

4-H Honors Past Accomplishments and Kicks Off the New 4-H Year!

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4-H Cloverbud (left) Maleah Williamson looks up to Intermediate 4-H member, Kylie Philipps (center) and Junior, Lauren Philipps (right) as they pose with their "Country Picnic" entry in the Decorated Dessert contest during the 4-H Annual Awards Ceremony.

4-H is a community of young people across America learning leadership, citizenship and life skills that will help them become productive members of the community. Citrus County 4-H recently held the Annual Awards Ceremony that honored the accomplishments of its members and volunteers as well as kicking off the new 4-H year with a bang!

The 4-H Foundation, who will host the Rodeo again this November 19th and 20th, awarded five \$1000 scholarships to 4-H Seniors who graduated high school this spring. These youth Michael Imparato, Richelle Jenkins, Veronica Uzar, Trevor vanVoorthuijsen, and Matt Vanaman are all enrolled and attending colleges or universities this fall. In addition, the 4-H Foundation also provided \$400 extended scholarships to 4-H Alumni, Nocona Rooks-Anderson and Tyler vanVoorthuijsen, from past years that are still pursuing degrees.

Members were recognized for their participation in State level 4-H competition. Events included 4-H State Horse show riders Maggie Cobb, Sarah Davis, Alicia Indelicato, Bailey Miller and Hannah Huntington and Michael Imparato earned the right to go on to Regional's in Clemson, SC! Other State level 4-H events local youth participated in included Marine/Aquatic and General Photography contests, Forest Ecology, and Land Judging contests.

Club members worked all year on their 4-H projects and received recognition for their hard work in the form of project pins at the ceremony. 4-H projects are very diverse. Animal projects remain popular, however, many other projects were completed this year including: one each of cat, food and nutrition, wildlife, and veterinary science, two each of citizenship and photography, three of electricity and small engines, 4 leadership, 6 dog, 10 outdoor education, 10 clothing and textile, 17 poultry, 19 rabbit, 28 horse, 39 beef, and 50 swine.

4-H Clubs and members may strive to go above and beyond 4-H project recognition and achieve "Standards of Excellence." These standards are measured in four levels of achievement, bronze, silver, gold and emerald "clover awards." Two 4-H clubs applied and receive the highest level of recognition for their performance during the 4-H year. Floral City Team Green and Lecanto Levi's each earned the Emerald Clover award. Members also applied for recognition of their exceptional level of involvement at the club, county and district levels as well as community service, leadership, and public speaking. Emerald Clover award winners were Intermediates, Kylie Philipps, Jordan Quintanilla, and Deanna Williams, and Seniors, Christina and Veronica Uzar.

There is no better time to get signed up with a 4-H Club. Citrus County 4-H offers a variety of

opportunities for youth, ages 5 to 18 as of September 1st, to learn and get involved in their community. A new 4-H Club is forming in the Beverly Hills area. This Project club will be a “Horseshoe” club. Now, that is not the kind of horseshoes that go on the hooves of horses! This is a horseshoe pitching club. This club is recruiting youth who are 11 years old, and up, who would be interested in trying out this exciting sport. The leaders are planning an orientation meeting at 1:00 P.M., Saturday, September 18th for interested kids and their parents or guardians. If you would like to try out horseshoe pitching, please contact 4-H volunteer, Gene Lawton 527-4688 or the 4-H Office for more information.

Many adults and youth in your community are already involved in 4-H – making friends, having fun and working together to make a difference in the lives of others. Great opportunities are available for you to volunteer or become a member of Citrus County 4-H. Contact the Citrus County Extension’s 4-H Agent, Amy Duncan to learn more about how to “make the best better” through the 4-H Youth Development program by calling 352-527-5712 or amy.duncan@bcc.citrus.fl.us or visiting www.florida4h.org.

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