The Broward 4-H Office hosted two separate Broward Environmental Science Days.

The first, a one-day mini-camp, was held on Saturday, November 21 at the UF/IFAS Hurricane House. It hosted a variety of workshops throughout the day.

4-H members, adult volunteers and staff taught various subjects such as entomology, fishing, birds and building bird feeders, gardening and plant science, and the butterfly life cycle.

At the butterfly life cycle station, students had the opportunity to build a butterfly and sweep nets, while at the gardening and plant science station, students also learned about the various vegetables that we grow and eat. They even had the opportunity to taste sample vegetables.

The second, held on Tuesday, December 8 at Tree Tops Park, hosted over 150 third, fourth, and fifth grade students from local elementary schools. 4-H members, adult volunteers, and staff taught a variety of subjects at different stations throughout the Oak Ridge Hall and outdoor park areas.

Some included gardening and plant science, preserving and cleaning up our beaches, marine life, and learning about different animal tracks. At the animal track station, the students were able to make sample tracks to take back home. “We had a great turnout and the kids seemed very enthusiastic about the activity and we hope to do it again next year,” said Alexandra Jones, Broward County 4-H Agent. “Thank you to all the volunteers who made it a success.”

Ryan Siriname from 4-H EMEC said “I could not help but feel content with the fact I may have inspired a young scientist of tomorrow”.

Phoenix McClain, a 4-H Footprints member who volunteered that day said, “I hope that the youth that attended our station that day will remember the importance of not littering on the beach and protecting the marine life.” By Michele D’Aquino
More County Council Happenings

In November, the County Council participated in the Baskets of Hope. We assisted A Place in Time Ministries with their Thanksgiving baskets for those in need by helping make the 100 baskets.

At the December County Council meeting there was a holiday party. It was a pot luck dinner with games and an Elephant Gift Exchange.

Clubs made candy balls which were a lot of fun to unwrap. We played board games and outdoor games. Afterwards there was the elephant gift exchange. It was fun finding out what you will get and if someone would steal it!

Levi Iszler, 4-H Tropical Troopers Vice-President and 4-H District 13 Reporter, traveled to the 4-H National Events in Denver, Colorado to represent Broward County with his speech: Architecture and Structural Engineering with 4-H. This was the first time ever that a 4-H student represented not only Broward County, but the State of Florida at the 4-H Western National Round-Up.

Levi competed in the Prepared Public Speaking category.

"I really enjoyed the National Western Roundup," Levi said. “With over 32 states and provinces represented, the event draws together a diverse and passionate pool of 4-Hers. All the competitions featured great participants, and the activities planned helped everyone connect and learn together."

By Michele D’Aquino
Saturday, January 30th, the Broward County 4-H Council met at the Broward Partnership Huizenga Campus with a mission: to decorate the Center. A large group of members were involved in decorating the cafeteria and the lobby of the Center with a Valentines Day theme. The decorations were made by County Council members at the January meeting. Other decorations were made by individual clubs. Some were assembled as needed at the Center. We hope the residents enjoy the decorations as much as we enjoyed working there.

The Broward Partnership built and operates the Broward County Central Homeless Assistance Center on the Huizenga Campus.

Completed and opened in 1999, the 57,000 square foot, 230-bed short term residential shelter was funded almost entirely with private donations. The Broward Partnership provides short-term housing and solution-focused services to individuals and families. The term "emergency" means that the average stay is 60 days. Since its opening, the Partnership has assisted more than 21,000 individuals. (bphi.org)
This year, the Broward County 4-H Council was given the opportunity to participate in the South Florida Fair in Palm Beach County. We had participants in various categories representing Broward County. The projects were exhibited for the duration of the fair between January 15 and January 31st. Congratulations to all the participants and the ribbon recipients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARTICIPANT</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Award</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Karla Alvelo</td>
<td>Food: Casserole/Main Dish</td>
<td>Blue Ribbon and Grand Champion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicole Alvelo</td>
<td>Food: Cookies/Brownies</td>
<td>Blue Ribbon and Grand Champion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michele D’Aquino</td>
<td>Potted Plants</td>
<td>Blue Ribbon and Grand Champion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Music</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Electric</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>Two Blue Ribbons and Grand Champion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Marine Science</td>
<td>Blue Ribbon and Grand Champion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hayden Hawes</td>
<td>Food: Casserole/Main Dish</td>
<td>Blue Ribbon and Grand Champion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Food: Dips/Appetizers</td>
<td>Blue Ribbon and Grand Champion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>Two Blue Ribbons and Grand Champion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wildlife</td>
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<td>Collections</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shane O’Connor</td>
<td>Photography</td>
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<tr>
<td>Danielle O’Connor</td>
<td>Ceramics</td>
<td>Blue Ribbon</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Personal Development</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>Blue Ribbon and Grand Champion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Rodriguez</td>
<td>Clothing Construction</td>
<td>Blue Ribbon and Reserve Champion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Society/Entrepreneurship</td>
<td>Blue Ribbon and Grand Champion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sofia Rodriguez</td>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>Blue Ribbon and Grand Champion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophia Trianna</td>
<td>Food: Cupcakes</td>
<td>Blue Ribbon and Grand Champion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sara Trianna</td>
<td>Food: Cookies/Brownies</td>
<td>Blue Ribbon and Reserve Champion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophia Vega</td>
<td>Food: Casserole/Main Dish</td>
<td>Blue Ribbon and Reserve Champion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brielle Wright</td>
<td>Food: Dips/Appetizers</td>
<td>Blue Ribbon and Grand Champion</td>
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Hello. My name is Hayden Hawes. On November 7th, Florida 4-H held the 2015 State Marine Ecology Event. Many 4-H'ers from Broward County participated in the event in Kissimmee, FL along with other 4-H'ers from around the state.

