4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

General Line: (561) 233-1731
E-mail: fourh@pbc.gov
Website:https://discover.pbcgov.org/coextension/4H

Daniel Gonzalez, 4-H Agent
(561) 996-1656
2976 State Rd 15
Belle Glade, FL 33430

Candy Wickham, 4-H Agent
(561) 233-1726
559 North Military Trail
West Palm Beach, FL 33415

WHAT IS 4-H? 4-H is the youth development component of the Cooperative Extension Service (CES). Its mission is to empower youth to reach their full potential while working and learning in partnership with caring adults.

WHO SPONSORS 4-H? 4-H is a division of Palm Beach County's Cooperative Extension Department. It is a partnership between the United States Department of Agriculture, the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, and Palm Beach County.

4-H CLUB PLEDGE
I pledge my head to clearer thinking;
My heart to greater loyalty;
My hands to larger service; and
My health to better living for
My club, my community, my country,
And my world.

4-H PARTICIPATION IN THE SOUTH FLORIDA FAIR

There are many opportunities for 4-H members to participate in 4-H specific events at the South Florida Fair. They can serve as 4-H ambassadors during the fair, enter exhibits, and participate in large and small animal shows.

4-H AGE DIVISIONS

Cloverbud: 5-7 years of age. Junior: 8-10 years old. Intermediate: 11-13 years old. Senior: 14-18 years old.

A youth's "4-H Age" is determined by their age as of September 1, 2026. Based on this age, youth are grouped into the aforementioned age divisions.

RIBBONS AND PREMIUMS 4-H YOUTH EXHIBITS

Grand Champion: Purple Rosette $10.00 (Junior, Intermediate and Senior Divisions)
Reserve Champion: Lavender Rosette $5.00 (Junior, Intermediate and Senior Divisions)

Blue Ribbon $5.00	Red Ribbon $4.00
White Ribbon $3.00	Green Ribbon (Cloverbud Participation)

The South Florida Fair sponsors ribbons and premiums for 4-H youth competitions.

Judging is based on the Danish system and the decisions of judges are final. Exhibitors are measured against defined standards, not against other exhibitors.

4-H members are also encouraged to participate in other activities taking place at the South Florida Fair. There are community service and competitive opportunities in the areas of poultry, rabbits, horticulture, livestock, and several others. Please refer to the rest of the Premium Book for more details regarding the dates, times, rules, and regulations in these areas.

EXHIBITS RULES FOR 4-H PROJECT EXHIBITS

1. Open to any Palm Beach and Broward Counties 4-H member 5-18 years of age who is officially enrolled by November 1 of the current 4-H year.

2. Youth must be enrolled in 4-H to exhibit their entries. Registration will close at 11:59 p.m. on November 30, 2026. In the time between the close of registration and the date of the event, there will be further correspondence from the 4-H office.

   Link to register: https://SFF2027.4honline.com

3. A 4-H member may enter no more than one exhibit per category including food and nutrition, for a total of eight exhibits. The only exception to this is vegetables. A youth may enter up to three different types of vegetables in the vegetable category, each as a separate exhibit. All exhibits must be entered by an individual, not a group.

4. All exhibits must be educational in nature, representing topics youth have learned from their project areas.

5. Project areas and their categories are listed on the following page.

6. All non-food exhibits must have an exhibit card securely attached and clearly printed or typed. The card must include name, club, exhibit category, and 4-H age.

7. Items must have been made or grown during the current 4-H year with the exception of horticulture exhibits.

8. All horticulture exhibits must have been planted or re-potted before October 13 of the current 4-H year. Horticulture exhibits must include both the common and scientific name of the plant(s).

9. All vegetable exhibits must have been planted or re-potted before December 1 of the current 4-H year.

10. In order to receive a Fair premium, youth must present their projects at the respective designated judging event.

11. Food and nutrition exhibits must be accompanied by a recipe on a 3x5 inch card. Include name, club, category, and 4-H age on card.

12. For cookie, brownie, bar dessert, roll, cupcake, and muffin entries, there must be six items on a plate for judging.

13. Food entries are limited to those for human consumption only. The exception is cake decorating. Either real cakes or styrofoam forms may be used.

14. All food, vegetable, and cake decorating entries will be exhibited through photographs taken by 4-H staff during judging. **An exception is food preservation submissions. Participants will have the opportunity to have their entries displayed with the general exhibits during the fair.**

15. "Cake Decorating" is categorized under "Food & Nutrition."

16. Entries are not to exceed 11 inches in diameter or 14 inches in height. Collections may not be larger than 16x16x12 inches.

17. Drawings on lined notebook paper are not accepted.

18. No live animals can be exhibited except in designated areas.

19. All photo entries must be mounted on cardboard, foam core or similar backing for display. Non-mounted photos will not be accepted.

20. Video vignette submissions must be between 1-6 minutes. Longer video requires prior approval from 4-H Agent.

21. Fair management and the Cooperative Extension Service are in no way responsible for exhibits while on display at the South Florida Fair.

22. All items must remain in place until the closing of the Fair at 8 p.m. UF/IFAS Extension staff will transport all projects back to the 4-H office for pickup.

RULES FOR POSTER AND SCIENCE EXHIBITS

1. A single poster board or a single science board may be submitted in any of the exhibit categories below. Each entry will represent one exhibit.

2. Posters must be educational in nature, depicting information gained from a specific project.
3. Posters must be no larger than 24x36 inches.

Additional Rules for Science Boards:

1. **Science boards must be on tri-fold boards, and must not exceed 36" x 48" in size.**

2. School science fair tri-fold project boards will not be accepted unless the subject matter directly relates to the youth's 4-H project area.

