



# 4-H Summit Poster Abstracts

## 4-H Summit: A professional opportunity

Marnie Ward, UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County, Extension Agent II, 4-H Youth Development, Lecanto, FL

During the time of COVID, most, if not all professional development opportunities were held virtually, resulting in a lack of in person trainings. To address this need, a two day, in person professional development event was held. This event had two primary goals.

1. To develop youth leadership among county 4-H programs.
2. To encourage collaboration among 4-H professionals resulting in stronger cross county programming.

Post summit evaluations indicated that 82% of attendees reported that they were able to create an actionable item for their county and/or district wide programs. 100% of those who responded, were able to network with colleagues and 82% were able to expand opportunities for teamwork. Finally, 100% of respondents wanted the summit to be offered again. In conclusion, the summit proved to be successful in meeting the needs of those who attended.

## Northeast Extension District Future Entrepreneurs

Theodore Karsch, UF/IFAS Extension Nassau County, Extension Agent I, 4-H Youth Development, Callahan, FL

**Objective:** To teach youth, ages 11 to 17, life skills, and to instill an awareness of entrepreneurship, and career readiness. To engage youth with positive adult role models in the business community.

**Methods:** Youth participate in 8 program days over a period of 2 weeks. Four days are campus based while four days are in the field. Small groups work to create an operations, marketing, and sales plan for a food truck business. Youth learn logo design, marketing, sales, safe food handling, and basic accounting. They learn how to use Adobe Photoshop. During the first field day youth visit a

## Special Edition

commissary housing 25 food truck businesses. They interview the owners of the food truck businesses. On the additional 3 field days youth visit 7 local businesses including a sign shop, a pizza restaurant, and a bookstore. The youth observe and participate in business activities within each business while interacting with the owner.

**Results:** In a post survey, 90% (n=10) of participants reported an increase in entrepreneurship knowledge and in self-motivation.

**Conclusions:** Businesses and adult mentors exist in all communities; therefore, the methods of 4-H Future Entrepreneurs can be adapted by extension agents throughout Florida.



Ted Karsch, Nassau County 4-H Agent, presenting his work "Future Entrepreneurs."

### Sorry, Not Sorry

Shaina Spann, UF/IFAS Extension Baker County, Extension Agent II, 4-H Youth Development, Macclenny, FL

One aspect of our jobs as 4-H Youth Development Professionals is dealing with people who want to “blame” someone else for their shortcomings. Whether that be a missed deadline or not reading an email with pertinent information. Instead of saying, “I’m sorry....” We need to re-frame the conversation to say, “It is unfortunate...” If the situation is not our fault, we cannot and should not take the blame. Be confident in the decision and turn the situation back to the party in error. This poster will give pointers to help assist those in what to say in certain situations.



Shaina Spann, Baker County 4-H Agent, presenting her work “Sorry, Not Sorry.”

### Tri-County Chick Chain

Beth Moore, UF/IFAS Extension Madison County, Extension Agent II, 4-H Youth Development, Madison, FL

Madison County is home to the North Florida Livestock Show and Sale. This show invites 4-H and FFA members from 6 area counties. However, Cloverbuds are unable to participate because of 4-H large animal restrictions. After seeing the success in West Florida with their Chick Chain Project, I decided that it would be great to offer this

program to the youth of Madison County (offering the Cloverbud age group an opportunity to participate). Participants raise at least 6 chicks during the program and choose two to bring to the fall show to be judged for best in show category and showmanship. Cloverbuds follow the same showmanship protocols but are only awarded for participation. All participants attend at least two required educational meetings. Other poultry meetings are scheduled as well. The first year there were 17 Madison County participants. The second and third years the program was expanded to include Taylor and Lafayette Counties. Next year we plan to invite Suwannee and Hamilton Counties to participate.

### Growing for Florida Forks

Marnie Ward, UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County, Extension Agent II, 4-H Youth Development, Lecanto, FL

The past year has revealed the import role of backyard and container gardens as a method for families to produce their own food, while learning sustainable practices. By using practices to turn landscapes into gardenscapes youth learn where their food comes from. Objectives: Campers will increase their knowledge of Florida agriculture, identify ways to add edibles to their home landscape, and develop sustainable practices. Methods: The camp immerses youth, ages 8 – 12 years, in hands-on activities as they learn about Florida agriculture and ways to add it to their home landscape. Camp activities teach campers to identify edible plants, trees and shrubs grown in Florida, including less well recognized items (e.g., dragon fruit) and emerging crops (e.g., luffa). Youth explore techniques to identify and control pest habitats, while reducing threats to human health and agricultural productivity. Youth connect agriculture with sustainability as they create garden containers from recycled materials. Campers trace “seed to supper” with peanuts and sweet potatoes. Learning planting, harvesting, safe food handling and food preparation skills, youth learn healthy habits to share with friends and family. Results: Knowledge gain measured with a pre/post survey. Conclusions: Extension day programs engage youth in exploring their environments, building responsibility for agricultural resources, and motivating young people to recognize cause and effect relationships. Youth can then

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Marnie Ward, Citrus County 4-H Agent, presenting her work "Growing for Florida Forks."

apply project-based learning tools with experiential programs to tackle food and sustainability issues.

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## Water Quality and Conservation with Bellamy Beaver

Heather Janney, UF/IFAS Extension Columbia County, County Extension Director and Extension Agent III, 4-H Youth Development, Lake City, FL

The Bellamy Beaver Program was developed to introduce youth in grades K-5 or ages 5-12 located in Florida's Suwannee River Basin Area and Columbia County to two of Columbia County's most valuable assets: springs and farms. Youth participating in the program learn to protect our springs, save wildlife, and to respect and appreciate the work that farmers have done to conserve and protect water quality within the Suwannee River Basin. This program uses in school enrichment through mascot visits, an activity book, virtual curriculum on websites, and a coloring contest with appearances at the fair to teach youth the importance

of water quality and conservation. Youth reached are involved in 4-H as an easy way to connect with water quality and conservation.

