

# Brevard County 4-H Newsletter



HEAD



HEART



HANDS



HEALTH

February 2024

We <3 STEM



**Like Chemistry?  
Try  
Freezing Experiments!**

**Hot Ice Science Experiment**

**How to Turn Water Into Ice Instantly**

**Do This With Your  
Valentines!**

**“Non-Newtonian fluid”  
experiment  
How to make a  
substance that  
can be both  
liquid and solid!**

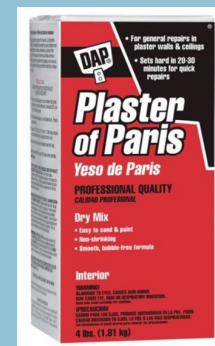
An Equal Opportunity Institution

The University of Florida is committed to providing universal access to all of our events. For disability accommodations such as sign language interpreters and listening devices, please contact the UF/IFAS Brevard County Extension Office at [brevard@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:brevard@ifas.ufl.edu) or (321) 633 1702 at least 2 weeks in advance. Advance notice is necessary to arrange for some accessibility needs. For persons with hearing or speech impairments, use the Florida Relay Service (TDD) at 1 800 955 8771 or 711

# Casting Animal Tracks In Your Backyard

One does not have to travel great distances to find traces of wildlife. They can be found in your own backyard! Once found, that memory can be kept forever by casting it in Plaster of Paris for a few pennies using readily available tools.

Tracking is a great family activity that can be done in the city, in the forest, or on the beach! With a little trial and error, casting some common local tracks can help develop your skills for making good casts of wild animal tracks anywhere. Tracks in your neighborhood could include dog, cat, raccoon, opossum, coyote, or more! Plaster can be found at any arts and crafts store and most home centers and is very inexpensive.



If you cannot find tracks outside, or you are limited to travel, your 4-H office has silicone track molds you can practice with. If interested contact Mr. Gus @ 321-633-1702 or by email at [gkoerner@ufl.edu](mailto:gkoerner@ufl.edu).

To learn how to do it, go to:

<https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/brevardco/2020/04/14/casting-animal-tracks/>

# Fair Rule Books are Here!

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Yes, the long-awaited Fair Rule Books are here! We know you have been holding your breath in anticipation of these, and we hope you won't be disappointed! There are some big changes in our Exhibits book, so be sure to look through it. We hope you like these changes and additions. We've got new sections, including Lego Builds, single plants, container gardens, and a special horticulture section that we think lots of you will enjoy. Be sure to read through all of the rules and information so that you don't miss any deadlines. If you have any questions, reach out to the 4-H office.

There are separate rule books for market poultry, purebred poultry, and rabbit & cavy, so be sure to check those out if participating in those events.

Where are these wonderful rule books you may ask. Well, just click your heels and hit [here](#) and they're yours!

As with last year, registration is done via a Qualtrics survey and registration fees can be mailed or dropped off at the Extension office.

Registrations Due: March 15, 2024, by 11:59 PM

Registration Fees Due: March 29, 2024, by 5:00 PM.

# Club Mini-Grants

The spring submission date for Club Mini grants is March 1.

These grants can be used to help support special club projects, educational programs, and field trips or to provide supplies, equipment, or other club needs. They can also be submitted for leadership development, community service, or hands-on experiences for club members and/or the community.

Clubs can receive up to \$250 per program year. To submit your request, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/6smez7br>.

For questions, contact Gayle at [gowhit@ufl.edu](mailto:gowhit@ufl.edu) or 321-633-1702 x52324.

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## Market Poultry Project Reminder

**For all 4-H members participating in the Market Poultry Auction.**

Donor letters are required for participation in the event and are due this Friday, February 8 by 5 pm to the Extension office in Cocoa. If you have any questions, please contact the 4-H Office at 321-633-1702.

# County Events

County Events will be held on **Tuesday, March 23, 2024**. This countywide 4-H event allows youth to show off their skills and talents, with opportunities to move on to district events.