RULES FOR 4-H CLOVERBUD EXHIBITS

1. Open to any Palm Beach & Broward County 4-H member 5-7 years of age who is officially enrolled as of November 1 of the current 4-H year.

2. Each member may only exhibit eight items following the rules listed in the previous sections.

3. Each member will receive feedback from the judges and a participation ribbon but not premium money, or a numerical judging result.

4. Cloverbuds are encouraged to complete a 4-H introductory project book. Contact the 4-H office to learn more.

4-H and UF/IFAS are committed to diversity of people, thought and opinion, to inclusiveness and to equal opportunity.
No person is subject to prohibited discrimination based on race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, or sexual orientation.

EXHIBIT AREAS AND CATEGORIES

HORTICULTURE

1. Dish Gardens
2. Hanging Baskets
3. Herbs
4. Potted Plants
5. Terrariums
6. Vegetables

NATURAL SCIENCES AND OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

1. Forestry
2. Wildlife and Fisheries
3. Outdoor Education/Recreation
4. Shooting Sports
5. Waste Management
6. Geology & Minerals
7. Marine Science
8. Entomology

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
1. Aerospace/Aviation
2. Astronomy
3. Bicycles
4. Computers
5. Electric
6. Small Engines
7. Wood Science & Industrial Arts
8. Veterinary Science
9. Large Animal Science
10. Small Animal Science
11. Robotics

CLOTHING AND TEXTILES
1. Fabric Items
2. Needlework
3. Knitting, Crochet and Latch Hook
4. Quilts
5. Clothing Construction

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP
1. Career Exploration & Employability
2. Personal Development
3. Leadership
4. Society & Entrepreneurship
5. Introductory 4-H Projects - Discovering 4-H (Cloverbuds 5-7 years of age)
6. Financial Literacy
7. Citizenship
8. Service Learning
9. Independence & Life Skill Development

VIDEOGRAPHY AND PHOTOGRAPHY
1. Digital Division
   - Portrait: The face or person dominates the image
   - Nature/Landscape: Natural elements should dominate the picture.
   - Action/Sports: The photograph shows performance, adventure, or other physical activity.
   - Creative/Artistic: The photo shows an abstract or a manipulated image.
   - Multi Image: The presentation will be evaluated as a single submission.
   - Video

ARTS AND CRAFTS
1. Ceramics
2. Jewelry
3. Woodworking
4. Floral Arrangements
5. Model Crafts
6. Collections
7. Drawings
8. Paintings
9. Sculpture
10. Mixed Media (combination of 2 or more mediums)

PERFORMING ARTS
1. Music
2. Drama/Theater
3. Puppetry

FOODS AND NUTRITION
1. Food Preservation (jellies, jams, pickled items, and additional canned foods)
2. Cookies/Brownies
3. Cakes
4. Pies
5. Candies
6. Quick Breads
7. Yeast Breads
8. Casseroles and Main Dishes
9. Hot Vegetable Dishes
10. Salads/Cold Vegetable Dishes
11. Cake Decorating
12. Cupcakes
13. Beverages
14. Fruit Dishes
15. Dips & Appetizers

HEALTH
1. Personal Health & Well-being
2. Community Health

Please contact the 4-H office for information about these and ALL 4-H contests. (561) 233-1731 or via e-mail at fourh@pbc.gov

In accordance with provisions of ADA this document may be requested in a different format.
"The 4-H emblem is protected under 18 U.S.C. 707".

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

IMPORTANT DATES

September 1, 2026: 4-H age is the youth's age as of September 1, 2026.

October 13, 2026: Deadline for horticulture exhibits to be planted or repotted.

No paper entries for food or general exhibits.

For all Livestock, Poultry and Rabbit exhibitors, please refer to the Fair's Premium Book or visit website http://www.southfloridafair.com/premiumbook for entry information.

December 1, 2026: Deadline for vegetable exhibits to be planted or repotted.

January 2, 2027: Deadline to register to participate in 4-H Fair General Exhibit competition.

December 12, 2026: 4-H Fair Exhibit judging for projects in the **Foods and Nutrition, and Science and Technology categories** at the UF/IFAS Extension Palm Beach County - Clayton E. Hutchenson Agricultural Services Center (559 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach, Florida 33415).

January 9, 2027: 4-H Fair Exhibit judging for projects in the **Horticulture, Natural Sciences and Outdoor Programs, Clothing and Textiles, Personal Development and Leadership, Videography and Photography, Arts and Crafts, Health, and Performing Arts categorie**s at the UF/IFAS Extension Palm Beach County - Clayton E. Hutchenson Agricultural Services Center (559 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach, Florida 33415).

Youth must register all exhibit entries at **https://SFF2027.4honline.com** in order to receive a judging time.

Any questions about this process should be directed to the 4-H office at (561) 233-1731, or via e-mail at fourh@pbc.gov

The 4-H office transports exhibits for display to the South Florida Fair. No exhibits can be removed before the end of the Fair, January 31, 2027.

January 16, 2027: Youth Livestock Judging Contest from 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Farm Credit Show Arena.

January 29, 2027: Youth Dairy Judging Contest from 9 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Farm Credit Show Arena.

February-March, 2027: Projects, ribbons, and any applicable premium money will be available for pickup at the Palm Beach County 4-H Office, located at the Clayton E. Hutchinson Agricultural Services Center (559 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33415), Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The availability of premium money depends on how quickly the South Florida Fair Finance Team is able to process and issue payments following the fair. Participants will be notified by the 4-H Office when their projects, ribbons, and premium money are ready for pickup.