Youth and Civic Engagement
by Cathy Suggs
Lee County 4-H Agent

One of the developmental characteristics of youth ages 15-18 is that they are developing a community consciousness. Youth want to impact their world by engaging in civic governance. This is supported by research conducted by Extension Faculty member, Patricia Hendricks, at Iowa University in the 4-H targeting life skills model.

Teenagers desire to be strong leaders and responsible citizens and 4-H provides the following opportunities for youth to develop these skills;

Lee County 4-H Proclamation Day – October 13, 2009

Youth who attend this event have the opportunity to experience Lee County government in action and to take part as the Commissioners proclaim October 11th – October 17th to be 4-H week in Lee County.

The 4-H County Council President and Vice-President give short speeches to the Commissioners thanking them for funding 4-H and letting them know how 4-H has impacted their lives. 4-H youth meet their commissioners, county manager, and observe an official meeting. This will be the third year Lee County 4H has partnered with the Commissioners to provide an interactive civics lesson for our youth.

4-H Day at the Capital – Tallahassee

Youth travel to Tallahassee to participate in workshops, tours, and to meet their legislators. This event is planned by the Executive Board youth and held in the spring. Executive Board members act as tour guides as youth explore the Capital building and meet their state representatives.

4-H Legislature – Tallahassee – June 21-25, 2009

The Florida 4-H Legislature is a five-day learning laboratory in state government. Young people serve as the Florida 4-H Governor and Lt. Governor, senators and representatives; lobbyists, pages, legislative aides, and news media staff. Participants’ research and debate 60 pieces of 4-H legislation that Florida youth have submitted during the year. They learn; the functions of state government, parliamentary procedure, public speaking, debate, problem-solving, networking skills, and the formal structure of policy-making. Participants meet in the Capital committee rooms, debate in the House and Senate Chambers, have press conferences, and tour the Supreme Court. This event is open to youth ages 14-18.

Please take advantage of these 4-H civic engagement opportunities that are offered to Lee County 4-H youth.
Florida Crackers

It's that time of year again, when the Florida Crackers start off their new 4-H year. On September 2, 2009 our club had our officer and committee elections. Even before the election started you could feel the energy when you walked into the room. Here are the results of our club elections:

President: Dakota Heinkel
Vice President: Brianna Sherkus
Secretary: Whittney Bogard
Treasurer: Bridget Harper
Reporter: Lauren Sherkus
Historian: Amber Pendarvis
Sergeant at Arms: Deen Bogard

For our committee chair and co-chair election here are the results:

Community Service- Chair: Ashlee Pendarvis
Community Service- Co-Chair: Brianne Harper
Fundraiser- Chair: Lane Sheffler
Fundraiser- Co-Chair: Callie

We're looking forward to having another fun and successful year.

Written By: Lauren Sherkus

Just 4 Kicks

Just 4 Kicks First Meeting
By: KiKi Wunderlich

Just 4 Kicks 4-H club kicked off there year with a community service project! All the girls had a great time at the Magnolia Point Retirement Home. We brought two horses and two dogs to share with the residents. Our girls brought the dogs around for everyone to pet and see; we also held the horses so the residents could come give them treats. After our experience at Magnolia Point we had our first meeting and planned out the awesome year ahead of us. Over all Just 4 Kicks had a great time and is looking forward to our next meeting, Saturday, Oct. 10, 2009, 9:00 am.

Hog Wild -N- Steer Krazy

Hi I am Taylor Tyndall, the reporter for Hog Wild -N- Steer Krazy. Our first meeting was September 8th. We assigned officers and talked about what our job is and what we do. There are 5 other officer, the president is Shelby Barnes. The vice president is Devin Taylor. The secretary is Ally Taylor. Treasurer is Tucker Holly. And last Justin Tyndall the parliamentarian.
4-H Country Club

Last year was such a great year for our club, we had 100% participation in County Events, we were well represented in Share the Fun and District Events, even having Haylee Shearer and Loren Logan place third at State. We had four members represent our club at Congress this year, and hope to double that next year.

Shayla Connell, Connor Harvey, Savannah Letter, Loren Logan, Kasne McKee, Mason Mills, Ashley & Cody Rosssbach, Jaya Rucker, Haylee Shearer, Callie Sipes, Casey Traurig, Shelbie Tyndall, and Quinton Winslow. Good job guys. We have even started working on our steps for awards next year.

Congratulations to our awards participants; Shayla Connell, Connor Harvey, Savannah Letter, Loren Logan, Kasne McKee, Mason Mills, Ashley & Cody Rosssbach, Jaya Rucker, Haylee Shearer, Callie Sipes, Casey Traurig, Shelbie Tyndall, and Quinton Winslow. Good job guys. We have even started working on our steps for awards next year.

This year we are off to a great start! We will elect officers at our September meeting, good luck to all of those who are running, discuss swine selection; set a date for the Ropes Program; and start planning for National Make A Difference Day. Hogs have been ordered and will be delivered on October 17th.

Connor Harvey
Reporter

4-H Round Up

So far this 4-H year has gotten off to a good start. We have already done so many things and are planning more.

First off, I would like to congratulate our new president; Jessica Bryant, our vice president; Rex Shevitski, our secretary; Riley Caylor, our historian; Gretchen Bierce, our sargent of arms; Cody Flint, our treasurer; Aleah Lintereur, our parliamentarian; Jessica Kobie, our all star; Daniel Caylor, and our reporter; me, Emily Blinn.

Now that elections are all settled, we have been focusing on other things. Like our silent auction basket our club is donating for Havana Nights. We have an awesome basket going on here! We have had lots of donations, and really good ideas.

Our club has also been working hard to sell raffle tickets. Seriously though, we really need to get crackin’ on these tickets people!!!

Our club has definitely gotten off at a good start. We have all our committees organized with designated leaders, our 4-H shirt colors were voted on, and we have great ideas of what we will be doing for community service projects. We pretty much have our whole year planned out, and its gonna’ be an awesome year!

Till’ next time, this is Emily Blinn 4-H Round Up

Dixie Wranglers

Hey, Guys! The Dixie Wranglers have been busy already this year. On September 1st, eighteen of our group received their CPR certifications, we have had a sewing clinic, we have elected officers already, had our first meeting and are in full swing for community service projects. All of our members are aiming towards end of the year awards and many are excited about fair. We have gone from three returing members to over 30 members! I hope everyone else had a nice summer. Thanks, Dixie Wranglers!!!
Ways to register your premises in Florida.

- Complete the online registration form at http://nais.aphis.usda.gov/NAIS/index.jsp?state=FL.
- Download the [PDF] registration form from this site http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/onestop/forms/09215.pdf, complete it, and return it by mail or fax 850-410-0957.
- Also: Premises Registration Applications are also available at local Farm Service Agency and University of Florida, IFAS Extension offices.
- Call the Florida Division of Animal Industry at 850-410-0900 to register by phone.

To learn more about NAIS, please visit www.usda.gov/nais.

Information adapted from: http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/ai/adc/adc_nais.shtml