



Tonya Tomlin
4-H Agent Assistant
News Release

Celebrating National 4-H Week October 7-13, 2007

It is almost here, National 4-H Week, a time when we celebrate the great American staple that is 4-H. Just some facts about 4-H:

- For more than 100 years, 4-H has been providing youth with the innovative research and resources from our nation's 106 land-grant universities and colleges.
- 4-H is one of the largest youth development programs in America with more than 6.5 million young people, ages 5-19, and 538,000 youth and adult volunteers.
- 4-H is in every community across America—urban, suburban and rural.
- 4-H's learning opportunities are intentionally designed around four essential elements necessary for positive youth development. It provides youth with: 1) supervised **independence**; 2) a sense of **belonging** with a positive group; 3) a spirit of **generosity** toward others; and 4) a wide variety of opportunities to **master** life challenges.
- The fundamental 4-H ideal of practical, "learn by doing" experiences, encourage youth to experiment, innovate and think independently.
- 4-H programs are offered through school-based, after-school and camp settings and within community clubs.
- 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; more than 3,500 Cooperative Extension staff associated with 106 land-grant universities; National 4-H Council; 4-H associations and foundations; and trained youth and adult volunteers.
- More than 60 million young people across America have been 4-H members since the 4-H Youth Development program began in 1902. Famous alumni include Al Gore, Faith Hill and David Letterman. Also, 14 governors, 33 university presidents and chancellors, 31 CEOs and four astronauts are 4-H alumni.
- In St. Clair county, 1,300 youth are enrolled in 4-H through in-school, home school and special interest clubs.
- 4-H is supported by nine elementary and middle schools in the county along with several home school groups and a variety of members of all ages from across the county enrolled in special interest clubs.

If you are interested in being a 4-H volunteer or have a child interested in joining 4-H please contact Tonya Tomlin, 4-H Agent Assistant by email at tomlita@auburn.edu or 205-338-9416. Visit the St. Clair County 4-H webpage link at www.aces.edu/st.clair.

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