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**EMERGING SCIENCE-RELATED 4-H PROJECTS DESIGNED TO MEET GOAL**

—Three 4-H projects have been designed to meet the Colorado 4-H goal of reaching and teaching one million youth in science, technology, engineering and math by 2013. Those include lightning photography, the power of wind and exploring the environment.

In the pilot Lightning Photography project, 4-H members learn lightning safety, the science and physics of lightning and of film photography versus digital photography.

4-H members from across the state will submit their best lightning photographs for display at the Colorado State Fair and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

The Power of Wind curriculum includes activities that involve young people in the engineering design process as they learn about wind and its uses. Youth work with members of a team to design, create, build and test a wind-powered device which must solve a problem. It also requires the designers to balance options and requirements.

Utilizing life skills such as teamwork, learning from others, planning, organizing and following through on a project, participants are guided to make adjustments and retest until the machine or vehicle solves the original problem. They learn about transfer of energy and using machines to simplify tasks. Some activities ask you to use their

research and analytical skills to examine national, state and local issues surrounding wind power.

Exploring Your Environment project focuses on global issues such as how clean (or dirty) the air is and how to turn waste into something valuable. It also addresses the impact of food production on the environment and how consumer choices can affect food and fiber practices. Using the scientific method of discovery, 4-H members participate in several activities such as: what plants need; how the elements of life interact; where organisms fit in the food chain; how to measure weather; construction of a compost pile; and how to clean an oil spill.

If your child is interested in joining 4-H or you would like further information on the 4-H program, please contact your local extension office.

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