Lake County 4-H Arts & Crafts

Lake County Fair 2027

General Rules & Regulations

Superintendent: Dallas Meringolo (352) 343-4101
Extension Agent II, 4-H Youth Development hendersond@ufl.edu

Lake County 4-H Membership Requirement

This department of the Lake County Fair is open to bona fide members of Lake County 4-H. All 4-H members exhibiting must be in good standing, as certified or approved by the 4-H Extension Agent, and meet the criteria specified for the exhibit category. This is the only building in which 4-H members may exhibit items, except for baked goods, which may be entered in the Creative Living Department.

Quality Exhibits, Liability & Right of Refusal

All exhibits must be clean, presentable, and completed after May 1, 2026. Entries must be owned, produced, or made by the exhibitor. Each exhibitor may enter up to 40 exhibits, not including photography exhibits. Lake County 4-H reserves the right to refuse any exhibit deemed inappropriate or unsuitable for display. The Lake County Fair and Lake County 4-H are not responsible for lost, damaged, stolen, or misdirected entries, exhibits, or forms.

Judging & Premiums

The judge's decision on all exhibits is final. The modified Danish System of Judging will be used to determine awards. Cloverbud entries will not be judged but will receive a participation ribbon.

Premium money will only be paid for items picked up by 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 19, 2027.

Ribbon Premiums	Blue — $3.00 | Red — $2.00 | White — Participation Ribbon
Best in Lot	Rosette + $10.00
Best in Class	Rosette + $15.00
Best in Show	Rosette + $30.00

- Exhibitors will be paid only the highest premium earned by an exhibit. For example, an exhibit winning both Best in Class and Best in Show receives the $30.00 Best in Show premium.
- Best in Lot and Best in Class are not guaranteed for every class. Awards may be given based on the number of entries and the judge's discretion.

REGISTRATION & DROP-OFF

The entry form, located on page 9 of this Premium Book, is due at check-in and must be submitted with all exhibit items.

Check-in

Monday, April 5, 2027 • 3:00–7:00 p.m.

Check-out

Monday, April 19, 2027 • 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Entries picked up before or after the scheduled pickup times, without prior arrangements with 4-H faculty and staff, will result in forfeiture of the exhibitor's premium money. Items not picked up by 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 19, 2027, will also forfeit premium money.

Lake County 4-H Club Challenges

Club challenges are located at the end of this Premium Book. Clubs may register by emailing hendersond@ufl.edu. Unless otherwise noted, all challenge entries must be submitted at check-in on Monday, April 5, 2027, from 3:00–7:00 p.m.

CLASSES & LOTS

Class A: Cloverbuds

Cloverbuds may enter up to ten (10) items in the 4-H Building. No premium money will be distributed. Each Cloverbud will receive one (1) rosette award; remaining entries will receive a flat participation ribbon.

Class B: Horticulture

Cut flowers and bedding plants must have been grown by the exhibitor.
Plants must be labeled with the common name.
Specimens must be exhibition quality: clean, free of insects and disease, and well-groomed with no dead leaves. Containers must be in good condition, and all plants must have a tray to facilitate watering.
The superintendent reserves the right to reject, limit, or disqualify entries.
Youth exhibitors are responsible for watering their plants.
Produce will not be refrigerated.
Two (2) entries per lot.

LOT	DESCRIPTION
1	Vegetables — Plant
2	Vegetables — Produce (photo taken after judging; produce will be discarded)
3	Fruit — Plant
4	Fruit — Produce (photo taken after judging; produce will be discarded)
5	Herbs — Potted
6	Herbs — Cut
7	Trees
8	Terrariums — growing plants, driftwood, and figurines may be used
9	Floral Arrangements
10	Ornamental Plants
11	Flowering Plants
12	Succulents
13	Fairy Garden — no live plants; artificial plants are acceptable

Class C: Canning & Food Preservation

Entries must be in standard, clear canning jars with new rings and seals.
Jars must be washed and sanitized before processing and labeled with the contents, processing instructions, and date canned.
Use a USDA-approved recipe and follow USDA home-canning guidance.
Include the complete recipe and directions with the entry. Entries without a recipe will be disqualified.
Two (2) entries per lot.

LOT	DESCRIPTION
14	Vegetables in a 1-pint jar
15	Fruits in a 1-pint jar
16	Jams/Jellies in a ½-pint jar
17	Pickles in a 1-pint jar
18	Fruit/Vegetable Butter in a ½-pint jar
19	Salsa in a 1-pint jar
20	Dehydrated Food Items (fruit/vegetable leather, jerky; follow USDA guidance)

Class D: Decorative Arts

Up to two (2) entries per lot unless otherwise noted.

