

100 Years of Georgia 4-H 1904 - 2004



How the 4-H Clover Grew Around 1907, O.H. Benson from Iowa designed the first emblem for the clubs. It was a three-leaf clover, which stood for **head, heart and hands**. In 1911, Benson suggested the fourth **H** should stand for **hustle**, and the 4-H design was adopted. Later **O.B. Martin** replaced **hustle** with **health**. The emblem has stood for **head, heart, hands and health** ever since. It wasn't until 1924 when club work acquired the name for 4-H and the 4-H emblem was patented. In 1927, state 4-H leaders adapted the national 4-H pledge and the 4-H motto at the first National 4-H Club Camp.



Today, Georgia 4-H has 190,000 members. They take part in judging competition, knowledge quiz bowls, livestock shows, animal education shows, food and nutrition, Clovers & Co. performing arts group, the International 4-H Youth Exchange program and many other educational and recreational opportunities.



Photo by Wayne Parrham

1,200 youth and adults from throughout the country participated in **The National Conversation on Youth Development in the 21st Century**, a national summit sponsored by 4-H to create a youth led action plan to improve urban, suburban and rural communities nationwide. The summit was held February 28 - March 2, 2002 in Washington, D.C. At the Summit, 4-H youth presented Bridgeland and Wofford with a large check representing more than 1.3 million hours committed thus far by 100,000 youth and adults to the "Power of YOUTH Pledge" Campaign, a volunteerism drive aimed at improving communities nationwide. Clovers & Company was the featured entertainment at the Centennial Celebration.



4-H'ers celebrate the nation's bicentennial in 1976 with a new citizenship program called **The Sunshine Brigade** and rode an old-fashioned wagon train to the nation's capitol.



After 23 years, the International Farm Youth Exchange was re-named **International Four-H Youth Exchange** in 1971.

Some of Georgia's early delegates to National 4-H Camp in Washington, D.C. From its inception in 1927 until World War II, **National 4-H Camp** (now called Conference) was staged on the mall in Washington. The first **Georgia 4-H Congress** was held in Atlanta in 1943 with 53 members attending.



In 1952, construction began on **Rock Eagle** near Eatonton, Georgia. **Bill Sutton** raised \$2.5 million to build the center on a 1,400-acre tract of land. The center was dedicated October 30, 1954. It is now one of the largest 4-H centers in the country, hosting 4-H'ers, students and adults year-around for 4-H camp, environmental education and conferences.

GEORGIA'S 4-H CAMPS OPENED	
Wilkins	1924
Dublin	1939
Wahsega	1943
Tybee	1946
Rock Eagle	1955
Fulton	1971
Jekyll	1982
Fortson	2004

Joyce Venable, President, State 4-H Council with **Herman Talmadge**, Governor of Georgia during **National 4-H Week** in 1952.



Between 1944 and 1953, 23 countries in Asia, Europe, and Latin America established 4-H Clubs.



Land was acquired in 1939 in Dublin, Georgia, to build the **Negro 4-H Center**. In its heyday in the late '50s and early '60s, the center had 150 meetings for 5,000 people annually.



P.H. Stone became the first Negro state 4-H leader in Georgia in 1924. The headquarters for black Extension work was at **Georgia State Industrial College** in Savannah until 1967.

Under the leadership of **Mary Creswell** and **J. Phil Campbell**, Georgia 4-H Clubs grew from 350 members in 1910 to 27,000 in 1920.



In 1914, the **Smith-Lever Act** was passed, which established the Cooperative Extension Service. By 1915, Georgia had 5,507 club girls and 14,275 club boys.

In 1904, **G.C. Adams**, Newton County school superintendent, organized the first **Agricultural Corn Club** in Georgia for boys in Covington with 151 members.

In 1906, the First State 4-H Winner at the Georgia State Fair was Roy Brown from Toccoa, Ga.



1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000

There are records that go back as far as 1856 where a corn-growing contest for boys was conducted in Cattaraugus County, New York.



A few years after 1904, the **Girls' Tomato Canning Club** was organized.



