



# Living In Florida's Environment

## 2017-2019 State Service Project Guide

Prepared by the Florida 4-H State Project Committee



**“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.” -Native American Proverb**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This guidebook is designed to inform and assist 4-H members in completing the state service project. It is based on the theme of helping the environment. “Living in Florida’s Environment (L.I.F.E)” encourages youth to get involved in projects that create a greener tomorrow.

## **PHILOSOPHY**

As green is one of 4-H’s primary colors, it is our responsibility to create a greener, brighter, and healthier tomorrow. Using the skills we have learned through citizenship, leadership, and developing character, we can truly make a bigger impact on our environment.

## **THE PROJECT**

Each year the State Project Committee on the Executive Board recommends activities for 4-Hers to participate in. These activities meet the requirements of the statewide community service project of the Florida 4-H Council. This year the committee decided the 2017-2019 State Project theme would be “Living In Florida’s Environments (L.I.F.E).” This project focuses on creating a greener tomorrow by hosting beach cleanups, planting trees, and participating in citizen science activities.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the “Living in Florida’s Environment (L.I.F.E)” project is to exemplify the “Green” aspect of 4-H by protecting and healing the most important natural resource, our home, Earth. Do not forget to ask other youth organizations to join in!



Thank you,

State Project Youth Chair:

*Nathan Wilson*

# PROJECT IDEAS

## Recycling and Cleanup Projects

These projects can take place at your local beaches, lakes, rivers, parks, or neighborhoods:

- Plan a kayak trip with your club looking for fishing line, invasive species, and/or trash in your county beach, rivers and/or lakes
- Schedule a beach, lake, or park clean up
- Make crafts out of six-pack rings or collect and recycle them
- <http://www.ringleader.com/PDFs/Environmental Facts on Carrier.pdf>
- <http://www.ringleader.com/questions.html>
- Go to your local parks and volunteer
- Monofilament recovery & recycling program <http://mrrp.myfwc.com/>

## Planting Tomorrow

Volunteer your time by helping plant local gardens and trees in your community:

Create Seed Paper that is Native to Florida

- Creating seed paper to pass out to be planted
- All seeds should be native to Florida

Planting a Tree

- Plant a tree in your local community
- Register that tree through the State 4-H Office using exact coordinates
- A dot is put on where that tree was planted
- Plant native Florida plants
- Plant gardens at your local schools, nursing homes, and community shelters and/or maintain them

## Be a Citizen Scientist

Not all projects completed must involve plants or clean ups. Below are some projects that help maintain our ecosystem while making a difference in your local community:

- Learn more about Florida birds and report on bird migration <http://www.birdsleuth.org/about-us/>
- Build beetle traps and send specimens to UF as part of the Backyard Beetle challenge <http://www.backyardbarkbeetles.org/>
- Help the University of Florida track what species of ants live in different areas of Florida by collecting and submitting ants for the School of Ants Project <http://www.schoolofants.org/>
- Take part in the Butterfly WINGS Project. Learn why these insects are important pollinators, build butterfly gardens, and more <https://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/wings/>
- Join the Air Potato Patrol and help control this invasive species in Florida <https://airpotatobeetle.com/>
- Water conservation is a big issue facing not only Florida, but also the entire planet. Monitor local waterbodies, test water quality, and send results to EarthEcho International as part of their Water Challenge <http://www.monitorwater.org/>
- Participate in the Microplastic Awareness Project to reduce your contribution to microplastic pollution [http://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu/sea/microplastics/get\\_involved.html](http://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu/sea/microplastics/get_involved.html)

**For more information/projects visit:**

<http://florida4h.org/programs/Environment.pdf>

# Project Completion

The State Project Committee encourages all youth to participate in at least one state project that is associated with Living In Florida's Environment (L.I.F.E). The committee would also like to recognize the youth that do participate in these projects. Once a project is completed, please record it on the attached sheet in this packet. The sheet allows for five projects to be recorded, however, more can be completed and attached on additional sheets. **These record sheets will need to be submitted all together by June 3, 2018.** The committee would appreciate if pictures were included in these reports. The project ideas mentioned in this guidebook are suggestions. Therefore, projects do not have to be directly from this packet.

