



Extend Your Knowledge

Pinellas County Extension is part of a nationwide network of land grant universities providing unbiased, research-based information to America's citizens. In our state, Extension's land grant link is the University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS). Pinellas County Extension serves as a bridge between the research labs of the university and the local community by providing educational opportunities for adults and youth.



Our Mission

To provide research-based knowledge and educational programs enabling people to make practical decisions to improve their quality of life.

Volunteer Opportunities

Training and coordination is available for citizens interested in learning while serving their community. Opportunities include:

Master Gardener Program

- ◆ Intensive horticultural training and certification in exchange for volunteer service through Pinellas County Extension

Home and Community Educators

- ◆ An association of volunteers working in a variety of community-related projects

Advisory Councils

- ◆ Citizen committees helping to guide Extension priorities and programs

4-H Youth and Adult Volunteers

- ◆ Year-round opportunities for middle and high school students
- ◆ Training for adults to mentor youth by organizing 4-H clubs

Administration

- ◆ Opportunities to assist in areas of clerical support

For more information, ask for the volunteer coordinator at (727) 582-2016.

Award Winning Programs

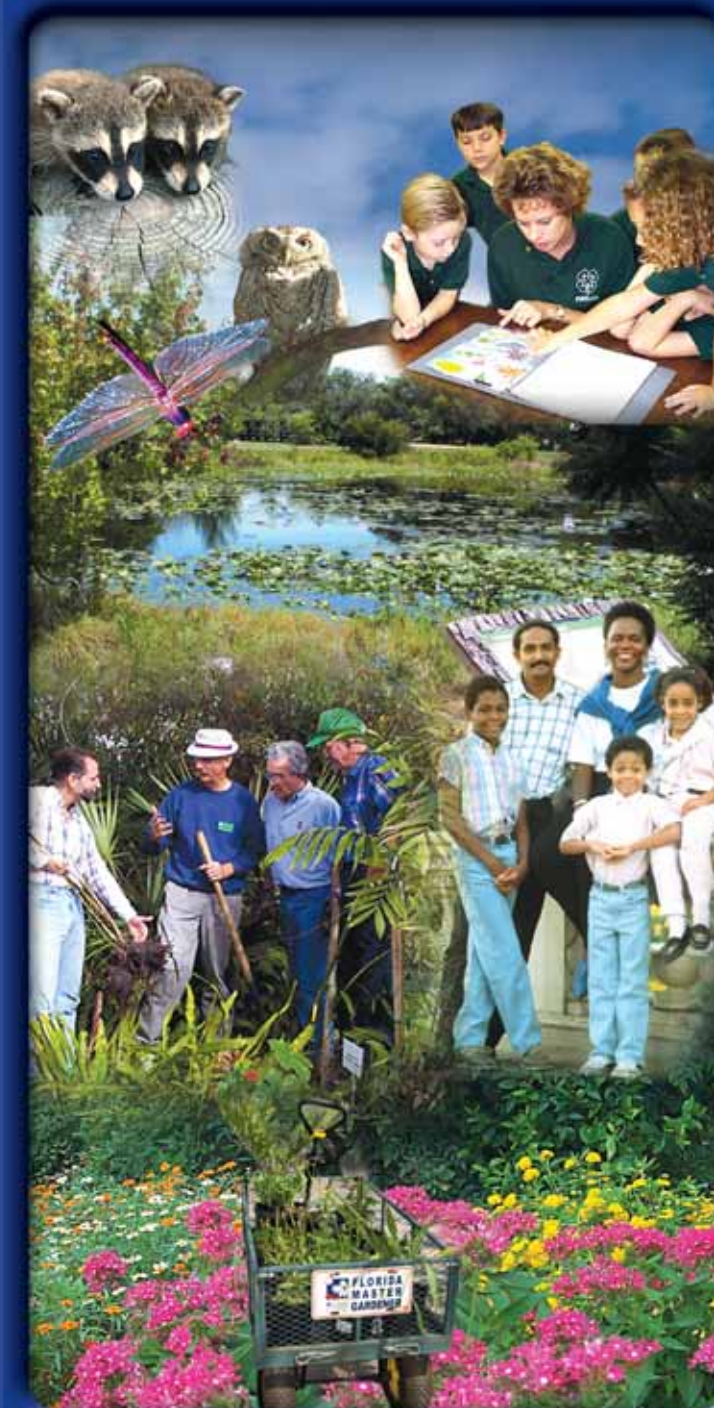
- ◆ State and National Extension Faculty Recognition Awards
- ◆ State and National 4-H Youth Awards
- ◆ State Master Gardener Awards
- ◆ Gold Image, Silver Image, Bronze Image – University of Florida/IFAS IMAGE Awards
- ◆ Tampa Bay Future of the Region Awards – Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
- ◆ Partners in Public Service Awards – Pinellas County government
- ◆ Horticulture Awards – Tampa Bay Flower Show



