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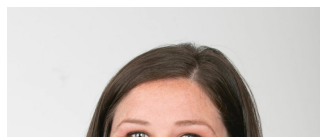
Northeast News 2023 Special Edition

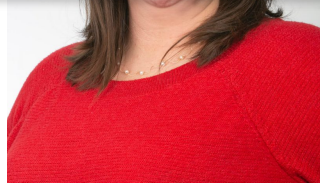


By: Jessica Altum Cooper, Gilchrist County Extension Director

Serve Week

Serve Week is a 4-H program typically held in the summertime where students who are rising 9th-12th graders register to participate in community service projects that are planned for a week-long experience. The projects are put together in partnership with other community non-profit organizations, county departments, and other community groups to help the youth to engage more with their local community and see what the needs are in their area. This program has been repeated in Gilchrist for 7 summers now and it is a favorite for both 4-H members and non-members alike. Serve week makes it possible for students to accumulate hours for the Bright Futures Scholarships and other eligibility requirements for local scholarships and awards. This week long program generally gives students the ability to earn anywhere from 30-45 hours. Students also gain an appreciation and awareness for these community organizations and projects. Gilchrist 4-H coordinates this effort and through this program we have engaged with 83 students, 19 organizations/projects, and had a grand total of 3,071 hours accumulated by students.





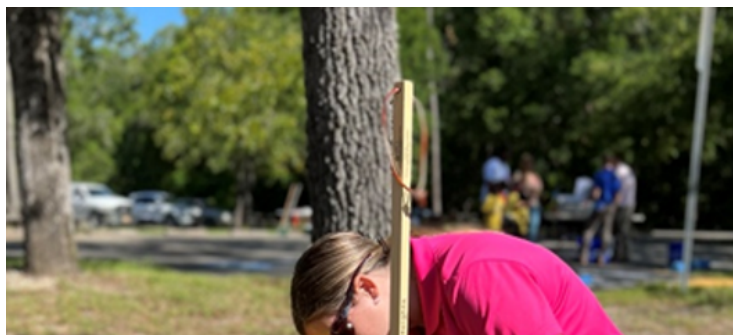
By: Heather Janney, Columbia County Extension Director/4-H Agent

Overflowing Agent 4-H Involvement with Water Resources Education

With a county population of 70,000 increasing by 7% annually, and agriculture remaining a strong commodity, a strain on water resources for quantity and quality has become very apparent in Columbia County. To address this issue, Columbia County agents worked together to develop the following objectives:

- Expand the water resources education program to include other programmatic areas in the county
- Increase the number of participants reached by water resources programming in a multitude of age groups

As a result of the collaboration, since 2019, Columbia County Extension was able to reach over 2,500 youth and adults with 24 multi-programmatic events based in water resources education. Most youth participants (80%, n=1,852) reported that they increase their knowledge of water quality and conservation and all shared that they would make a behavior change to protect our water. The collaboration involved in a “whole systems” approach for water resources education helps to reach a much broader audience and results in millions of gallons of water being saved.





County Extension Director), Amanda Phillips (Suwannee County Agricultural Extension Agent), Sudeep Sidhu (Water Resources Regional Specialized Agent), and Amanda Law (Suwannee County Program Assistant)

Suwannee County 4-H Junior Naturalist Day Camp

The Suwannee 4-H Junior Naturalist Camp provided participants an opportunity to learn more about freshwater ecosystems. It also allowed youth to experience 4-H activities and meet other youth with similar interests. The camp was a team project between multiple agents in the Suwannee and NFREC-SV offices. Participants learned about how the water flows through the Suwannee Valley and how human usage impacts both water quality and quantity.



By: Prudence Caskey, Santa Rosa County 4-H Extension Agent

Utilizing Your County Agents for a Full Gardening Day Camp

With a six month long garden series, I was able to utilize the expertise of all 6 agents in my office. Each extension agent presented their area of expertise for the six-month

participating, 100% of families reported gained knowledge and a change in behavior in regards to watering. Learn how to tailor make a camp to your professionals in your county.



