



Snippets of South Central News for You

LATE START WITH NEWS-LETTER

Sorry for the late start with news. I just don't know where January when—but it flew by!

DIANA SMITH GRADUATES FROM LEADERSHIP MANATEE—Congrats!

Diana Smith was selected to participate in this years program. Participants must complete an application and are selected for a series of leadership training with other community leaders.. It is a great program that is in ever county and provides participants with great connections to other community leaders. Janet Golden, Pinellas is a graduate of Leadership Pinellas. 4-H staff should consider this fine leader training program.

Check your local Chamber of Commerce for more information.



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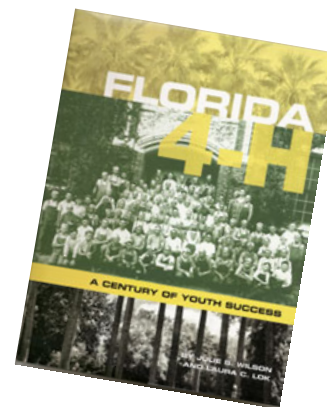
Florida State Fair: Centennial and Showcase

Time for the Florida State Fair and 4-H will be present throughout the week. Our 100 year Celebration begins February 5th at the Ag Hall of Fame with the 4-H Mini Golf Course where participants will learn about our 4-H program and it's rich history. The golf course will be open for the complete fair. 4-H clubs, alumni and staff will man the booth throughout the fair.

Saturday, February 7 join us at the Special Events Building for the 4-H Showcase which hosts the 4-H Fashion Revue, Share the Fun Talent Show, public speaking demonstrations and a large 4-H interactive exhibits. County participating at the showcase is largely from our district.

Polk, Pasco, Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties will set up interactive exhibits to engage the public in various 4-H projects and activities. Other displays will be Operation: Military Kids with Military 1 Source, Tropicana, Florida 4-H Camps, Marine Service Project and the History of 4-H Timeline.

Exhibits open at 9am with stage activities starting at



South Central District Centennial Celebrations

January 31, 2009—District IX 4-H Council Centennial Open House at Shelby Public Library in Sarasota.

March 31, 2009—Pinellas to host a 4-H Centennial Banquet. Invitation Only.

Be Sure to list your Centennial Event on our <http://florida4h.org> website.



Web Site of the Month



www.wheresgeorge.com

A fun site for youth to track the life of a dollar bill.



Collier County Gets New 4-H Agent

Welcome to Ruth Hubling. Ruth will start in Collier Monday, February 9th. She is a resident of Collier County and previously was Project Director for Miracle 2 After-School Program. She has been involved with the 4-H After-School program and has experience in grant writing and community volunteer programs.

I think Ruth will be a good fit in Collier 4-H and hope you will welcome her to our district.

Welcome, Ruth!!



Dean Arrington awards Pinellas County's 4-H Program Leader, Janet Golden ESP 's Distinguish Achievement Award 2007

Working on Your Packet: Applying for Recognition

It's not time to be modest—it is part of your professional development to apply for awards. Recognition for work accomplish is a key part of your Tenure & Promotion Packet. Recognition indicates a peer approval of your work and it favors in your packet. It is not about quantity—it is about have the right blend.

Recognition comes from our professional organization Florida Association of 4-H Agents (FAE4-HA) and the National Association of 4-H Agents (NAE4-HA). You must be a registered member to apply.

You can also be part of a team that applies in which at least one staff is a member.

For those in Epsilon Sigma Phi (Extension invited honorary after 5 years), there are also awards.

Extension also supports awards such as *Image Awards*. No membership is required.

Your county government may also have awards and you should explore applying for those as well.

Be sure to watch "*Toot Your Own Horn*" slide show on <http://district4.ifas.ufl.edu>

Will post to site 2/10

Deadline for association awards will be around March 1st. Don't Miss Out to Add to your Packet!! Awards presented at EPAF in August.

Spotlight on Hillsborough County: Using "AWEBER" to Connect County with 4-H Families

By: Heather Kent, NW RSA

4-H newsletters are one of the most critical communication tools we have. Unfortunately, physically preparing the newsletter for mailing can be a time consuming task, especially if you don't have adequate (or any) support staff. Here's a tool that can help: AWeber.

