

COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FORM

Department: County Extension

Meeting Date: 10/1/2026

1. Nature and purpose of agenda item:

Consideration and adoption of a proclamation recognizing October 4–10, 2026, as National 4-H Week in Columbia County and authorization to fly the 4-H flag at the Columbia County Courthouse Annex during National 4-H Week.

2. Recommended Motion/Action:

Approve Proclamation 2026P-27 National 4-H Week and authorize the 4-H flag to be flown at the Columbia County Courthouse Annex October 4–10, 2026.

3. Fiscal impact on current budget:

This item has no effect on the current budget.

District No. 1 - Kevin Parnell
District No. 2 - Rocky Ford
District No. 3 - Robby Hollingsworth
District No. 4 - Everett Phillips
District No. 5 - Tim Murphy

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS • COLUMBIA COUNTY



MEMORANDUM

TO: David Kraus, County Manager
FR: Heather M. Futch, County Extension Director, Columbia County Extension
DATE: September 18, 2026
RE: Agenda Item Request – National 4-H Week Proclamation

UF/IFAS Extension Columbia County respectfully requests that the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners proclaim October 4–10, 2026, as National 4-H Week in Columbia County.

4-H is the youth development program of Cooperative Extension and provides opportunities for young people to develop leadership, responsibility, communication, and essential life skills through hands-on educational experiences. Agriculture remains an important foundation of 4-H programming and is especially significant in Columbia County, where agriculture and natural resources continue to play an important role in our local economy, heritage, and future.

During the 2025–2026 4-H year, Columbia County 4-H reached 4,652 young people through clubs, school enrichment, camps, special-interest programs, and other educational experiences. This represents more than one-third of Columbia County’s youth ages 5–18.

This year’s National 4-H Week theme, “Beyond Ready,” highlights 4-H’s commitment to preparing young people with the skills and experiences needed to succeed in a changing world while developing the next generation of leaders in agriculture, our workforce, and our community.

The attached proclamation is presented for the Board’s consideration and adoption. UF/IFAS Extension Columbia County also requests that the 4-H flag be flown at the Columbia County Courthouse during National 4-H Week, October 4–10, in recognition of Columbia County 4-H members, volunteers, families, and the program’s contributions to our community.

PROCLAMATION NO. 2026P-27

National 4-H Week Proclamation

WHEREAS, this year's National 4-H Week theme, "Beyond Ready," reminds us that 4-H is building a ready generation in a world of change and equips young people with skills for the future while meeting them where they are today;

WHEREAS, 4-H is America's largest youth development organization, supporting six million youth across the country; and

WHEREAS, 4-H programs are delivered by the Cooperative Extension System – a community of more than 100 public land-grant colleges and universities across the Nation – that provides experiences for young people to learn by doing; and

WHEREAS, 4-H is the youth development program of UF/IFAS Extension Columbia County, reaching 4,652 young people during the 2025–2026 4-H year — representing more than one-third of Columbia County's youth ages 5–18 — through traditional 4-H clubs, school enrichment, camps, special-interest programs, and other educational experiences that connect youth with research-based learning and opportunities to develop essential life skills; and

WHEREAS, 4-H is in every city and county in the United States and helps 6 million youth become engaged, successful and independent; and

WHEREAS, 4-H connects young people and adults to their communities, preparing them for work and life through experiential and inquiry-based learning while providing emerging research for positive youth development; and

WHEREAS, building upon its strong agricultural roots, 4-H continues to connect young people to agriculture and natural resources while providing opportunities to explore science, leadership, healthy living, and other areas important to their future; and

WHEREAS, agriculture remains an important part of Columbia County's economy, heritage, and future, and 4-H provides opportunities for young people to develop an understanding and appreciation of agriculture while building responsibility, leadership, and life skills; and

WHEREAS, supporting future leaders in science, agriculture and community leadership is an important imperative for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture 4-H program; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Columbia County Board of County Commissioners does hereby proclaim October 4–10, 2026, as NATIONAL 4-H WEEK throughout Columbia County, Florida, and encourages all our citizens to recognize 4-H for the significant impact it has made and continues to make by empowering youth with the skills they need to lead for a lifetime.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands on this 1st day of October 2026.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

ATTEST:

BY:

Jay Swisher, Clerk of Court

Tim Murphy, Chairman