



Florida 4-H History Timeline

Date	Description
1859	Morrill Act passed to create land-grant colleges in every state.
1900	There are records that go back as far as 1856 where corn-growing contests for boys were conducted in Cattarugus County, New York
1902	In 1902, A.B. Graham , a school principal in Clark County, Ohio, formed a club of boys and girls with officers, projects, meetings and record requirements. Activities included growing corn, planning a garden, and testing soil. Grahams sought assistance from the Ohio Agriculture Experiment Station and The Ohio State University. This is said to be the beginning of 4-H.
1904	Captain E. Miller in Keokuk County, Iowa sponsored a county organization of boys and girls in 1904. Miller’s plans fostered many of the teaching tools of today’s 4-H programs, including life skills and learning-by-doing through projects, group meetings and exhibits. Community service projects provided active learning interaction between youth and adults and encouraged youth to set and accomplish goals.
1909	In 1909, J. J. Vernon, University of Florida Dean of Agriculture, organized the first 4-H clubs in the Sunshine State for boys in Alachua, Bradford and Marion counties. The 4-H program in Florida began as a means to get farmers to accept hybrid seed stock. Working with youth in Marion, Bradford and Alachua counties, educators provided corn seed to young men, offering incentives for growing corn that exceeded normal production, at that time. This method of working with youth became an effective way to influence adults and teach youth needed career skills.



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1912	<p>In 1912, Tomato clubs for girls were organized through schools in Florida. The 4-H girls clubs began when Agnes Ellen Harris left her position at Florida State College for Women (now known as Florida State University), to become Florida’s first home demonstration agent. Five-hundred girls were enrolled in Tomato clubs during 1912 in 11 counties.</p> <p>In 1912, tomato club prize winners were awarded trips to Tallahassee, where they took “short courses” at the Department of Home Economics at Florida State College for Women.</p>
1914	<p>In 1914, the Smith-Lever Act was passed, which established the Cooperative Extension Service.</p> <p>By 1914, Florida had 935 boys enrolled in clubs and 308 turned in records.</p> <p>The 373 girls in Tomato club grew 184, 821 pounds of tomatoes. These girls’ tomato clubs inspired interest in home activities and helped fill home pantries, giving a greater variety to the family diet and reducing the cost of living. Sales of fresh canned tomatoes brought in extra money and even enabled a few of the girls to enter college.</p>
1915	<p>Extension work with African-Americans began in Florida in 1915 and was headquartered at Florida A & M University.</p>
1916	<p>The first addition to the Florida 4-H program was pig club work offered to boys in 1916. In its first year, 652 boys enrolled in the pig clubs.</p>
1916	<p>The first Boys’ Short Course was held at the University of Florida in September 1916 with 73 of the top 4-H club boys in the state attending. Extension faculty taught the boys new agricultural techniques and showed them pioneering research. When they went home, the boys world often apply what they learned, and influenced how their family farms operated.</p>



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1917	Florida was a pioneer in the camping program. The first club camp in Florida was in Clay County in 1917.
1917	As was common in the southern United States at that time, 4-H work was segregated. By 1917, Florida 4-H had about 1,250 African-American boys and girls enrolled in farm makers clubs and home makers clubs in Alachua, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Marion and Washington counties.
1919	The State Council of Home Demonstration work was formed in 1919, when 62 girls attended the State Short Course.
1919	The 1919 Tour of Chicago is generally recognized as the first National Club Congress.
1921	In 1921, the National Committee on Boy's and Girls' Club Work was formed, which coordinated private support on behalf of 4-H type programs.
1921	The Girls State Council organization was formed before any of the county programs had a County Council, but that soon changed. Only two years later in 1921, Palm Beach County organized the first county council of home demonstration girls.



