies use it to get kids addicted to tobacco products. Together the 4-Hers and their club leader approached the Board of County Commissioners about this and helped get an ordinance passed in Gilchrist County that all candy flavored tobacco sold in the county must be kept behind the counter so children and teens don't have easy access to it.

Be a part of your community's revolution at florida4h.org/revolution



Healthy Lifestyles

Obesity has become an epidemic in our country. Since 1980, obesity among children and adolescents has almost tripled. Our society needs effective and proven programs and tools to target this epidemic. 4-H and United Healthcare have partnered to launch an innovative program to engage people at the community level to take on the challenge of living healthy lives.

Through Eat4-Health, teen health ambassadors and 4-H professionals partner with local organizations to develop community-focused events that engage youth in learning about healthy lifestyles. Offering interactive educational activities, youth are guided in developing positive perspectives on health and nutrition - ultimately helping them to make smarter choices.

Eat4-Health comes alive through community events. Learn how you can support 4-H adults and teen ambassadors by leading engaging, impactful events. Visit:

florida4h.org/eat4health

Florida 4-H Youth Celebrate National 4-H Week October 7-13

October 7-13 is National 4-H Week, and Florida 4-H is celebrating the 4-H youth who have made an impact on their community, and are stepping up to the challenges of a complex and changing world.

Recent findings from Tufts University's *4-H Study of Positive Youth Development* indicate that young people in 4-H are three times more likely to contribute to their communities than youth not participating in 4-H. Notably, the Tufts research discovered that the structured learning, encouragement and adult mentoring that 4-H'ers receive play a vital role in helping them actively contribute to their communities. In Florida 230,000 youth and more than 10,000 adult volunteers are involved in 4-H.

Also during National 4-H Week, hundreds of thousands of youth from all around the nation complete



a single, innovative experiment on *4-H National Youth Science Day*, Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2012. The 2012 National Science Experiment, *4-H Eco-Bot Challenge*, explores how robots can be used to preserve and protect the environment, while offering a glimpse into the future of science, technology, engineering and math.

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. Learn how you can get involved in your county by visiting

florida4h.org/4Hweek

4-H National Youth Science Day to Focus on Engineering Robotics Solutions



For more than 100 years, 4-H has been at the forefront of teaching youth about science, engineering and technology (S.T.E.M). Created to combat a shortage of American young people pursuing science college majors and careers, *4-H National Youth Science Day* seeks to spark an early youth interest and leadership in science.

4-H National Youth Science Day (4-H NYSD) is a coordinated, nationwide effort to support the Cooperative Extension System's focus on expanding S.T.E.M programming for our nation's youth. Additionally, 4-H NYSD offers 4-H the opportunity to promote Extension science, engineering and

technology efforts to help attract one million new young people to 4-H Science programs by 2013.

After the success of our fourth experiment, *Wired for Wind*, 4-H is gearing up to complete the fifth National Science Experiment: *4-H Eco-Bot Challenge*.

Join Florida 4-H and the entire 4-H nation on October 10th for 4-H National Youth Science Day.

Visit Florida4h.org/nysd

Why Should You Get Involved?

- 4-H is the only youth development program with direct access to technological advances from university research.
- 4-H youth are more likely to pursue future courses or a career in science, engineering, or computer technology
- 4-H youth are 2.3 times more likely to exercise and be physically active
- 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
- 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.

4-H gave me a great start on all the things I love to do. I wouldn't be me if not for my 4-H experiences!

— Clare-Marie Hannon
FL 4-H Alumna

4-H taught me the citizenship and leadership skills I use today.

— Adam Putnam,
Commissioner of Agriculture
FL 4-H Alumna

The best part is that you still get to go back and help the others...especially at 4-H events.

— Krystina Thompson
FL 4-H Alumna

The foundation for my public speaking and leadership skills were built during my years as a youth in 4-H.

— Senator Bill Nelson
FL 4-H Alumna

Florida 4-H celebrates alumni at 40th anniversary of 4-H Legislature event

The first 4-H Legislature took place in 1973 and was such a success that it's been held every year since. To mark the event's 40th anniversary, Florida 4-H Youth Development Program hosted the first 4-H Legislature alumni gathering, June 28-29 in Tallahassee. 4-H Legislature is a week-long civic education program that allows teens to learn how government operates by participating in simulated hands-on legislative sessions in our state's capitol.



Stay informed of the latest alumni gatherings,

florida4h.org/alumni

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2012-2013 Florida 4-H Events

Green - State Events • Blue - Regional Events • Red - National Events • Gray - Event Date TBA

2012

October

4 - 7 Southern Region Leader Forum in
Little Rock, Arkansas

7-13 National 4-H Week

10 NYSD

22-25 NAE4-HA, Orlando

November

23-27 National 4-H Congress

December

1 State Marine Ecology Event

7-9 2nd Exe. Board at Camp Ocala

8 4-H/FFA Horse Judging School

We have moved!

4-H State Headquarters is now located on the second floor of the new Straughn IFAS Extension Professional Development Center