The 4-H State Marine Ecology Event (MEE) provides 4-H youth with opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge of the marine and aquatic worlds.

My experience at the MEE was Amazing! When you arrive at the event, all of the 4-H State Marine/Aquatic Photography Contest Photos are on display. You are given ballots to vote on your top three favorite pictures for the People's Choice Award. Shortly after, Mrs. Karen Blyler, Event Coordinator, will speak about the event and what to expect throughout the day. You will then be split into groups and each group will rotate around 5 sections which include: Vertebrates, Invertebrates, Plants, Scavenger Hunt and Multiple Choice.

Some of the specimens can be hard to identify, as some may be alive, dead, juveniles, or preserved (where there will be no color to the specimen). After you have rotated through every section, your answer sheets will be turned in for scoring, then you break for lunch. Shortly after, you are allowed to walk through the facility to view the specimens once again. This time, there will be name cards in front of each specimen with the correct answer for you to view.

Once everyone returns, the results of the photography contest are awarded, which include; Marine Life, Aquatic Life, Marine Habitat, Aquatic Habitat, and People and the Marine/Aquatic World. For each category, First, Second, Third, and Honorable Mention Ribbons are awarded, as well as one overall People's Choice Award. Broward County took home a total of 6 photography ribbons! Once photography ribbons have been awarded, Marine Ecology awards began. Individual awards include First, Second, and Third Place for Juniors, Intermediates, and Seniors. Team Awards, which consist of four contestants in the same age category are also given for Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Teams.

Although Broward County did not bring back any awards from the event, all who participated had a great time! Last year, I was awarded First Place Junior Individual, and received a $100 Scholarship to use for a Marine/Aquatic related educational activity. I chose to participate in the Dolphin Connection Program at Hawk's Cay Resort in the Florida Keys. At Hawk's Cay Resort, you have the unique opportunity to encounter bottlenose dolphins in this marine mammal's natural environment. The Dolphin Connection, located in an ocean-fed saltwater lagoon, is home to a pod of friendly dolphins that you can interact with while learning the importance of protecting Florida's marine ecosystem. I would strongly recommend the event to anyone in 4-H!

-Hayden Hawes
2nd Annual
Run With 4-H
5K for the Armed Forces Foundation

Join us for a Family Fun Run in beautiful TY Park, Hollywood, Florida, to benefit the Armed Forces Foundation. Support our military as you “Run With 4-H.”

There is a patriotic theme, so come dressed in red, white, and blue!

When: Saturday, March 5, 2016. Check-in starts at 7 a.m., race starts at 8 a.m.

Where: TY Park (Topeekeegee Yugnee), #12 Corporate Shelter, 3300 North Park Road, Hollywood, FL 33021

How to Register:
• Option 1: Direct Online Registration at: www.crowdrise.com/RunWith4H. $25.00 fee for all ages. All registrations include an event t-shirt.
• Option 2: Mail-In Registration: You may register for the event through regular mail by downloading the Registration and Release Form at: www.crowdrise.com/RunWith4H.
• Registration: $25.00 per person, includes event t-shirt.

*Registrations will be accepted at any time, including day of event. However, registrations received after February 17th cannot be guaranteed an event t-shirt.

Complete event registration details at: www.crowdrise.com/RunWith4H

Platinum Sponsors

Gold Sponsors
Hooked on Nature

During the Holiday Season, Hooked on Nature took part in two great community service activities. The programs were Soles4Souls and Operation Christmas Child. The members of Hooked on Nature all helped to fill 18 shoe boxes with gifts and accessories to send to kids around the world in time for the holidays. Also, for the Soles4Souls program, the club was able to send 23 pairs of shoes for those families in desperate need of them. The club really enjoyed this time of community service and still had time to fish afterwards too! Happy Holidays from Hooked on Nature!
- Ashley Westberry, Hooked on Nature 4-H Club Reporter

Update: We received notification that our Shoeboxes have been delivered to Burkina Faso, and The Central African Republic!

