

## **Dear Florida 4-H Community Club Members,**

As this 4-H year comes to a close, we sincerely hope that your 4-H club experience has been filled with learning and fun! As we pause and reflect on this past year, we are so proud and impressed with the accomplishments of our 4-H youth, volunteers and Faculty. From our national competition winners to our first-time campers, everyone has accomplished so much! On behalf of Florida 4-H we hope you continue your involvement and re-enroll for the 2016-2017 program year. Re-enrollment opens in 4HOnline on August 18.

The Florida 4-H Youth Development Program strives to be the leading positive youth development program in the nation. As our motto states, we want to “Make the Best Better” by enhancing our county, district and state-level programs and events to ensure they are the highest-quality experiences possible for our youth participants. We have committed ourselves to providing your children with the best youth development experience as possible in the context of an ever-changing world. We also want to invest in our communities’ futures by involving more youth and families in our 4-H programs. Increased costs and recent changes in legislation, policies, and the like have added additional expenses to Florida 4-H that create an added challenge in meeting our commitment to you.

We are requesting that you join us in investing in 4-H. In the 2016-2017 program year, Florida 4-H will begin asking families to pay a \$20.00 annual membership fee\* for Community Club Members 4-H ages 8-18. Half of this fee will be managed and used by your local 4-H program and the remainder will be used to invest in collective needs. Specifically, the Florida 4-H Youth Development Program will use these funds to improve, update, and modernize state-level events, activities, and competitions for 4-H youth. Member insurance will also be paid for by the state instead of individual county programs to alleviate this local burden. We will implement transportation solutions for state and regional events and provide more support for your local agent and programs.

### **Here is an overview of how the fee process will work.**

- You will enroll your youth in 4HOnline as usual, then you should expect an email with a link to an e-commerce online storefront where the membership fee can be paid using a debit or credit card. If you do not use credit or debit cards, a check may be mailed to the Florida 4-H Headquarters.
- Families who have more than three 4-Hers have a maximum fee of \$60.00 per year for all of their children.
- If a membership fee is a barrier for any youth to join 4-H, please contact your local county 4-H Agent. Florida 4-H will never exclude a youth from 4-H for inability to pay and work to find solutions as needed.

Please view this as an opportunity to “Make the Best Better” for your 4-Her and for all the other youth that could benefit from the Florida 4-H Youth Development Program. Again, thank you for your past involvement in 4-H and we hope to see you again in the fall! If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to reach out to your local 4-H office.

Sincerely,

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State Program Leader for  
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\*This annual membership fee may not include individual club fees.