LOT	DESCRIPTION
21	Wreath
22	Wall Hanging
23	Decoupage
24	Stencil-Decorated Item
25	Seasonal Decorations
26	Holiday Decorations
27	Mosaics
28	Other items not listed (up to 3)

Class E: Sewing

Entries will be judged on overall appearance and finishing.
Up to two (2) entries per lot.

LOT	DESCRIPTION
29	Clothing (may be sewn, knitted, crocheted, or hand-woven)
30	Accessories
31	Quilt Square
32	Household Items
33	Hand-Quilted
34	Machine-Quilted
35	Tied Quilt
36	Crocheted or Knitted Item
37	Cross-Stitch Article
38	Other items not listed

Class F: Crafts

Entries should be sturdy and suitable for display. The Fair and Extension Office are not responsible for damage, breakage, loss of parts, or detached components during transport, judging, display, or release.
Up to two (2) entries per lot unless otherwise noted.

LOT	DESCRIPTION
39	Jewelry (appropriately mounted)
40	Tie-Dyed Article or Decorated T-Shirt (must be on a hanger)
41	Leather Article
42	Recycled Art
43	Article of Natural Material
44	Candle or Candle Holder
45	Resin
46	Paper Art
47	LEGO Creation
48	Painted Rocks
49	3D-Printed Item
50	Other items not listed (up to 3 items)

Class G: Wall Art

Up to two (2) entries per lot unless otherwise noted.

LOT	DESCRIPTION
51	Acrylic
52	Watercolor
53	Oil
54	Cartoon/Anime (up to 3)
55	Hand Drawing (up to 3)
56	Mixed Media (up to 3)
57	Stained Glass
58	Other items not listed (up to 3)

Class H: Woodworking

The item must be constructed from wood by the member. It must be assembled or built in some way and may not simply be a sanded/decorated prefabricated kit.

Up to three (3) entries per lot.

LOT	DESCRIPTION
59	Child's Toy
60	Furniture
61	Birdhouse or Feeder (not a fabricated kit)
62	Wood Burning
63	Other Item not listed.

Class I: Forging & Welding

The item must be constructed from metal by the member.

Up to three (3) entries per lot.

LOT	DESCRIPTION
64	Yard Metal (judged on originality, not welding)
65	Welding (judged on welding techniques)
66	Forging (judging on skill/originality)

Class J: Graphic Design

Entries are judged on font style and graphics, flow of design, color, educational components, and clear delivery of the message. Use of copyrighted or protected characters or logos is prohibited. Use of the 4-H Emblem must follow USDA graphic standards.

LOT	DESCRIPTION
67	Brochure — tri-fold; printed on 8½ x 11-inch paper
68	Flyer — 8½ x 11-inch sheet
69	Other promotional material, such as mini-books, bookmarks, or postcards

Class K: Photography

One entry per lot.
Photos must be printed as an 8 x 10-inch photo only; no mounting.

LOT	DESCRIPTION
70	People (Portraits & Figures)
71	Scene (Land, Sea, Sky)
72	Scene (Architecture & City)
73	Scene (Agricultural)
74	Still Life & Things
75	Flowers, Plants & Trees
76	Animals (Wildlife)
77	Animals (Pets)
78	Animals (Farm Animals)
79	Abstract, Surreal & Non-representational
80	Black & White
81	4-H Theme
82	Altered Image (Photoshop, etc.)
83	Close-Up & Macro
84	Collage

Class L: Animal Fever

2027 Lake County Fair • "Floppy Bunny"

Cost: $7.00 per ceramic; one (1) ceramic per 4-H youth. Lake County 4-H accepts exact cash or checks payable to Lake County 4-H.

Floppy Bunny may be picked up after October 1, 2026, from the Lake County Extension Office, on a first-come, first-served basis.

- The figurine must be included in the display. The complete display may be no larger than 9 x 9 x 9 inches; larger entries will be disqualified.
- Cloverbuds are encouraged to participate, although their entries will not be judged competitively.

Class M: Game Boards

- Premiums: Blue — $25.00 | Red — $15.00
- One entry per exhibitor.
- A 4-H clover must be included.
- The exhibit must include a light to indicate the correct answer.
- The 4-H Office provides suggested materials; contact Dallas Meringolo at hendersond@ufl.edu for more information.
- Game Boards will be judged on board complexity, general appearance, and educational quality.