Soles4Souls is a not-for-profit global social enterprise committed to fighting poverty through the collection and distribution of shoes and clothing. Since 2006 Soles4Souls has collected and distributed 26 million pairs of shoes to those in need in 127 countries around the world and all 50 states in the U.S. Every day children are prevented from attending school, and adults are unable to work. Walking becomes unbearable. A new pair of shoes provides relief today so thousands can succeed tomorrow.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan’s Purse. The shoe boxes give children joy, hope, and love. Their shoebox is the first gift many children have ever received! The treasures and personal letters inside communicate that someone cares for them.
Wondrous Wildlife

Wondrous Wildlife 4-H has continued to learn how to safely handle and shoot with a bow and arrow. With practice, everyone has shown signs of improvement and we hope to set up a scoring system to have our own competitions soon. Last week, we learned how to properly wax the bow string and had the opportunity to shoot with Experience 4-H Wilton Manners, enriching the experience.

On January 18, our club participated in a service learning project for MLK Day of Service. Wondrous Wildlife 4-H in partnership with Sawgrass Nature Center (SNC), Leadership Broward & Broward College, worked to create a beautiful new butterfly garden & nature trail at SNC!

We are already planning another community service learning project as well as a STEM activity - learning how to make soap.
TROPICAL TROOPERS

Did you ever go to the Davie Town Hall this past holiday season? Well, if you did, you might have seen the Tropical Trooper’s second place tree. Each year, the Town Hall has different groups come out and compete for who had the best decorated tree. This year’s theme was that all of the ornaments had to be recycled. It was a fun experience to make the ornaments and see what other people decorated their tree with, and the icing... or should I say angel on top, was that we won second place!

The Tropical Troopers are always willing to do community service and volunteer work when it comes to veterans and helping the community. We’ve been doing community service stretching back to November when we celebrated Veteran’s Day in the park with multiple veterans. We also put together a basket worth of food for Baskets of Hope and in addition to that, we collected more food for the Hope Outreach.

In the near future, we plan to build an underwater robot and compete in some of the Sea Perch Competitions

-Annaleisa Matzirakis, Reporter Tropical Troopers

Footprints 4-H Club

Part of the spirit of 4-H is helping others in need. That’s why our club, Footprints, is doing a monthly contribution to the Cooperative Feeding Program of Ft. Lauderdale. We bring bread, peanut butter, and jelly, and then form an assembly line to make sandwiches before our meetings. It is fun and feels good knowing we are helping others. Last month we made nearly 80 sandwiches and these were given to the homeless in our community.

Footprints participated, along with District, in Feed My Starving Children, a non-profit organization that gives food to children and families in poor countries. Several families from our club spent a Thursday night filling bags with rice and other essentials.

We have been selling candy bars to raise money for our club and with some of our funds we bought chickens and a goat for needy families through the Samaritans’ Purse.

We are a science-loving group and we also participated in the National Youth Science Day event with a motion commotion project at our December meeting.

It is a great feeling to help others and be part of a group of good people. I know I speak for my club when I say, I love Footprints and 4-H! - By Madeline Rowe, Secretary
Everglades High 4-H EMEC

The Everglades High School Chapter of 4-H not only strives for experimental projects, but also large commitments to bettering the community. 4-H EMEC (Everglades Mechanical Engineering Club) participated in the Broward County 4-H Environmental Science Day. Our members enjoyed working with the children guiding them through the different activities while themselves learning new concepts such as fishing. In addition to this, they are currently developing a greenhouse at Everglades High in the hopes of using it as an educational complex as well as a node for food donation. At School, we will be taking part in the Take Your Child to Work February 2nd. Our club will be guiding the faculty’s children in an activity about electricity. Whatever future endeavors 4-H EMEC attempts to initiate, the community will always be in mind! - Michael Chang

DREAM IT STYLE IT MAKE IT

Our club was busy this holiday break. We went caroling around Sapphire Bay for the third year. It has become an annual event. We enjoyed it so much that we went to the Sunset Lakes Senior Center for more caroling and some sweets. The seniors always enjoy the desserts! We had our first archery event at Markham Park. We have much to go in our archery skills! In January we had a field trip to D’Zigners where we learned how fabric designs are printed into rolls of fabric using sublimation, and make print designs from computer to fabric. Thanks to Mrs. Claudia Rego for the tour of D’Zigners.—Victoria Rodriguez