County events consist of the following:

- **Presentations** – using props, youth talk about a subject they are interested in, either as a demonstration or an illustrated talk
- **Public Speaking** – youth talk about a subject they are interested in without props
- **Share the Fun** – youth share their talents and skills (can be individual or teams of 2)

Winners in each category in the junior, intermediate, and senior divisions move on to the District event, which will be held on Saturday, May 11 at the Indian River County Extension office. A separate state 4-H event in these categories occurs in Gainesville during 4-H University for senior 4-Hers.

Additional county events that happen throughout the year include photography (chosen during the 4-H Fair) and Graphic Design.

I would love to see all that our 4-Hers have learned showcased in our county events program this year. For more information, contact Gayle at [gowhit@ufl.edu](mailto:gowhit@ufl.edu) or 321-633-1702 x 52324.

# 4-H Camp Junior Counselor Program

The 4-H Camp Junior Counselor program is now open for applications and will stay open through Feb. 29th. The application is open to youth ages 14-16, as of September 1, 2023, for both 4-H Camp Timpooshee and 4-H Camp Cloverleaf. Youth accepted into the program will be able to serve at a week of summer camp and earn community service hours for weeks served. The cost for attendance for a week of camp will be at the Early Bird rate.

More information can be found on the Junior Counselor [webpage](#). Youth interested should fill out the [application](#) by February 29th.

Junior Counselors are important to the Florida 4-H camp program. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity!

For more information or questions, please Contact Mason Mullen at [masonmullen@ufl.edu](mailto:masonmullen@ufl.edu)



## 4-H Nature Poetry Contest

If you love writing poetry, consider participating in the statewide 4-H Nature Poetry Contest. Poems do not need to follow any particular format, and participants are encouraged to write about whatever personally engages them in nature.

Winners (1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each of three age groups – Junior, Intermediate, and Senior) will be announced at the Forest Ecology Contest held in Gainesville and will receive ribbons, plus, their poems will be published on the contest website.

To register, and for more information, go to: <https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/florida-4-h-forest-ecology/nature-poetry-contest/>



# *Leap into Legislature*

The Florida 4-H Legislature (LEG) program provides an experience that prepares 4-H members ages 13 - 18 (as of 9/1/23) for leadership in the American democratic process. During 4-H Legislature week, 4-H'ers serve as Florida 4-H senators, representatives, lobbyists, media correspondents, Lt. Governor, or Governor in a "mock" style experience defending the theory and process of representing citizens and making public policy.

Youth interested in the program are invited to join Florida 4-H in an online virtual SPIN club to prepare them for 4-H LEG.

Topics covered will include citizenship, the three branches of government, how a bill becomes a law, understanding self and others, civil discourse, and 4-H LEG roles and preparation.

Club meeting dates are:

Feb 26, March 11, March 25, April 8, April 22, May 6, and May 20.

4-H members interested in this virtual club can join by registering in 4-H Online.



# Project Books

Project books are a part of 4-H that allows youth to record what they have learned throughout their 4-H year. Project books teach many valuable skills, including financial management, record keeping, staying organized, and effective communication. They also provide a record of how hard you have worked, how much you have learned, and what you have done throughout the project. There are record books available for specific projects as well as general record books. If you haven't started your record book yet, now is the time to start!

Completing project books is required for some county, state, and national programs and awards, and can also be helpful in applying for awards and scholarships and completing job and college applications.

Many of the project books can be found on our [website](#). For a list of all available record books, check out the [Florida 4-H Curriculum Clearinghouse](#). If there is a project you are working on or interested in working on, check with the Extension office to see if we have the project book available. If not, we will work to get what you're looking for.

Be aware that some project record books are required and have due dates. If you are working on a project with a required project book, make sure you get it turned in on time. If you're unsure, or if you have any questions regarding project books, contact the 4-H office.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**We have a private Facebook group for 4-H families where we share program announcements, updates, opportunities, pictures, and more! If you're not yet a member, consider joining us! You can find us on Facebook by searching for "Brevard County 4-H: The Hub" and requesting to join!**