AWeber is a service that 4-H families (or any other Extension Clientele) subscribe to. Once they subscribe, they can receive newsletters, announcements, and reminders via email sent by you (or a support person). AWeber costs about \$120.00 for one year, but pays for itself when you take into account all the time and money spend on paper, toner, and postage.

One of the best features of this service is that it will generate re-ports to tell you how many people opened your email, how many times they opened it, and whether or not they visited any of the links you may have included in the body of the text.

If one of your New Year's Resolutions was to "work smarter, not harder," then you may want to seriously consider this tool. For more info, visit this website: <http://www.aweber.com/pricing.htm>.

Hillsborough County 4-H has successfully used this tool for over a year, so you may want to contact Holly Jordan to find out how she has used it.

This Month's Q&A Technology Tips

Q: How many items can I store on clipboard in Word?

A: When using the clipboard in Microsoft Office it can store up to 24 items at a time. If you have to paste an item several times in a document you don't need to copy and paste each time, just open the clipboard and select the item you want to paste.



4-H ONLINE

Updates

Monthly 4H-Online Topic Discussion sessions with the 4-H county Agents, PAs, and/or secretary using the program will be offered the **third Wednesday of every month effective 1/21/2009.** Nancy Johnson, Bill Heltemes and the other 4-H RSAs will participate with anyone who wants to join us.

Session 1 using Polycom or phone dial in at 11-12 Eastern time.

Session 2 using Elluminate at 2-3pm Eastern time.

For more information, contact Nancy Johnson at johnsonn@ufl.edu.

Elluminate 4h online Forum

You will need :

- Internet access to www.illuminate.com
- Headset with microphone
- You can also be phone conference in—advance notice is needed

<http://tinyurl.com/3z7c8g>

4-H Connect Meeting

Type in your first name and County for your username (RSA Moderators use actual Elluminate login & pwd)
Meeting password: 4-H

Polycom 4h online Forum

You will need:

- Polycom
- Register the Friday before the session.
- You can also call in **DUE DATES**

March 15: Club Data

June 1: School Data

August 15: Final Data



Professional Development

February 10, 2009

All-Day New 4-H Agent Training
-Gainesville

See agenda and registered at
<http://pdec.ifas.ufl.edu>

February 24, 2009

Are you Affirmative Action Audit
Ready? 11 am Polycom Session

See agenda and registered at
<http://pdec.ifas.ufl.edu>

Upcoming Events



• Operation: Military Kids ...Hero Packs Need to be Packed

Florida will see a large group of soldiers deploy this spring. HERO PACKS are given to children of deploying soldiers, airmen and sailors. Florida has over 700 packs to pack and distribute. If you and your Teen Council are interested in participating in packing Hero Packs contact Cliff Lewis, OMK State Coordinator at sgmlew@ufl.edu. He will be at the National 4-H Military Liaison conference 2/2-6. and 2/7 at the Fair 4-H Showcase.

• Military and Camping Community Grants Available

Do you have an idea to provide an community event for military youth in your community? Would you like to sponsor a Day Camp for military youth in your area? Over \$20,000 in grants funds are available state-wide to any community group 4-H, Scouts, Youth Groups, American Legions, YMCA etc to host events for military youth. Program flyer and applications will be **available March 1**. Contact Cliff Lewis, OMK State Coordinator if interested. sgmlew@ufl.edu.

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Greetings 4-H Co-Worker!

I trust your 2009 is in full swing. It seems to be moving quite fast with February already here! This is a big year for us with the Centennial celebrations and our challenges with budgets. Together I am sure we will meet the challenge.

The Centennial offers us an opportunity to highlight our impact in the community. I hope you will share your success stories with Dr. Vavrina.

State Fair will consume most of February with many counties. Thanks for support from Polk, Pinellas, Hillsborough and Polk again at the 4-H Showcase. Also District 9 Teen Council ask to participate in the event. It is a busy time with many county fairs as well. Best wishes to those with fairs.

Looking forward to another great year working with you. Let me know if there are specific ways I can assist with your programs.

Sincerely,

RSA—South Central District

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Clover Connection