



# Cloverleaf

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and life skills since 1902



## APRIL 2010

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### 4-H Teen Council

The 4-H Teen Council is a youth-led organization that works to improve the community through service projects and by helping out at 4-H events. We've been around for just over half a year now. During this time, our members have helped out at the first annual 4-H Pinellas County Congress, the Awards Banquet, When Santa Turned Green, the 4-H Day at the Fair and many other events. Our group consists of active teen 4-H'ers already involved in other clubs as well as teens interested in doing a bit of volunteer work. We meet the second Thursday evening of every month at the Ochs 4-H Educational Center. Our upcoming projects include Stow It Don't Throw It, which involves making recyclable containers to safely dispose of fishing line to protect our marine ecosystems, a cleanup of the Pinellas Trail and teaching technology to seniors. If you have any questions or are interested in joining, please contact Melissa Sharp at [msharp@pinellascounty.org](mailto:msharp@pinellascounty.org) or Andrew Yuan at [ayuan@pinellascounty.org](mailto:ayuan@pinellascounty.org).



### 4-H Club Sites



Want to make your very own 4-H Club website? The 4-H Teen Council is here to help. We have been helping clubs make their own websites by using one of the many free and easy-to-use website creation tools called Weebly. Take a look at our current site at [www.pinellasteeninfo.com](http://www.pinellasteeninfo.com) and be sure to check out the other club websites via the links on the page. If you would like to make an official 4-H Club website please contact Andrew Yuan at [ayuan@pinellascounty.org](mailto:ayuan@pinellascounty.org) or (727) 582-2103 to arrange a one-on-one training.



## Engaging Your Kids in Science, Engineering and Technology

By Tegan Strautmman

Pinellas County Extension Volunteer Intern

*We are happy to report that Tegan Strautmman was hired as a mechanical engineer at a local company. Congratulations to Tegan and thank you to her for all her help with 4-H SET!*

Every day when you turn on the news, radio or open up the newspaper you see evidence of science, engineering and technology advancing at a very rapid pace. Asian countries such as Japan and South Korea seem to be leaps and bounds ahead of America. Whether it's with cars, cell phones, robots or celestial-body-revolving satellites, they have beaten us to the punch. As sad as it is to say, America is not responsible for the start of much of this progression. We, as a country, are falling behind in our science, engineering and technology fields for various reasons and many believe it is time the tables were turned.

One easy way we can start to mend this misfortune is to further implement science, engineering and technology in our children's education, in school and out. This would be the first step in giving America the change of pace that it needs. If you teach children HOW to think like a scientist, engineer or technology expert it will allow their brain to grow and develop the skills to actually become one.

That leads me to the point of this article, scientific inquiry. There are four basic steps in this process. It was stated that, "At all stages, factual knowledge is not as important as critical thinking skills, including: 1) knowing and applying scientific explanations to the natural world, 2) generating and evaluating scientific evidence and explanations, 3) understanding the nature and development of scientific knowledge and 4) participating in scientific practices and discourse." Let me elaborate.

The first step in this process is evaluating the question at hand. Putting something intriguing in a child's hand or puzzling in their mind gives them what it takes to get their "wheels-a-rolling" or brain really thinking. Providing them with

a broad question will give them the chance to brainstorm and come up with many different solutions or answers to the question. This allows them to use their creativity, something that most scientists, engineers and technologists find imperative to discovering new things and creating new designs.

Second, a hypothesis needs to be formed. This allows a child to establish an explanation from which they can outline potential predictions. "What will be the outcome of your experiment and why will that happen?" This is a simple question to ask them to help them develop their hypothesis before going on to the third and most important step.

Step number three is experimentation and exploration. This hands-on element is one of the most significant steps in the scientific process. Why? This gives children the experience they need to understand what is happening and the way that it is happening. Furthermore, this provides them with the opportunity to compare different ways of doing things. It shows them that changing one component of the experiment may yield entirely different results. Witnessing this change will help them comprehend the science, engineering or technology behind the experimentation or tests performed. In addition, this may even help them form their hypothesis for future experiments.