For every youth that were to adopt the practice of turning off the tap while brushing their teeth, on average a total of 10 gallons of water daily would be saved. With approximately 4,300 youth reached with the Bellamy Beaver Program, this equates to 43,000 gallons of water saved daily in Columbia County. Sharing with adults results in much larger savings to the area.



Heather Janney, Columbia County CED/4-H Agent, presenting her poster "Water Quality and Conservation with Bellamy Beaver."

## Doggy Day Camp

Katie Jones, UF/IFAS Extension Suwannee County, Extension Agent I, 4-H Youth Development, Live Oak, FL

Even in rural Suwannee County, more families have a pet dog than own livestock. Many parents get a family pet with the intention of their child learning responsibility, but it becomes more work for them than the child. Other issues that arise include selecting the wrong breed for their living situation and not understanding the commitment that pet ownership entails. To address this, the University

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of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) Suwannee County partnered with local community resources to develop a summer day camp for youth to learn about responsible dog ownership, the world of dogs and opportunities for 4-H members with dogs. The Camp, held in July of 2021 was attended by 7 youth and utilized a variety of community volunteers over the 4-day camp. As a result, there are plans currently underway for a 6-week SPIN club for members interested in dogs.

### Build It Camp Teaches Life Skills, Encourages Youth to Explore Construction as Career Choice

Shawn Jackson, UF/IFAS Extension Lafayette County, County Extension Director and Extension Agent II, 4-H Youth Development, Mayo, FL

Woodworking is a valuable skill youth can use as a hobby or in a career. In the 5-day 4-H Build It Camp, youth ages 14-18 learned that different types of wood have different purposes and how to properly use wood working tools. Most of these tools were simple to use and mastery accomplished quickly. Some of the tools such as the circular saw required one on one training and supervision while in use. Youth used a basic set of plans to build an 8x12 building during



Shawn Jackson, Lafayette County CED/4-H Agent, presenting his work "Build It Camp Teaches Life Skills, Encouraging Youth to Explore Construction as Career Choice."

the camp which was raffled off to fund the next Build it Camp. Of the participating youth, 100% (n=12) gained knowledge that can be used in marketable skills. 100% (n=12) were able to use a circular saw and 100% (n=12) was able to properly use a drill upon its completion. The camp, which was attended by 12 youth, 4 of which were female, allowed participants to put in use building and construction skills learned and explore a career field which is underrepresented by non-males.

### Environmental Explorers Club Inspires Youth to Rescue Wildlife

J.S. Kelly, UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County, Extension Agent II, 4-H Youth Development, St. Augustine, FL

**Situation:** According to the United States Census, in St. Johns County, from 2010 to 2020, there has been a 44% increase in the number of people per square mile (316.4 to 455.4). One consequence of this development is a decrease in natural lands. Without environmental science education, youth will underappreciate native plants and wildlife.

**Objective:** To motivate youth to engage in wildlife conservation practices.

**Methods:** The six-member Environmental Explorers club met monthly from September–May. A different native or invasive Florida animal was featured using PowerPoints (behavior, tracks, and physical characteristics) and discussions, specimens, and topic-related crafts.

**Results:** Youth were able to name two characteristics of each animal along with whether it was native or invasive. One club member found an orphaned great horned owl and contacted the local wildlife rehabilitation center. He independently saved his allowance for the five months the owl was in rehabilitation and donated it to the rehabilitation center at the owl's release.

**Conclusion:** Caring about the environment is an example of the Essential Element of Generosity. Environmentally conscious youth who appreciate wildlife and wild plants care about how other people relate to nature (concern for others) and recognize how wildlife reacts to human impacts (empathy).

## Begetting Best Fit 4-H Volunteers through Initial Interest Meet & Greets

Chelsea Woodard, UF/IFAS Extension Volusia County, Extension Agent I, 4-H Youth Development, DeLand, FL  
Karen Henry, UF/IFAS Extension Seminole County, Extension Agent II, 4-H Youth Development, Sanford, FL

Identifying volunteers who are a “best fit” for your 4-H program provides a culture where both the volunteer and the organization/program benefit from the experience. Seeking information early in the recruitment process on how well the volunteer and program align ensures a more efficient and effective use of resources and provides a better experience for the volunteer.

**Objective:** To recruit volunteers who are a “best fit” for the Seminole County 4-H program.

**Method:** Potential volunteers participate in a 30–45-minute one-on-one Seminole County 4-H Volunteer Meet and Greet. These meetings are done on the telephone, Zoom, or in-person, depending on the volunteer’s preference. Information is gathered about the volunteer’s service and task preferences. Using a series of questions from a Volunteer Interest Screening form, information about a volunteer’s interests, availability, and preferences are collected. Information is also shared about the Seminole County 4-H program, including expectations.

**Results:** Since implementing the 4-H Volunteer Meet and Greet, those volunteers who have chosen to engage in service and complete the volunteer screening process have



Chelsea Woodard, Volusia County 4-H Agent, and Karen Henry, Seminole County 4-H Agent, presenting their poster “Begetting Best Fit 4-H Volunteers through Initial Interest Meet & Greets.”

a better knowledge and understanding of the program. These volunteers are also more likely to be paired with experiences that better meet their needs.

**Conclusion:** Finding “best fit” volunteers is beneficial to the volunteer and the organization/program.

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Summit attendees received copies of the Junior Master Naturalist Curriculum and hands-on instruction with a field trip led by Shelly Johnson, State Specialized Agent for Natural Resources and co-author of the curriculum.







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