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4-H STILL IMPORTANT TO YOUTH – TEACHES NECESSARY LIFESKILLS

SOUTHEAST AREA—Today's youth face multiple challenges daily and 4-H, the country's largest youth organization, can help them learn the skills they will need to overcome these challenges.

The 4-H program is a volunteer-led organization that reaches youth through a variety of programs. It provides fun, educational opportunities at the local, state, national and international levels.

Youth improve their self-confidence, learn subject matter, and develop important skills including leadership, citizenship, communications and decision making – all of which they'll need to compete today and in the future.

Typically, people think 4-H is for children who live in the country, which is not true. There are actually more than 17,000 young people from all across Colorado that participate in 4-H. The program welcomes all youth ages 8-18, from both rural and urban settings. In some counties, including the seven counties in the Southeast Area, there is a special non-competitive program called Cloverbuds for children ages 5-7.

Parents and other interested adults are encouraged to get involved in 4-H. Adults and young teens can become a volunteer leader or assistant, share a skill or some knowledge with a group, drive members to activities, supply



Southeast Area
Extension

**County Extension
Offices**

Baca County

772 Colorado St.
Springfield, CO 81073
719-523-6971

Bent County

1499 Amb. Thompson Blvd.
Las Animas, CO 81054
719-456-0764

Cheyenne County

425 S. 7th W.
P. O. Box 395
Cheyenne Wells, CO 80810
719-767-5716

Crowley County

603 North Main St.
Courthouse Annex
Ordway, CO 81063
719-267-5243

Kiowa County

1305 Goff
P. O. Box 97
Eads, CO 81036
719-438-5321

Otero County

411 N. 10th
P. O. Box 190
Rocky Ford, CO 81067
719-254-7608

Prowers County

1001 S. Main
Lamar, CO 81052
719-336-7734

refreshments for a meeting, or sign up to be a project leader.

A 4-H project is a learning-by-doing activity available in many subject areas. In fact, 4-H has more than 150 fun projects to explore from photography to model rocketry to gardening and numerous animal projects.

Older teens are realizing the need for leadership skills and 4-H lets them participate in programs providing leadership to younger member and volunteering in other 4-H opportunities. They also have opportunities to travel on many leadership trips: Citizenship Washington Focus, National 4-H Conference, National 4-H Congress, State 4-H Conference, and Leadership Development Conference.

Parents are encouraged to contact their local Colorado State University Extension Office for more information on how to enroll their children in 4-H. Youth have fun learning with new and old friends in clubs and classrooms, and at meetings, social activities, tours, trips, camps, and fairs. They learn about themselves and experience new challenges. Give them a chance to pick their own 4-H adventure that will last a lifetime. “The new 4-H year is just beginning, now is the time to enroll and join a club” according to Brooke Matthew, 4-H Youth Development Extension Agent.

If your child is interested in joining 4-H, you are interest in becoming a 4-H volunteer/leader or you would like further information on the 4-H program, please contact your local CSU Extension Office; Baca County 719-523-6971, Bent County 719-456-0764, Cheyenne County 719-767-5716, Crowley County 719-267-5243, Kiowa County 719-438-5321, Otero County 719-254-7608, Prowers County 719-336-7734. 4-H is a cooperative effort between CSU Extension and the County.

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