Lastly, discussing their observations will lead them to form a set of conclusions. Ask them, "Was your hypothesis accurate? Did your predictions make sense? How can you explain what happened during your experiment?" This inquiry will give them the skills to use the data they collected during their experiment. If they don't know how to interpret and relay to others what their experiment demonstrated, what was the point in doing the experiment in the first place?

Some programs across the country, such as 4-H SET (Science, Engineering & Technology) have already begun this innovative process that is providing children with the skills and abilities that it will take to become the scientists and engineers of OUR future. Increasing global competitiveness by advancing our technology with techniques like these will be the key factor to helping America get back on top!

Encourage your kids to visit the 4-H SET Kids Web pages at [www.pinellascountyextension.org](http://www.pinellascountyextension.org) which will provide them with dozens of fun, hands-on educational games to increase their science, engineering and technology abilities.

### Sources:

*Science with Kids, Science by Kids*

<http://4h.uwex.edu/set/documents/sciencewithkidsbykids.pdf>

*Critical Indicators of Youth Development Outcomes for 4-H National Mission Mandates*

[www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/library/Indicators\\_4H\\_MM.pdf](http://www.national4-hheadquarters.gov/library/Indicators_4H_MM.pdf)



## Science, Engineering & Technology

# at the Florida State Fair

On Saturday, February 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., 4-H held its annual 4-H Day at the Florida State Fair. All 4-H members were admitted into the fair for free just by showing their membership card. This year for the first time, we promoted our new 4-H SET (Science, Engineering & Technology) initiative with a bunch of exciting and interesting exhibits that showed off the experiential learning process. Youth had the opportunity to become scientists by formulating hypotheses and completing the experiments. The seven exhibits were:

- Power of Wind: Engineering Your Own Wind Mill
- Power of Electricity: Making a Simple Switch
- Aerospace Adventures: Building a Milk Straw Rocket
- Acres of Adventure: Mystery Messages with Invisible Ink
- Food: Crash Course on Carbs
- Beekeeping: Bee Comb An Engineer
- Forestry: The Tree Key

Through a series of activities and demonstrations such as writing invisible ink messages, playing with an electric game board and making balloon rockets, youth learned how science applies to everyday life. Some of the stations even had something to take away, such as the homemade pinwheels from the Power of Wind and beeswax candles from Bee Comb an Engineer. We had a fantastic turnout, reaching over 200 youth in such a short time. We may have inspired some of America's future scientists.

*We also want to thank our volunteers who made it possible to do this event!*

Terry and Dick Berube, Don and Maxine Bitting, Mary Ellen Sharp, Chrissy and JD Willet, Lisa and Gina Dozois, Tegan Strautmann, Erhan Ozey, Monica Wrobel, Eric Schreiner, Cheyenne Lambert, Amanda Peacock, Jill and Abigail Vines, Jenna and Jean Borges, Bridget Cox and Lacey Steele



### 4-H SET Kids

Pinellas County 4-H's new webpage called 4-H SET Kids debuted on February 6 in conjunction with the SET exhibits at the Florida State Fair. The 4-H SET Kids Website provides youth with resources to discover science, engineering and technology through fun games, activities and videos.

Check out the new page at <http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/4-H/SETkids.shtml>.



## Florida State Fair

It was a great year for Pinellas 4-H at the Florida State Fair. We had 4-H'ers entered in a number of categories and classes. There were entries in rabbits, poultry, dairy goats, recycled art, photography, hay bales and more. And most of all, there were entries in the 4-H Dog Show! Be sure to read all the club and SET articles to catch up on the news from the Florida State Fair and start planning for next year!



