



"Starting a 4-H Club"

Starting a 4-H club can be an inspiring and rewarding experience. Like starting anything new, you will experience excitement, nervousness, and so much more. It is during your first year as an organizational leader that you are continuously learning about the 4-H program and all it has to offer for members, volunteers and families. An Organizational Leader is responsible for club enrollment, organizing the first club meeting involving other parents in the club, and serves as the liaison between the 4-H staff and the club. It is also during this first year, that 4-H staff will guide you and assist you with all of your needs.

Before you start a 4-H club, there are a few basic requirements.

4-H program club requirements:

- Have at least 5 members, ages 5-18 from 2 or more families
- Meet at least 6 times per year
- Abide by all local, state and national policies
- Have the Organizational Leader complete the University of Florida IFAS Extension Volunteer Screening process

Clubs are also encouraged to:

- Elect officers and practice Parliamentary Procedures for business meetings
- Select a project to study together, example; nutrition, marine science, etc.
- Keep records of the above project study in a 4-H project record summary.
- Encourage Public Speaking by having members share what they learned in a project study
- Participate in one or more community service projects

Getting started:

1. Contact your local 4-H staff by calling 305-592-8044
2. All club organizational leaders need to complete a full screening process available through the 4-H Office.
3. Once the volunteer is screened and accepted then a club name needs to be submitted to the 4-H office. The name will be registered with state and national 4-H program.
4. Members and volunteers will then be given instructions on how to complete an On-line registration process.

Don't forget that the 4-H staff is here to help!

