

Dear 4-H Families,

This year marks the 100th birthday of the Florida 4-H Program. We are getting ready for our yearlong celebration. I have been researching the Columbia County 4-H Program's start and was able to find this picture, taken in 1929 on the Columbia County Court House steps.



The 4-H County Council met last night and decided that we needed a current picture of all of the Columbia County 4-H'ers on the court house steps. **On Thursday, February 5, at 5:30 pm we will be taking that picture.** Every 4-H member in the county is asked to come to the Columbia County Courthouse to have our group picture taken. This picture will be used/ along with the one you see here, in a newspaper article and in our county 4-H birthday celebration. **IN ADDITION**, on the same night, at 7 pm, our Columbia County Board of County Commissioners will be presenting the Columbia County 4-H Program with a 100th birthday proclamation. After we get our picture taken, you are invited to go over to the school board building and stand as a group to receive our proclamation. Please do your best to wear your 4-H colors for both the picture and the commission meeting. **LET'S PACK THE PLACE!!!!!!**

In addition to our picture and our proclamation, we have several other activities planned.

Dr. Cindy, CED/4-H Coordinator
UF/Columbia County Extension Service

January 17- Tree Planting and 100th birthday kick off. 11 am – 1 pm Extension Office. There will be cake, for as long as it lasts, and birthday presents for the first 100 kids that come. Come and join us in our birthday kick off.

January 17 – Agriculture Celebration. 1 – 5 pm Mason City Community Center. 4-H members are invited to attend. Miss Cindy will be speaking about the history of 4-H and members in attendance will be reciting the 4-H pledge.

February 5 – Birthday picture and proclamation. Meet at 5:30 at the courthouse and then proceed to the school board auditorium. MUST be seated by 6:30 for the commissioner meeting.

1 million Trees – State 4-H Project. The State 4-H Council has picked the planting of 1 million trees as their state community service project. Your county council decided that this would be an excellent county wide community pride project for us. The council is asking that each club plant at least one tree in support of this project. The trees could be planted in a park, at a community center, etc. **MAKE SURE YOU CHECK WITH THE CITY OR COUNTY BEFORE YOU PLANT TREES ON CITY OR COUNTY PROPERTY AND GET PERMISSION.** The Lake City Beautification Committee, lead by Harvey Campbell, is looking for people to sponsor trees that will be planted in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of Lake City.... The Pioneers and Richardson Middle School 4-H clubs are already beginning their plans to plant trees. Please let us know how many trees your club plants this year so that we can report back to the state 4-H council.

And lastly, the council also voted to participate in the 150th Lake City Anniversary on April 4 downtown. Each club is asked to make crafts that pertain to their club that can be sold at the festival. All the proceeds will go to St Jude's Children's Hospital. Any club can participate and there will be more on this in the next newsletter.

MY 4-H GOAL THIS YEAR IS TO ADD 100 NEW MEMBERS FOR OUR 100TH BIRTHDAY. All of these events and activities will help to make the UF/Columbia County 4-H program very visible in our county. Research shows that youth involved in positive programs, like 4-H, do better in school, learn very necessary life skills and have a more positive attitude than children that do not have the opportunity to belong to this kind of organization. I am very proud that we will be working together this year to celebrate our birthday and actively promote a very positive youth program. Wear green where ever you can and **HAPPY BIRTHDAY 4-H.**