Hello Jackson County 4-H!

I don’t know about you, but I am ready for some warm, sunny days! We have been busy getting ready for this year’s activities and I hope you are making plans to participate. We have the 4-H Event Calendar up and running on our county web page: [http://jackson.ifas.ufl.edu/4-h/4-h-calendar/](http://jackson.ifas.ufl.edu/4-h/4-h-calendar/). Please visit the calendar often to see what is going on in Jackson County, as well as at the State level. Many of you are involved in projects that can lead to multiple competition opportunities or 4-H University, and we want to keep you informed!

The dates for Camp Timpoochee have been set, as well as dates for day camps (please see the 4-H Event Calendar on our county website for more information). Due to changes in State and Federal guidelines, all counselors, counselors-in-training, and/or chaperones for overnight trips are required to pass background and fingerprint checks. We need everyone planning to volunteer as a counselor, counselor-in-training or chaperone for Camp Timpoochee to come in ASAP and speak with Miss Patti or myself to get paperwork started so it will be completed in time for camp. In addition, all counselors must complete the counselor training sessions prior to camp.

Parents and volunteers, please stay tuned! I am working on putting together the required orientation and training packets for new and existing volunteers. This training is required to bring all volunteers into compliance with State and Federal guidelines. We will be holding a series of training sessions on different dates and times in an effort to accommodate everyone’s busy schedules.

In the coming months, I will be highlighting your clubs, so I need to know what you are up to. I need your success stories! Also, if there are members or volunteers without internet access, please let me know so we can make sure they are getting information, as well.

Keep up the good work! I look forward to watching our 4-H family grow!

~Miss Angel

Find out what’s going on with Jackson County 4-H on our Facebook page at [https://www.facebook.com/pages/Jackson-County-Florida-4-H/135642513125691?ref=hl](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Jackson-County-Florida-4-H/135642513125691?ref=hl)
or visit our website at [http://jackson.ifas.ufl.edu/4-h/](http://jackson.ifas.ufl.edu/4-h/).
JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF EXTENSION!

This year Ag Extension Service offices throughout the nation are celebrating 100 years of Agricultural Extension Services Program. Signed into effect in 1914, the Smith-Lever Act created the Agricultural Extension Service through the college land grant program. Jackson County Ag Extension Service falls under the auspices of the University of Florida and reaches out to meet the needs of the agricultural community, as well as individuals, through our agricultural, horticultural, Family Consumer Science and 4-H Programs. We offer a wide variety of programs through training and workshops for areas, such as pesticide use and licensing, farming/gardening workshops, field visits to assess problems with crops and ponds, canning, home buying, healthy eating and food preparation, youth development and many more.

A display of Extension Service memorabilia is available in the Extension Office, and each month will focus on a different aspect. So drop by and stroll down memory lane with us. You never know, you may even see someone you know in some of the pictures displayed. You can help us celebrate by providing typed stories of how Ag Extension has impacted the lives of you and your family, contributing old photos of participation in Extension events, or other memorabilia centered around the services provided by the Jackson County Ag Extension Service. If you have something to contribute, please contact Angel Granger at 482-9620, or email her at amgranger@ufl.edu.

A new study shows 4-H girls are 2-3 times more likely to participate in science programs than their peers!

Million Women Mentors partnership will help increase the number of girls and young women in STEM education and careers.

The National 4-H Council recently announced its partnership with the Million Women Mentors initiative. The initiative, unveiled at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., will support engaging one million science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) mentors, both male and female, to increase the interest and confidence of girls and young women to pursue and succeed in STEM degrees and careers.

“As the largest youth development organization in the U.S., 4-H develops high-quality, positive youth development programs that show mentoring works,” said Jennifer Sirangelo, National 4-H Council President & CEO. “We are thrilled to join forces with STEM connector and the Million Women Mentors initiative as our combined efforts will help reach the goal of engaging more than one million girls in STEM.

The National 4-H Council provides STEM and mentoring programs across the U.S. in partnership with more than 100 universities. In 2012, the 4-H National Mentoring Program served over 8,000 youth, resulting in significant outcomes in areas such as family relationships, and perception of social support and social competence.

Million Women Mentors is a collective effort of more than 40 non-profit, media, education and government industry partners and nine corporate sponsors. To become involved with 4-H or Million Women Mentors, visit www.4-H.org and www.MillionWomenMentors.org.
**Character Keepers 4-H Club** is comprised of Dayspring high school and middle school home school students whose main focus is to provide these young people an opportunity to learn attentiveness, obedience, truthfulness, generosity, gratefulness and doing what is right when no one is looking. Under the guidance of Patty Melvin, club leader, these young people have committed to learn these qualities and to be role models for their peers.

Character Keepers recently presented the character quality ‘Gratefulness’ at Dayspring Christian Academy’s chapel service.

Jackson County 4-H and Character Keeper Club will be sponsoring a Character Camp during the summer. Keep watching for dates and times.

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**Volunteers Needed**

Today, in our local Communities and across the State of Florida, 4-H youth are stepping up to make positive changes. Behind every success story there is a mentor – someone just like you! As a 4-H volunteer, you can share your skills and experiences to help transform a new generation of confident young leaders who are responsible, resourceful and ready to make our world a better place. This is your chance to be the spark that inspires a revolution to make a positive difference!

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**Volunteer Training through Make-A-Difference Mondays**

Designed with adult volunteers in mind, Make a Difference (MAD) Mondays are geared toward helping 4-H volunteer leaders fine tune their skills as mentors. Training sessions are held the 3rd Monday of each month and can be taken online or face-to-face at the Extension Services Office located at 2741 Pennsylvania Avenue in Marianna.