## Project Achievement

**Bronze:** Youth who complete one service project will receive a bronze certificate of completion.

**Silver:** Youth who complete two service projects will receive a silver certificate of completion.

**Gold:** Youth who complete three to four service projects will receive a gold certificate of completion and will receive recognition at 4-H University 2018.

**Emerald:** Youth who complete five or more service projects will receive an emerald certificate of completion and will receive recognition at 4-H University 2018.

All certificates will be emailed to either the club leader of the group or the county agent. Club leaders and agents will be able to fill in the names of the participants on each certificate.

# Tree Registration Form

Please register your tree by sending in the following information.

Send emails to: Grace Carter at [grace.carter@ufl.edu](mailto:grace.carter@ufl.edu)  
You must fill out all forms to receive a dot for your tree.  
**Include the following information in your email:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Tree: \_\_\_\_\_

Location By Longitude and Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Project Participants: \_\_\_\_\_

This project was an: Individual Project ( ) Group Project ( )

Group/Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

County : \_\_\_\_\_

What Level: Club ( ) County ( ) District ( ) State ( )



# Living In Florida's Environment Report Back Form

## PLEASE EMAIL US AND TELL US WHAT YOU DID!

Send emails to: [grace.carter@ufl.edu](mailto:grace.carter@ufl.edu) with the subject "Project Report Form"

You may send one email every year listing all of the Living In Florida's Environment (L.I.F.E) projects you have participated in during the 2017-2019 years. **Include the following information in your email:**

Name of Project: \_\_\_\_\_  
What you did: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Hours Spent: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Project Participants: \_\_\_\_\_  
This project was a(n): Individual Project ( ) Group Project ( ) Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Project: \_\_\_\_\_  
What you did: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Hours Spent: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Project Participants: \_\_\_\_\_  
This project was a(n): Individual Project ( ) Group Project ( ) Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Project: \_\_\_\_\_  
What you did: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Hours Spent: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Project Participants: \_\_\_\_\_  
This project was a(n): Individual Project ( ) Group Project ( ) Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Project: \_\_\_\_\_  
What you did: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Hours Spent: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Project Participants: \_\_\_\_\_  
This project was a(n): Individual Project ( ) Group Project ( ) Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Project: \_\_\_\_\_  
What you did: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Hours Spent: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Project Participants: \_\_\_\_\_  
This project was a(n): Individual Project ( ) Group Project ( ) Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the Club Leader **AND** County Agent approving this form.

Club Leader: \_\_\_\_\_ County Agent: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Leader email address: \_\_\_\_\_

County Agent email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for reporting back your service.**

**Please include pictures of your Living In Florida's Environment (L.I.F.E) Project.**

**This Guidebook has been compiled by the 2016-2017 State Project Committee**

**Youth Committee Chair:**

Nathan Wilson

**Youth Committee Members:**

Rebeka Leiterman	Sarah Swindell	Tara Holtzendorf	Rayann Kulig
Aidan Dillon	Morgan Dykes	Caraline Coombs	Mackenzie Burch
Mark Prevatt	Mackenzie Douglas	Miranda Bird	Abigail Ereksen
Kaci Law	Taylor Dykes	Brooke Miller	Joshua Alexander
Krista Lyons	Hannah Nistler	Patrick Brown	Quinn Silic
Genevieve Granholm	Forrest McClain	Matthew McClure	Danielle Tinker

**Adult Advisors:**

Laura Valencia – Osceola County 4-H Agent

**Questions**

Please contact Grace Carter if you have any questions about  
Living In Florida's Environment (L.I.F.E) projects  
(352)-846-4444 [grace.carter@ufl.edu](mailto:grace.carter@ufl.edu)  
2142 Shealy Drive  
P.O. Box 110225  
Gainesville, FL 32611