Class N: Member Demonstration

- Premiums: Blue — $25.00 | Red — $15.00
- Member demonstrations will be held Saturday, April 17, 2027, at 1:00 p.m. Demonstrations will take place under the tent before a live audience.
- Open to any Lake County 4-H member. Only one demonstration is allowed per exhibitor.
- Team demonstrations are permitted; each participant will receive the applicable premium.
- Time requirements: Junior/Intermediate — 3 to 12 minutes; Senior — 5 to 12 minutes.
- Youth members who give a demonstration receive a complimentary Lake County Fair ticket. Only participants receive free admission on the day of their demonstration. A member who receives a ticket but does not present will forfeit all premium money.
- Exhibitors may also present a prepared demonstration in the 4-H demonstration area to adult volunteers at the 4-H booth. Youth must sign in and have two (2) volunteers sign off.
- Cloverbuds may give a demonstration for participation only; no premiums are distributed to Cloverbuds.

2027 LAKE COUNTY 4-H FAIR ENTRY FORM

Complete this form and bring it with tagged exhibits to check-in on Monday, April 5, 2027, from 3:00–7:00 p.m. Exhibit check-out is Monday, April 19, 2027, from 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. Items not picked up by the deadline will forfeit premium money. Items remaining after April 19 may be discarded on Monday, April 26, 2027, unless arrangements are made with the 4-H Office.

Member Name: _____

4-H Club: _____

Age Division: ☐ **Cloverbud (5–7)** ☐ **Junior (8–10)** ☐ **Intermediate (11–13)** ☐ **Senior (14–18)**

Class Letter	Lot Number	Description of Article (ex.: Hand drawing — birds on a fence)

Special accommodation(s) the 4-H member may require:

I agree to abide by the 4-H Code of Conduct for all exhibits entered in the 4-H Building at the Lake County Fair. I agree to comply with the published official release time for exhibit removal unless prior approval is given. I understand that premiums will be paid only for entries listed on this entry form.

Member Signature: _____ Date: _____

4-H CLUB CHALLENGES

Edible Garden Challenge

What to do

Your club will create an edible container garden using three 5-gallon buckets and seeds or starter plants of the club's choice. Grow a different vegetable in each container, with one vegetable per bucket. Each bucket must include a recipe and a picture of that recipe to showcase the crop. The club will also develop a poster showing the products and steps used to grow the edible garden.

Registration

Email Dallas Meringolo at hendersond@ufl.edu to confirm registration.

Guidelines

Entries must be submitted April 5, 2027, from 3:00–7:00 p.m. at the Lake County Fair.

Judging

Criteria	Available Points	Awarded Points
Plant Appearance	25	
Recipes	25	
Youth Involvement	25	
Poster	25	
Total Points	100	

Premiums

1st — $75.00 • 2nd — $50.00 • 3rd — $30.00

4-H CLUB CHALLENGES

S.T.E.A.M. Art Challenge

What to do

Your club will design a S.T.E.A.M. art project using the 2026–2027 4-H theme: "Passport to Possibilities: Your 4-H Journey Starts Here."

Registration

Email Dallas Meringolo at hendersond@ufl.edu to confirm registration.

Guidelines

Entries must be submitted April 5, 2027, from 3:00–7:00 p.m. at the Lake County Fair.

Judging

Criteria	Available Points	Awarded Points
Science Components	20	
Technology Components	20	
Use of Engineering	20	
Art Components	20	
Mathematical Components	20	
Total Points	100	

Premiums

1st — $75.00 • 2nd — $50.00 • 3rd — $25.00

4-H CLUB CHALLENGES

Club Banner Challenge

What to do

Your club will design and create a club banner.

Registration

Email Dallas Meringolo at hendersond@ufl.edu to confirm registration.

Guidelines

Banners may be made of felt, backed fabric, sign cloth, or another sturdy fabric that retains its shape. Finished banners should measure 5 feet wide x 3 feet high and have a 2-inch casing at the top for hanging. Banners must be rectangular. Rods will not be provided.

Banners must reflect neatness, include the 2026–2027 theme "Passport to Possibilities: Your 4-H Journey Starts Here," display the 4-H emblem, and include the club name. Entries must be submitted April 5, 2027, from 3:00–7:00 p.m. at the Lake County Fair.

Judging

Criteria	Available Points	Awarded Points
Creativity	25	
Elements of Design	25	
Youth Participation	25	
Following Guidelines	25	
Total Points	100	

Premiums

1st — $30.00 • 2nd — $20.00 • 3rd — $10.00