*Other Fair News:*

*Devin of the 7 C's 4-H club earned a blue ribbon for her recycled art creation. Congratulations, Devin!*



## 4-H2O

It is with much happiness, that I announce that Snow White, a production Leghorn, from our first 4-H embryology project, has won the Grand Champion of the Production Class in the Youth Poultry Show at the Florida State Fair. The other three chickens Michaela entered all received blue ribbons with the Silkie hen, April, winning Reserve Best Variety. Michaela's egg entry was awarded Reserve Best Dozen White Eggs.

Snow White is still a great layer even though she is two and a half years old. Her clutch mate, Peep, lays too, but not as well as she used to lay.

Lexa won 2 first place ribbons, one second place and one third place with her outstanding photography. This is her third year doing a photography project, and she is obviously getting really good. Lexa also got a first place ribbon for a purse she sewed over the summer.

Lastly, the club was awarded fifth place in the hay bale contest, so overall, I think 4-H2O has made a very respectable showing in this year's fair.

## Project Completion and Achievement

Spring is here and demonstrations are done. So what is next? Project completion of course! Completing a project gives you a great sense of satisfaction and we all like to feel good about ourselves. Here are a few tips to help you:

- Pace yourself. Don't leave everything until the end.
- Update your project record often.
- Include something about your demonstration in your 4-H story.
- Ask your leader when the projects are due.
- If your exhibit is a poster, make sure it is not bigger than half poster board size.
- An exhibit can be a display; just be sure there is an explanation, for example, a set of dog grooming tools with a description of each tool.
- The 4-H story can include all parts of your 4-H year. In fact, the best ones do.
- Be sure your leader signs off on the completed activities in your project book.
- Remember: All blue ribbon projects move up for county-level judging.

### You are invited to attend an informational meeting for Florida 4-H Legislature.

**Who:** All senior 4-H'ers that have completed at least one year of membership

**What:** Informational meeting about the Florida 4-H Legislature (June 21 – June 25)

**When:** The informational meeting will be held on April 8, 6:30 p.m. at the beginning of the 4-H Teen Council Meeting

**Where:** Ochs 4-H Educational Center, 14644 113<sup>th</sup> Ave. N., Largo

**Why:** To learn more about Florida 4-H Legislature and prepare to attend one of the most enriching and dynamic programs available

“The Florida 4-H Legislature provides an opportunity for teen 4-H members to have a ‘learn by doing’ experience in state government each summer. When delegates participate in the Florida 4-H Legislature they have an actual experience in all three branches of Florida’s government: Executive, Legislative and Judicial. Florida 4-H laws are considered and passed or vetoed in a model legislative session at the Florida State Capitol. During this five-day event, 4-H’ers will serve as Florida 4-H senators, representatives, lobbyists, reporters, Lt. Governor or Governor. Lobbyists will also have the opportunity to serve as a page and/or experience being a Supreme Court Justice, lawyer or juror.”

– 2009 Florida 4-H Resource Manual I.

For more information on 4-H Legislature, go to: <http://florida4h.org/events/leg.shtml>.

## Club News

By Liz Piquet

(adapted from an article in Pawscrip, the newsletter of the Dog Training Club of St. Petersburg)

WOW! What a great Florida State Fair. This year's 4-H State Dog Show event saw over 150 dogs competing over three days in Champion Youth, Obedience, Showmanship, Agility and Rally. Friday night, five of our members braved wind, rain and giant puddles for the Skillathon on dog veterinary care. Topics ranged from internal and external anatomy of the dog to figuring dosage based on the dog's weight. Competitors also made posters and turned in record books tracking their dog's expenses and a training log. Scores for all of these things were combined with performance scores to determine the Champion Youth of each age division.

On Saturday morning, we slogged through ankle deep mud to get our dogs into Showmanship. Despite the weather, the 4-H'ers still managed to get dressed up, get their dogs cleaned up, and get into the ring. Many of the showmanship classes Saturday were so large the competitors had to be divided into groups with the top competitors from each group brought in to determine placements. In these classes simply "making the cut" was an achievement. After Showmanship the competitors could start on Obedience and those competing in Champion Youth took turns in the "Ask Me Booth" talking to the public about dogs and 4-H.