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Date	Description
1924	<p data-bbox="440 499 816 531">How the 4-H Clover Grew</p> <p data-bbox="440 573 1487 741">Around 1907, O.H. Benson from Iowa designed the first emblem for the clubs. It was a three-leaf clover which stood for head, heart and hands. In 1911, Benson suggested the fourth H should stand for hustle, and the 4-H design was adopted.</p> <p data-bbox="440 783 1487 856">Later O.B. Martin replaced hustle with health. The emblem has stood for head, heart, hands and health ever since.</p> <p data-bbox="440 898 1487 972">It wasn't until 1924 when club work acquired the name for 4-H and the 4-H emblem was patented.</p> <p data-bbox="440 1014 1487 1266">The 4-H Name and emblem have U.S. federal protection under federal code 18 U.S.C. 707. This federal protection makes it a mark unto and of itself with protection that supersedes the limited authorities of both a trademark and a copyright. The Secretary of Agriculture is given responsibility and stewardship for the 4-H Name and Emblem, at the direct request of the U.S. Congress.</p>
1926	<p data-bbox="440 1308 1487 1476">Opening in 1926, 4-H Camp Timpoochee, located near the gulf in Niceville, became a reality as the first permanent 4-H camp in Florida. Many 4-H boys and girls donated a chicken each to be sold to support the building of 4-H Camp Timpoochee.</p> <p data-bbox="440 1518 1487 1673">J. Lee Smith traveled northwest Florida on a train, picking up donated chickens from 4-H members who met the train when it stopped, and then sold the chickens to support the camp's construction. 4-H Camp Timpoochee remains one of the oldest camping facilities in the nation.</p>



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Date	Description
1927	In 1927, state 4-H leaders adapted the national 4-H pledge and the 4-H motto at the first National 4-H Club Camp. At one time in history of the 4-H pledge there was a fifth H, representing the home. This H was removed in 1948 because the four H's have its foundation in the home, around which all 4-H work is built.
1927	In 1927, twenty African-American 4-H members from Florida attended an interstate meeting of the Southern Negro Boys and Girls 4-H Camp at Tuskegee, Alabama.
1928	The first "Negro Farm Boys and Girls State 4-H Club Short Course" was held at Florida A & M University in 1928.
1930	In 1930, a state council for boys was formed at the 1930 Boys' Short Course to promote club work throughout the Sunshine State.
1938	In 1938, 19 judging teams and 10 demonstration teams of Florida 4-H boys were trained by county agents. This was another feature of club work which offered worthwhile training and experience through judging contests.
1939	Little is known about the history of 4-H Camp McQuarrie. Located in the Ocala National Forest. Records indicate that 4-H Camp McQuarrie operated from 1939 to 1966.
1939	By 1939, Florida 4-H club projects covered practically all aspects of agriculture.



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1948	African-American 4-H members initially camped at the district level using tents. In 1948, 4-H Camp Doe lake, the first permanent camp for African-American 4-H club members, opened in the Ocala National Forest. Located on a 30-acre lake, the camp could accommodate 130 campers per week. 4-H Camp Doe Lake was a residential camping facility from 1948 to 1972.
1952	On January 15, 1952 the United States Postal Service released a three-cent 4-H Club stamp. The stamp, issued to honor the 4-H movement in America, depicts the club's four-leaf-clover emblem and motto, " <i>To Make The Best Better.</i> "
1952	In 1952, there were 1, 294 organized 4-H clubs in Florida operating in 64 counties. Over 110,113 youth participated in the 4-H Health Improvement program.
1955	<p>The Seminole Tribe of Florida Indian 4-H has come a long way, dating back to 1955 and first known as Seminole Indian 4-H. Some of the earlier programs were chicken projects and cooking and sewing classes for both boys and girls.</p> <p>The agents assigned were considered "Special Indian Agents." The first Extension 4-H agents were Mr. Fred Montsdeoca, who worked with the young men and Mrs. Edith Boehmer, who worked with the young women.</p>
1955	A state council for African-American girls was organized during the annual short course at Florida A & M University in 1955.



