



Florida 4-H Environmental Education Program

The Florida 4-H Environmental Education Program will **educate Florida's youth about the environment as a means of preserving Florida's soil, air, and water.** Youth will apply science-based learning to contexts outside of school (e.g. service learning, science fairs, etc.) and **adopt and use new methods of environmental conservation and stewardship.**

Florida 4-H will engage youth in grades K-12 in non-formal education via Environmental Stewardship and Agricultural Sustainability education programs based at UF/IFAS. As Florida's 1862 land-grant university, UF is responsible for 4-H leadership programs and facilities as designated by Congress.



This request will increase our capacity to reach more youth and increase their knowledge of **Florida's environment as well as stewardship of natural resources. The program will use the three 4-H Environmental Education Centers throughout the state as nature-based learning labs, each located in a distinct ecosystem.** The centers provide the opportunity for students to learn in a safe and structured environment using a scientifically-based, locally-focused curriculum including STEM projects and diversity of Florida's natural environment.

This funding request includes \$1,500,000 for expenses, repairs and maintenance of buildings at each center. The facilities are aged and require investment in upgrades and repairs to modernize, meet the needs of today's youth, and accommodate new programs based on current interests.

Return on Investment:

- 4-H participants report better grades, higher levels of academic competence, and an elevated level of engagement at school. They are two times more likely to plan to go to college and pursue future careers in science, engineering, or computer technology.
- In 2017-18, **Florida 4-H reached over 200,000 youth, ages 5-18,** through 4-H clubs, 4-H camps and school enrichment across the state. They **engaged in 279,453 county projects** – with more than **11,000 adult and youth volunteers trained by UF/IFAS Extension Faculty** statewide

The Florida 4-H Program will leverage the requested funds with grants, contracts, participation fees, etc., to help assure there will be sufficient resources to elevate the 4-H program.

- The 4-H state faculty has received a total of \$36,500,671 in external funding since 2006.
- Regional specialized agents brought in an additional \$2,189,215. **Combined, this is more than \$3.8 for every state dollar invested in projects.**
- Additionally 9,265 volunteers provided **155,798 volunteer hours of service; a value of over \$3.4 million.**