Sunday morning started off clear and cold in the Charlie Lykes arena. The enclosed arena makes a better place for agility and the large grandstands give the public a bird's eye view of agility and rally. Our club had a great showing both days.

## Our results are as follows:

### SHOWMANSHIP

*Junior Basic:* Lydia K. ~ 1st  
*Junior Novice:* Emily P. ~ 1st, Abby M. ~ 3rd  
*Intermediate:* all 4 made the cut!  
*Novice:* Kristen V. ~ 1st, Kaymie V. ~ 2nd  
*Advanced:* Katie H. ~ 1st  
*Senior Novice:* Kaytlin C. ~ 3rd

### BEST JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP

Four of the seven people in this class were our club members! The final results in this class had Katie in 2nd and Kristen in 4th! WAY TO GO!!!

### AGILITY

*Intermediate Advanced:* Nicole S. ~ 1st, Samantha R. ~ 3rd  
*Intermediate:* Nicole ~ 1st  
*Senior Novice:* Savannah ~ 2nd  
*Junior Sub-Novice B:* Emily P. ~ 1st  
*Junior Novice B:* Abby M. ~ 1st  
*Intermediate Novice A:* Samantha R. ~ 3rd  
*Intermediate Sub-Novice A:* Katie H. ~ 1st, Nicole S. ~ 4th  
*Intermediate Sub-Novice B:* Kristen V. ~ 1st  
*Senior Novice A:* Rebecca M. ~ 2nd  
*Team:* Katie, Emily, Rebecca, Savannah ~ 3rd

### RALLY

*Junior Basic:* Lydia K. ~ 1st  
*Junior Advanced:* Abby M. ~ 1st  
*Junior Novice:* Emily P. ~ 2nd  
*Intermediate Basic:* Sarah H. ~ 2nd  
*Intermediate Novice:* Kristen V. ~ 1st, Katie H. ~ 3rd  
*Intermediate Advanced:* Samantha R. ~ 1st

### JR CHAMPION YOUTH Emily P



Check out the 4-H Google Calendar at <http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/4-H/index.shtml>  
 Let us know which events you would like added.

APRIL 2010	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY 2010	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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30							

JUNE 2010	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30			

- April 8** 4-H Teen Council Meeting
- April 22** 4-H Advisory Meeting (PCE)
- April 22** 4-H Day at the Capitol
- April 23-25** 4-H Volunteer Forum
- April 23-25** Area E Horse Show

- May 6** 4-H Foundation Meeting
- May 8** District Events
- May 8** Camp Ocala Packets Available
- May 15** District Congress
- May 18** 4-H Teen Council Meeting
- May 25** Tropicana Final

- June 1** State Deadline for many summer registrations
- June 3** 4-H Foundation Meeting
- June 11** Leader, Volunteer and Donor Banquet - Tentative
- June 13-18** Horsemanship School
- June 21-25** Florida 4-H Legislature



Pinellas County  
4-H Youth Development

IFAS/University of Florida  
 Pinellas County Extension  
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 Largo, FL 33774-3602

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[www.pinellascountyextension.org](http://www.pinellascountyextension.org)

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Extension programs are open to all persons regardless of gender, race, nationality, ethnicity, age, creed or disability. Persons with disabilities should contact the Extension office at least 10 working days before the event so that proper consideration can be given to the request.

## Making the Best Better!

The 4-H mission is to empower youth to reach their fullest potential working and learning in partnership with adults.

There's always something fun to do in Pinellas County for families and youth! For a current listing of classes, workshops and events, visit:

[www.pinellascounty.org/events](http://www.pinellascounty.org/events) or tune your television to **PCC-TV** (Bright House 622 - Knology 18 - Verizon 44)

**Janet Golden**, Agent  
4-H Youth Development

**Jean Rogalsky**, Agent  
4-H Youth Development

*4-H is a community of young people across America who are learning leadership, citizenship and life skills.*