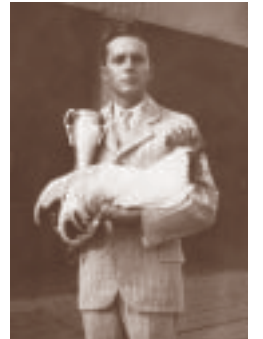
Bibb County club members en route to County Short Course in Macon, 1934.



4-H uniform for first and second year girls, photo from 1929.



P.D. Johnson, a black teacher in Newton County, started the **Negro 4-H program** at the same time with a corn patch project for sons and fathers who wanted to learn modern corn production practices.



Camp Ralstonia in Liberty County was the first camp to be owned by a group of Colored 4-H Club members, photo from 1932.

By 1937, Georgia has county agents working in every county and the 4-H enrollment had grown to 82,962.



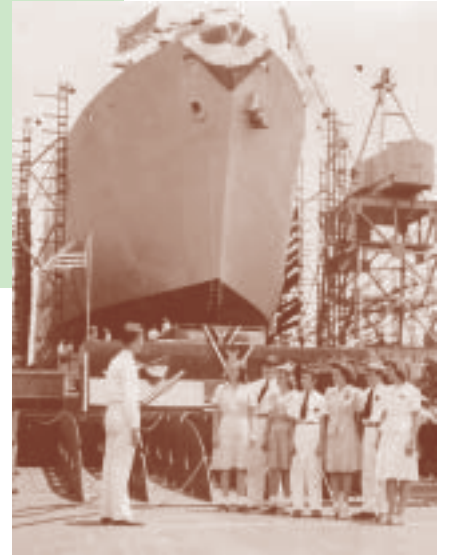
In 1933, Georgia started the first **Wildlife Conservation Camp**.

With U.S. entry into **World War II**, 4-H'ers across the country responded to the needs for increased agricultural production and support of the war effort. 4-H members were directly responsible for more than 77,000 head of dairy cattle, 246,000 swine and 210,000 head of beef cattle. 4-H contributed more than 40,000 tons of forage crops and 109,000 bushels of root crops. By 1942, 4-H had 1.6 million members, gaining 650,000 new members during the war.



Grady County's Ham and Egg Exhibit.

In 1948, the **Georgia 4-H Club Foundation** was organized to help further 4-H work in the state. The Foundation helped establish 4-H Club Centers at Rock Eagle and Dublin. **Each 4-H Club member was asked to donate one dozen eggs to the Foundation during 1949. By year's end there was \$7,000 in the bank.**



In 1943, Georgia 4-H'ers sold enough War Bonds to buy a \$2,000,000 Liberty Ship, **SS Hoke Smith**, and grew food to fill it.

In 1963, the **World Atlas of 4-H** was published by the **National 4-H Foundation**, indicating 84 4-H and similar programs in 75 countries. Georgia's enrollment of 150,000 was the largest in the nation.



In 1958 at the 25th Anniversary - State 4-H Council, Georgia's former IFYE delegates presented an International Pageant.



In 1958, the first **4-H Automotive Club** in Georgia started in DeKalb County.



The **black extension staff** was transferred from Savannah State College to **Fort Valley State College** in 1967. Both UGA and Fort Valley State University now conduct active 4-H programs for all Georgia youth.



In 1984, 4-H Environmental Education began at Georgia's 4-H Centers.



Clovers & Co. was founded in 1981 to provide an opportunity for youth to share with other groups, associations, and the public the life and vitality evident in 4-H. The group is composed of talented singers, dancers, musicians and stagehands. Over 650 4-H'ers have been a part of Clovers & Co. through the past twenty-three years. Over 1,000 parent volunteers have contributed to the show through fund-raising, chaperoning, set-building and most importantly, support of their Clovers & Co. members.



In 1990, **Rock Eagle 4-H Center** was renovated and rededicated. **Also the Georgia National Fair** began.



More than 10,000 campers attend 4-H camp in five facilities in Georgia: **Rock Eagle 4-H Center** in Eatonton, **Camp Fortson** in Hampton, **Wahsega 4-H Center** in Dahlonega, **Jekyll Island 4-H Center** on Jekyll Island and **Burton 4-H Center** on Tybee Island in Savannah.



Founders Lodge was dedicated July 14, 2002. This facility honors those who gave significant time, talent and energy to the development of Rock Eagle 4-H Center.