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1957	<p>4-H Camp Cloverleaf was officially established in 1957. 4-H Camp Cloverleaf sits on the banks of Lake Francis in Lake Placid, Florida.</p> <p>The first 4-H'ers ever to attend Camp Cloverleaf paid their way in eggs, chickens, corn, and many other agricultural products that were used during the week of camp.</p>
1960	<p>In 1960, boys' clubs grew to over 17,000 boys enrolled in from one to seven projects. Girls enrollment increased to 24,021.</p>
1963	<p>In June 1963, thanks to the planning by Woodrow Brown, Emily King, Joe Busby and others, the Florida 4-H Foundation was founded. This direct support organization would plan an important role in recruiting and identifying private donors to support 4-H.</p> <p>Funds contributed through the foundation have helped Florida 4-H members go to college, support new public awareness efforts, funded new 4-H programs, helped hundreds of Florida 4-H'ers attend National 4-H Congress and National 4-H Conference, and recognized countless 4-H members for their outstanding achievements.</p>
1964	<p>The school based 4-H club in Florida was abandoned in 1964, and replaced with volunteer-led community or project clubs. This changed the role of the 4-H agent in Florida dramatically. It also empowered the 4-H club leader to take on a more active and engaged mentoring and teaching role with young people.</p>



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Date	Description
1964	Florida 4-H events became fully co-educational in 1964, with the first 4-H Club Congress held on the University of Florida campus. The separate Girls and Boys State 4-H Councils were combined into one State 4-H Council with eight officers in 1964.
1966	African-American youth attended the Club Congress for the first time in 1966.
1967	<p>Camp Cherry Lake was originally founded in 1937 by the Florida Rural Rehabilitation Corporation (FRRC), created from a joint federal-state work relief effort during the Great Depression.</p> <p>Camp Cherry Lake was officially deeded to the 4-H clubs in Florida in 1967, and every summer since then, young boys and girls have looked forward to exploring and interacting with nature in a way that can only be done at camp.</p>
1969	<p>In 1969 Tropicana Products Inc., a trademark of PepsiCo®, adopted a public speaking program originally established in 1952 by Mrs. Inez Pettigrew, a teacher at Palm View Elementary in Palmetto, Florida.</p> <p>When Tropicana adopted the speaking contest, it was associated with the local Florida 4-H program. Since then, the public speaking course has expanded to accommodate hundreds of thousands of students all over the state of Florida.</p> <p>The Florida 4-H/Tropicana Public Speaking Program is an educational program aimed at teaching young people the techniques of effective public speaking. This educational program is taught by classroom teachers and is incorporated into the established school curriculum.</p> <p>The results of the Florida 4-H/Tropicana’s dedication to the program are evident in the confidence displayed by young people in making prepared or extemporaneous presentations later in their school and professional careers.</p>



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1972	<p>In 1972, Florida 4-H began a move back into the public schools, taking this opportunity to reach more youth through special interest programs. These short-term, mini 4-H projects provided a variety of learning experiences to a large number of youth, and at the same time enriched classroom subject matters.</p> <p>Major projects areas include: Exploring your world through banking, management, shopping, supermarkets; and money master; forest ecology; traffic safety; grooming; pet care; teen consumer; citizenship; and the energy crisis. Emphasis on the short-term special interest series helped increase the 4-H enrollment to a height of 86,000 members in 1974.</p>
1972	<p>Mulligan Stew was a children’s educational program that was sponsored by the National 4-H Council and shown both in schools and on television. It was produced by Michigan State University and premiered in 1972 during National 4-H Week in Washington, D.C. Each of the six half-hour episodes gave grade school and high school children in the U.S. information about nutrition.</p>
1973	<p>The first State 4-H Citizenship program was held in 1973. This program became known as The Florida 4-H Legislature. Leg, pronounced “ledge” by Florida 4-H’ers, provides an opportunity for teen 4-H members to have a “learn-by-doing” experience in state government each summer.</p> <p>When delegates participate in the Florida 4-H Legislature, they have an actual experience in all three branches of Florida’s government: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial. Florida 4-H laws are considered and passed or vetoed in a mock legislative session at the Florida State Capitol.</p>
1982	<p>In 1982, Chevron U.S.A. funded 52 – Florida 4-H Community Pride Grants totaling \$6,000 that were awarded to 30 counties. Over 1,597 Florida 4-H’ers were involved and they, in turn, recruited over 600 others to assist them in improving their communities.</p>



