**Mission:**

Orange County 4-H enhances communities by providing the premier youth development program through exceptional volunteer leadership, direct access to technological advances from University research, utilizing time-tested strategies.

**Statistics:**

Youth: 922 members  
Volunteers: 257 volunteers  
Staff: 3 paid staff

**Member Demographics:**Gender:

Female: 58%

Male: 42%

Race:

White or Caucasian: 75%

Black or African American: 12%

Asian: 6%

Other: 7%

Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino: 15%

Residence:

Cities, towns, suburbs: 85%

Small towns, farms: 15%

**Locations:**

There are currently 27 4-H clubs located across Orange County with projects ranging from robotics and public speaking to horseback riding and gardening.

**4-H Pledge:**

"I pledge...

my head to clearer thinking,  
my heart to greater loyalty, my  
hands to larger service and my  
health to better living  
for my club, my community, my  
country and my world."

**Telephone:**

(407) 254-9222

**Email:**

[Orange4H@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:Orange4H@ifas.ufl.edu)

**Web Site:**

[www.oc4-h.org](http://www.oc4-h.org)

**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/Orange4H](http://www.facebook.com/Orange4H)

## Orange County 4-H : An Overview

Young people become confident, mature adults ready for success in today's challenging world through 4-H, the only youth development program with a direct connection to technological advances from research conducted at state land-grant universities.

Studies show that the more than 6.5 million youth participating in 4-H do better in school, are more motivated to help others, feel safe to try new things, achieve a sense of self-esteem, and develop lasting friendships.

Boys and girls of all races and ethnic backgrounds in urban, suburban and rural communities across America and on U.S. military installations worldwide participate in 4-H experiences. 4-H programs are offered through school-based, after-school and camp settings and community clubs.

### *Contemporary Focus*

The fundamental 4-H ideal of practical, "learn by doing" experiences encourages youth to experiment, innovate and think independently.

4-H has three mission mandates: **science, engineering and technology**; **healthy living**; and **citizenship**. Youth learn leadership, citizenship and life skills through more than 1,000 projects with topics as varied as rocketry, GPS mapping, DNA analysis, public speaking, photography, nutrition and community service.

### *Positive Youth Development*

Educators at 106 land-grant universities operate 4-H programs in every state and U.S. territory, alongside trained youth and adult volunteers. Learning opportunities are designed around four essential elements necessary for positive youth development. 4-H offers youth supervised **independence**, a sense of **belonging** with a positive group, a spirit of **generosity** toward others and a wide variety of opportunities to **master** life challenges.

4-H is operated and supported by a shared leadership of public and private partners including National 4-H Headquarters; USDA within the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service; Cooperative Extension educators at land-grant universities; National 4-H Council; 4-H associations and foundations; and volunteers.

### *An American Institution*

The 4-H youth development movement began more than 100 years ago. It evolved from rural youth programs created by land-grant college and university researchers and the United States Department of Agriculture to introduce new technology to what was then a country of primarily rural communities. As our nation's economic and demographic profiles become more diverse, 4-H adapts and expands to meet the needs of all youth.



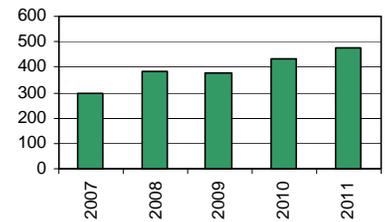
## What is 4-H?

Orange County 4-H is a positive youth development organization that empowers young people to reach their full potential. There are currently over 900 Orange County youth engaged in 4-H programs, with activities ranging from robotics and public speaking to horseback riding and gardening. 4-H mentorship enables America's youth to emerge as leaders through hands-on educational programs grounded in University tested research.

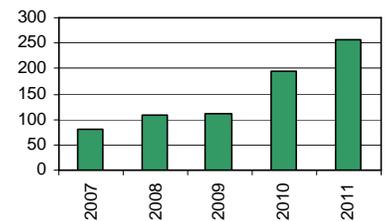
## 2011 Program Highlights

- 478 youth were enrolled in 4-H clubs. A total of 27 clubs are currently active, with programming located at 18 sites across Orange County.
- Overall enrollment by project area is as follows: Communication (35%), Animal Science (31%), Plant Science (10%), Natural Resources (8%), Technology (6%)
- Over 300 youth in 4th–6th grades participated in the Tropicana Public Speaking program. In this school-based program youth learn to research, write and give a speech on a topic of their choice. The program culminates in a public speaking contest.
- Orange County 4-H partnered with the City of Orlando and Real Men Outdoors on *The Garden*. In this 10 week program youth grow a container garden under the mentorship of a caring adult volunteer. Over 70 inner city youth have taken part in the program since its founding.
- Orange County 4-H volunteers donated over 45,000 hours of service to the community in 2011. Duties include direct service to youth, judging, professional service and serving on boards/committees. Their combined efforts represent an over \$800,000 contribution to our community (source Independent Sector).
- 4-H members demonstrated life skill gains in nine areas in 2011. The greatest gains were witnessed in taking initiative, personal responsibility, and making new friends.
- Orange County 4-H awarded \$4,000 in youth scholarships and grants. Through fundraisers, individual and corporate donations we were able to partially fund youth attending summer activities such as Camp Ocala, State Congress, and State Legislature.
- Four new 4-H clubs (with project work in small animals, consumer education and robotics) were added for the 2012 program year.

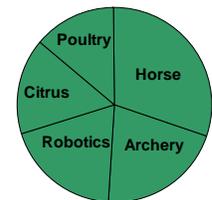
Total Club Enrollment (2007 - 2011)



Total Volunteers (2007 - 2011)



Club Membership by Project (2010-11)



Special Project Enrollment (2010-11)

