

4-H Year Kick-off

Amanda Pittman, 4-H Agent

The 4-H year kicks off September 1st. This time of year, we can expect two questions asked almost every day: why should I join 4-H and how do I go about signing my kids up?

What makes 4-H stand out from other youth organizations is that it is based out of the University. We say that our educational programs and practices are research-based and education backed for this reason. Our program has a place for anyone since we have such a variety of topics offered from citizenship and leadership to animal science to STEM programs. Our program also works with over 150 trained volunteers annually who are incredibly dedicated and skilled. These ingredients create a dynamic and professional youth organization.

The best way to get involved and have a rich 4-H experience is to get involved in a 4-H club. We have 13 across the county that meets at different times and locations. Normally these clubs meet in person but this year most will be meeting virtually. Each club has a specific focus or two that the educational activities focus on but you can work on any project or interest on your own as well. There are county programs too such as County Council which happens monthly, the Mock Interview Contest, and our annual 5K that we encourage all 4-H members to be apart of. New members need to create a family profile in 4-H Online and pay the \$20 annual membership fee to join. Members planning on showing at the Alachua County Youth Fair, need to be active in their 4-H club, registered in 4-H Online and have paid their membership fee by December 1. To enroll or re-enroll [click here](#).

For more information, check out our website <https://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/alachua/4-h/4-h-topics/>, Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AlachuaCounty4H> or contact us at 352-955-2402 or amorgan133@ufl.edu.