The next training session will be held on Monday, February 17, 2014 beginning at 6:00 PM. February’s topic is “Community Service and Fundraising”.

For a schedule of speakers and topics, or to find out more about making a difference through 4-H, please visit [http://nwdistrict.ifas.ufl.edu/4hn/](http://nwdistrict.ifas.ufl.edu/4hn/).

More links to training are available at: [http://nextgeneration.4h.org/volunteerism/vrkc](http://nextgeneration.4h.org/volunteerism/vrkc).
Teen Council Meeting

The Teen Council meets the first Thursday each month, from 4:00-5:00 PM, at the Ag Extension Service office. Topics covered are the direction of the council, counselor training, upcoming events and opportunities for our 4-H teens to be involved in growth and community involvement. This is a tremendous opportunity for teens to develop and improve their portfolio with their future college and career in mind, as well as serving as a mentor to the younger 4-H members as they learn and grow. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

If you have any questions about participating in the Teen Council, contact Miss Angel at 482-9620.

CAMP COUNSELORS NEEDED NOW!!!
Screenings must be completed by April 1, 2014 for all camp counselors!

Contact us immediately by calling 850-482-9620.

4-H Camp Timpoochee 2014

Summer will be here before you know it, so start making plans now for your child to attend Camp Timpoochee. Last year, we had a record number of campers and we’d like to see that happen again. Everyone had a blast!

The dates for this year’s camp are June 16-20, 2014. Camp packets will be available in the Ag Extension Service office the third week in April. To secure your child’s spot, a $10 non-refundable deposit is required for each camper, due at the time the packet is picked up, and will go toward the total tuition amount. The remainder of the camp tuition will be due no later than June 2, 2014. This covers the 5-day cabin lodging, meals, snacks from the camp store, program activities, and a T-shirt.

All campers must be current 4-H members, so make sure your memberships are up-to-date!

Visit our 4-H Even Calendar on our website for a list of 4-H and Community events for 2014. http://jackson.ifas.ufl.edu/4-h/4-h-calendar/.
**Upcoming Events**

Please visit the 4-H Event Calendar on the Jackson County IFAS website:
[http://jackson.ifas.ufl.edu/4-h/4-h-calendar/](http://jackson.ifas.ufl.edu/4-h/4-h-calendar/)

**NOTE: COMPETITORS IN LIVESTOCK SHOWS MUST BE ACTIVE 4-H OR FFA MEMBERS. Please check your status. Enrollment can be made at 4-H online or at the Jackson County Extension Service Office.**

**FEBRUARY**

8 State Fair Livestock & Horse Judging Contest in Tampa.

17 & 18 Fed Cattle Show – Ag Center on Hwy 90 West, Marianna (Visit the Jackson Co. website for the schedule of events: [http://jackson.ifas.ufl.edu/4-h/jackson-county-cattlemens-association-2013-fed-cattle-show-sale/](http://jackson.ifas.ufl.edu/4-h/jackson-county-cattlemens-association-2013-fed-cattle-show-sale/))

18 Deadline for Area A Horse Show T-Shirt Design Contest

17 MAD Monday volunteer training, Topic: “Community Service & Fundraising” – 6:00 PM

20 Grand Ridge Ag Day

28 thru March 2 3rd Executive Board (Open to all Senior 4-Hers), Camp Ocala

**MARCH**

5 & 6 West Florida Livestock Show and Sale ((4-H Judging Contest on the 5th at 6:00 PM; Hog Shows from 9:00 AM & Cattle Show at 1:00 PM)

9 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS – Set clocks ahead one hour

10 Online Registration for 4-H Day At The Capitol

17 MAD Monday volunteer training – 6:00 PM

Topic: “Youth Volunteer Development, Counselors & Teen Leaders”

24 Spring Break Begins for Jackson County Public Schools

26 & 27 Day Camp – Bicycle Safety and Rodeo – Two fun-filled days to learn how important bicycle safety is, as well as a chance to display your abilities. Each participant will receive a helmet and earn camp dollars to buy healthy snacks in the Camp Store.

28 Registration due for State Horse Judging Contest

TBD State Hippology Contest, Gainesville

**APRIL**

4 Registration Deadline for State Livestock Judging Contest

5 State Horse Judging Contest, Gainesville

5 thru 10 National 4-H Conference

6 thru 13 National Volunteer Week

10 Registration Opens for Legislature

11 & 12 Area A Horse Show – Jackson County Ag Center on Hwy 90 West, Marianna (Visit the Jackson County website for the schedule of events: [http://jackson.ifas.ufl.edu/4-h/2013/12/20/area-a-horse-show/](http://jackson.ifas.ufl.edu/4-h/2013/12/20/area-a-horse-show/))
The Subscription Management System (SMS) is available to parents, volunteers and teen 4-H members. To subscribe, go to http://subscribe.ifas.ufl.edu. Once there, follow the instructions to create a new subscription profile. When asked to customize your choices, make sure to select the Kickin’ in the Clover box under the 4-H Youth tab. When a new issue becomes available, you will receive an e-mail containing a link to the newsletter. For more information about SMS, or assistance subscribing, contact Angel Granger, 4-H Youth Development Agent, Jackson County.

For more information about the Jackson County 4-H Youth Development Program, please contact Angel Granger at 850-482-9620, or by email: amgranger@ufl.edu.