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Natural Resources

Pinellas County is Florida's smallest urban county and yet it is the most densely populated. Pinellas County Extension offers natural resources education that citizens can use in making decisions which contribute to an improved quality of life in their community.

Lawn and Garden

- ◆ Provides plant and soil diagnostic services
- ◆ Recommends solutions for plant pests and problems
- ◆ Teaches energy and water conservation through efficient landscaping
- ◆ Encourages environmentally safe use of pesticides and fertilizers
- ◆ Promotes a sustainable environment by encouraging the use of best landscape management practices
- ◆ Supports natural resource conservation sustainability through landscape waste reduction, composting and mulching
- ◆ Provides environmental education support to schools and other youth groups through speakers and field trips

Florida Yards & Neighborhoods

- ◆ Educates citizens to make positive decisions affecting Florida ecosystems
- ◆ Teaches the principles of Florida-friendly landscape management
- ◆ Recognizes homeowners through the Florida-Friendly Yard program

Urban Wildlife

- ◆ Educates residents about wildlife with a focus on keeping wildlife wild
- ◆ Encourages environmentally responsible land stewardship and pet ownership
- ◆ Supports the University of Florida's Master Naturalist programs and the Florida Backyard Landscapes for Wildlife program
- ◆ Leads monthly wildlife and nature tours (September – May)
- ◆ Offers classes on alligators, coyotes, snakes and bats

Commercial Horticulture

- ◆ Offers professional development classes
- ◆ Provides pesticide certification testing through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- ◆ Supports best management practices through dissemination of University of Florida research-based information
- ◆ Encourages sustainable environmental management practices such as integrated pest management, proper selection and use of pesticides and fertilizers, and proper landscape maintenance

Families, Consumers and Youth

Pinellas County Extension is dedicated to educating adults and youth on critical issues affecting their lives. Activities for all ages offer hands-on learning to inspire young minds and challenge experienced ones.

4-H Youth Development

Develops responsible and productive youth, ages 5-18, through:

4-H Clubs

- ◆ Promotes public speaking and leadership skills as youth gain knowledge in a project area of their choice

4-H Afterschool

- ◆ Engages youth, ages 8-12, in volunteer-led, afterschool programs on nutrition, plants and money with training, materials and support provided by 4-H staff

4-H School Enrichment

- ◆ Provides curriculum developed by specialists from universities throughout the nation, volunteer speakers and class tours of the Florida Botanical Gardens

4-H Operation Military Kids

- ◆ Mobilizes 4-H members, volunteers and staff to provide community support and educational programs to benefit youth and families of the Reserves and National Guard

4-H Youth Leadership

- ◆ Provides youth with the opportunity to take the lead role in promoting positive youth development within the community through community service grants, a community forum series, civic engagement, volunteering, healthy living educational programs and an Internet site (www.pinellasteeninfo.com)

Family & Consumer Sciences

- ◆ Provides nutrition, health and wellness education with classes on various topics including current research and hot topics
- ◆ Offers food safety and handling classes for consumers and commercial food handlers
- ◆ Provides financial management classes on such topics as setting goals, saving more, reducing debt and making wise use of credit
- ◆ Promotes financial sustainability for individuals and families through consumer tips and information
- ◆ Offers training for childcare professionals and supports parent education

Urban Sustainability

Transforming our community into a better place to live, work and play.

- ◆ Provides our community with tips on money-saving energy conservation practices and healthier indoor environments
- ◆ Provides continuing education for builders, contractors, building officials and others
- ◆ Works with residents and businesses to improve their ability to successfully integrate sustainable practices into their lives