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1983	In 1983, the University of Florida signed a lease with the U.S. Forest Service for 4-H Camp Ocala, located in the Ocala National Forest. Camp Ocala is the largest of Florida's 4-H camps and allows campers the true beauty of nature at its finest.
1984	By 1984, over 10,400 adult and teen volunteers work with Florida 4-H youth. Of the 84,000 members at that time, about 40 percent lived on farms and in small towns, while 60 percent were urban residents.
1992	In 1992, the Special Indian Agent Program was re-established through the U.S. Farm Bill. Funding was made available for a special program known as the "Extension Indian Reservation Program." At this time, the Seminole Indian Tribe became a "county" for administrative purposes, and therefore was assigned their own Extension professional.
1998	4-H Camp Timpoochee's unique location on the shores of the Choctawhatchee Bay made it the perfect location for marine science study. In 1998, a marine center was built that helps bring science to life for campers and adults. The living laboratory houses a number of 50- to 250-gallon aquariums where freshwater, bay and gulf life can be seen up close and personal.
2001	In 2001, thousands of 4-H members participated in county "conversations" about the future of youth development in their communities. Through these interactive discussions around key issues facing contemporary young people, 4-H forged new ties with other youth-serving agencies and build consensus with community partners.
2002	National 4-H celebrates its 100 th anniversary in 2002. Florida hosted a parade and celebration in St. Augustine, Florida.



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2002	The Florida 4-H Foundation initiates the Florida 4-H Hall of Fame in 2002, where 104 individuals were first inducted.
2003	In 2003, Florida 4-H and the United States Air Force began a joint military partnership for youth, at all of the U.S. Air Force bases in Florida: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eglin Air Force Base in Okaloosa County; • Patrick Air Force Base in Brevard County; • Tyndall Air Force Base in Bay County; • Homestead Air Force Base in Miami-Dade County; • McDill Air Force Base in Hillsborough County.
2004	Although the volunteer base has been around in Florida 4-H since its inception, in 2004 the Florida 4-H Volunteer Association became official.
2005	In 2005, Florida 4-H began a military partnership to offer Operation: Military Kids (OMK). OMK in Florida reaches out to youth with a deployed military family member through a variety of ways. OMK state and community partners provide support to Florida citizens and communities addressing the issues facing military families.
2006	In 2006, the special “Indian” program became known as the “Federally Recognized Tribe Extension Program.” Today, Seminole Indian 4-H is one of the most successful programs in “Indian Country.” <p>The Seminole Tribe has traditionally been an agricultural and animal husbandry community. Approximately 50 percent of youth and young adults are introduced to these histories through 4-H school enrichment programs. The Seminole Tribe of Florida has six reservations: Brighton, Big Cypress, Immokalee, Hollywood, Tampa and Fort Pierce.</p>



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2007	<p>In 2007, proposed by the Seminole Indian Tribe 4-H, a consortium of Southeastern Native American 4-H Clubs met at the National 4-H Headquarters in Chevy Chase, Maryland. This was the first time that a Native American group had been hosted at the National 4-H Headquarters.</p> <p>Whereas most of Florida is being developed for housing communities, the Seminole Tribe is able to recognize their strong heritage in agriculture and animal husbandry and the role it plays in the past and future.</p>
2009	<p>Today, Florida 4-H has 234,000 members and more than 10,000 volunteers who interest youth in learning.</p> <p>Through positive youth-adult partnerships and a variety of subject matter, youth receive workforce preparation and meaningful developmental assets such as communication skills, organizational abilities, wise decision-making skills, independence and self-confidence, as well as respect and caring for others and community.</p>

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