By: Kelsey Irvine, Nassau County 4-H Extension Agent

I am a Scientist: An Early Elementary Introduction to Science Clover Bud Program

The “I am a Scientist!” program is an easy and fun program that can be delivered to Clover buds through school enrichment, SPIN clubs, or day camps. Regardless of the delivery mode, the objectives of the “I am a Scientist!” program are:

1. Introduce the scientific method in an approachable, fun way
2. Showcase STEM projects beyond agriculture
3. Use easy and age-appropriate scientific experiments for experiential learning

It is designed in a 4-session format with 6-10 experiments spanning the total program which allows for gradual teaching of the scientific method through hands-on practice. This program has already reached 300+ students in Nassau County classrooms and tested on 9 youth in the day camp setting. The program delivered a large success and



By: Anitra Mayhann, Gulf County 4-H & FCS Extension Agent

The Tupelo Honey Inspired Bee Keeping Club

Gulf County 4-H has a Tupelo Honey Inspired Bee Keeping Club. Our members have attended Bee College in Gainesville & Panama City and will be participating in the Panhandle Bee Conference in May. Two of our members have a combined total of 10 hives and are producing Tupelo Honey and other bee products. We are getting ready for our local Tupelo Honey Festival on May 20th in Wewahitchka, Florida. Come see our Gulf County 4-H booth! Bee sweet and hope to see you there.



By: Jessica Emerson (Levy County 4-H Extension Agent) and Katie Jones (Suwannee County 4-H Extension Agent)

Charcuterie Masters

We've all seen those beautiful party food trays known as charcuterie boards, but are you aware of what knowledge it takes to make one? This program is designed to teach participants food & kitchen safety, what flavors work well together, which ones don't, how to prepare food for the charcuterie board, how the boards can be presented for different events, and why financial mindfulness is an important aspect of this project.



By: Samara Purvis (Duval County Health and Wellness Extension Agent), Meagan Daniel (Union County 4-H & Youth Development Extension Agent), Luke Harlow (Bradford County Commercial Horticulture Extension Agent), and Lizzie Whitehead (Bradford County Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent)

Entrepreneur Camp

Junior Enterprise is a multi-collaborative agent initiative created to enhance youth leadership skills, explore entrepreneurship, work readiness, and build upon everyday life skills. Enterprise 4-H Camp allowed youth to explore their SPARKS (ideas, talents, and passions) and initiate those into launching a business. Shark Tank provided 9 youth opportunities to strengthen leadership, build a business base, work together, and create a product to solve an issue. Later, the participants pitch their business idea for a chance to receive funds to help launch their business. Youth

decisions to be successful in a small rural community. They toured Hillandale Quality Feeds, that has been operating for 30+ years, and a new frozen yogurt shop that had been operating for 6 months. As a result, youth participating in this camp gained knowledge, started their small business and improved the ones they had.



By: Rachel Pienta, Wakulla 4-H & Youth Development Extension Agent

Wakulla Youth Programs

program with zero teen members to a robust, award-winning program with middle and high school-age youth. Pienta described how she used service-learning to grow, engage, and empower teens to work with community partners. Program examples included creating a teen-led Community Emergency Response Team. Finally, she shared how engaging youth to write, apply for, and implement grant projects has helped her continue to recruit and retain teens in her program. Pienta provided a replicable model that can be implemented in other counties.



By: Shawn Jackson, Lafayette County Extension Director/4-H & Youth Development Extension Agent

Developing A School Enrichment Program using the GROW Model

Reaching large groups of youth in a narrow age range is a strong benefit of a 4-H school enrichment program, yet difficult for many 4-H Agents to implement. The GROW model is a simple guideline for agents to follow to increase the likelihood of beginning and sustaining a successful school enrichment program. This model addresses who agents can reach out to when in the initial phases of beginning an enrichment program and steps to follow as it is being developed. The model also outlines an organizational plan to eliminate miscommunication, unexpected mishaps, and a clear understanding of expectations for all participants involved. Finally, the

school enrichment programs.

4-H Newsletter Credits

Stephen Jennewein (editor)

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