



# PREPARING FLORIDA'S YOUTH TO BE WORKFORCE READY

Florida 4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential by providing hands-on, educational programs in all 67 counties and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Each year approximately 200,000 youth and 10,000 volunteers participate in 4-H learning experiences through clubs, school-enrichment, and camping.

In 2021, 4-H members worked on 124,540 projects, including STEM, Health, and Workforce Preparedness.



## Learning in a Caring and Supportive Environment

Youth who have supportive developmental relationships in their life are more likely to become successful as adults.<sup>1,2</sup>

**2,647** adult volunteers adopted one or more best practices that build positive developmental relationships, such as expressing care, challenging growth, and expanding possibilities.

**14,820** youth in 4-H believed that adult volunteers care about them, support them, and encourage them.

**4,596** adult volunteers adopted best practices that provide youth with a safe and inclusive learning environment.

**18,661** youth reported 4-H is a safe environment where they feel included and welcome.



## Learning Interpersonal Skills

4-H is teaching youth the skills they need to be prepared to enter the workforce.<sup>3</sup>

**42,893** youth demonstrated an improvement in communication skills.

**27,252** youth demonstrated an improvement in higher-order thinking skills such as goal setting, critical thinking, and decision making.

**17,934** youth demonstrated an improvement in their ability to appreciate the differences of others.



## Learning Beyond 4-H Clubs

More than **11,053** youth are engaged in learning experiences beyond their 4-H club, participating in district, state, regional, and national programs.

<sup>1</sup>Scales, P.C., Benson, P.L., & Roehlkepartain, E.C. (2011). Adolescent thriving: The role of sparks, relationships, and empowerment. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 40, 263-277.

<sup>2</sup>Scales, P.C., Benson, P.L., Oesterle, S., Hill, K.G., Hawkins, J.D., & Pashak, T.J. (2017). Aligning youth development theory, measurement, and practice across cultures and contexts. *Applied Developmental Science*. 20(3).

<sup>3</sup>Lippman, L., Ryberg, R., Carney, R., & Moore, K. A. (2015). Key "soft skills" that foster youth workforce success: Toward a consensus across fields. *Child Trends*, Publication #2015-24