

El Paso County 4-H

Thank you for your interest in the El Paso County 4-H Program. The following information will provide you with an overview of our program.

There is something for *everyone* in 4-H - learning about baking, sewing, candy making, scrap booking, guinea pigs, llamas, goats, horses, large livestock, photography, and much, much more...

To find a club to join, refer to the club list which is organized by area. We encourage you to contact a 4-H leader in your area to see if they currently have space for additional members in their club, what type of projects their club members generally select, the ages of the children in the club, what the club requirements are and to see if the club meets at a convenient time and place for your family. Once you have determined a club that you feel will be compatible with your family, the leader of that club will facilitate your child's enrollment in 4-H.

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What is 4-H?

4-H is a community of youth (ages 5-18 as of December 31, 2009 for the 2009-10 year) learning leadership, citizenship and life skills. Opportunities for mental, physical, and social growth are offered through organized clubs, individual projects, camps, after-school and special interest programs.

4-H explores everything from rabbits to rockets, from camping to canning, from dancing to veterinary science. Members keep a record of their project work and present demonstrations and exhibits on their project.

4-H projects help members learn better ways of doing things in the sciences, agriculture, home economics, and recreation. There are many things youth can do in 4-H:

- ✿ Discover new ideas
- ✿ Learn new skills
- ✿ Take part in club meetings and activities with friends
- ✿ Learn to present educational demonstrations
- ✿ Have fun at parties, camps, fairs, picnics
- ✿ Make new friends
- ✿ Develop citizenship and leadership skills

To be a 4-H member, a person must be enrolled in a 4-H club, attend club meetings and take part in club activities. Members 8-18 must be enrolled in at least one project (see project lists p.3); ages 5-7 are enrolled as Cloverbuds and **may not enroll** in any state or county project (see the Cloverbud Policy p.6).

New enrollments are accepted from late September through the 1st Friday in May for those who want to compete at the County Fair; however, it is recommended that new members enroll as soon as possible. Many clubs fill up quickly and close their enrollment. In addition, depending on the level/complexity of projects, members could need more time to complete them before entering in any local or state competitions. The enrollment fee is currently \$40 for members, \$10 for new leaders and \$2 for returning leaders. Many clubs also charge a small membership fee. There is also a charge for project literature (about \$4/project).



State Projects

Large & Small Animals

Beef
Dairy
Dog
Swine
Dairy Goats
Market Goats
Horse
Rabbit
Sheep
Veterinary Science - Three Units
Foods and Nutrition - Four Units
Horticulture
Horticulture - Three Units
Gardening - Four Units
Weeds - Four Units

Photography - Six Units

Mechanical Sciences

Computer - Three Units
Bicycle - Three Units
Electric - Four Units
Model Rocketry - Five Units
Small Engines - Seven Units
Tractor Care and Safety
Woodworking - Four Units

Natural Resources

Forestry - Four Units
Entomology - Seven Units
Wildlife - Six Units
Sportfishing - Three Units
Shooting Sports- Five Units
Range Management
Outdoor Adventures

Leisure Education & Cultural Arts

Leathercraft - Ten Units
Ceramics - Six Units
Cake Decorating - Nine Units

Global Citizenship - Four Units

Consumer Sciences

Financial Champions
Customer Savvy
Heritage Arts - Nine Units

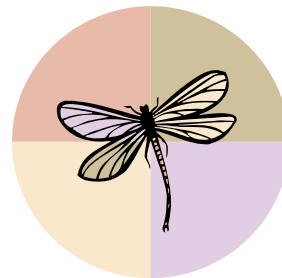
Specialty Food Project - Sixteen Units
Home Environment - Seven Units
Clothing Construction - Fourteen Units
Creative Clothing - Seven Units

Leadership - Four Units

Self-Esteem & Creativity for Youth

Ages 5-7
Cloverbud - A 4-H Discovery Program

Child Development - Four Units



4-H Program Activities

Festival of Lights Parade - 4-H float. This even is usually held the 1st weekend in December in downtown Colorado Springs.

St. Patrick's Day Parade - 4-H is represented in the parade every year in Old Colorado City.

Festival of Events - A day of countywide performing arts & 4-H contests usually in April.

Fashion Revue - Members in the clothing project display/model project articles in mid-July before Exhibit Day at Fair.

Fly Day - Model Rocketry members demonstrate/compete on Exhibit Day.

El Paso County Fair - 4-H members exhibit projects at the El Paso County Fairgrounds. Usually the last week in July.

4-H Hippology - Youth demonstrate the breadth of their knowledge and understanding of equine science (horse) through judging and written tests. Open to any 4-H youth interested in horses.

4-H Horse Bowl - Members compete in a Quiz Bowl in all areas of horse knowledge. State competition in June in Fort Collins; county contests announced in newsletter.

4-H Horse Judging - Members judge classes of four animals and test their skills in the selection of top conformation and performance horses. State competition in June in Fort Collins; county contests announced in newsletter.

Livestock Judging - Members judge a class of four items or animals and give oral reasons for their ranking. February through July; county and district contests held throughout the state.



Fun Camps for 4-H'ers

Dare To Be You Leadership Camp - 4-H members 11-13 take part in a variety of workshops offered along with recreation at Quaker Ridge Camp in Woodland Park. Normally on a weekend in mid-to late November.

Youth Fest -4-H members 9 -13 share a weekend of information on 4-H opportunities and discuss what self esteem and leadership are all about with State 4-H officers. Held in late February or early March at Ponderosa Lodge in Monument.

SummerFest Day Camp - Camp for 4-H members 8-13 conducted by older 4-H Junior Leaders (ages 14+) who conduct workshops of interest to younger members. Normally in early summer.

Cloverbud Day Camp - For ages 5-7. Usually in May at the Black Forest Regional Park.

South Central District Retreat - A leadership retreat for member ages 14-18. District and sub-district officers are also elected at this conference. District and sub-district officers during spring break.

Leadership Development Conference - Two day conference for members 14-18 in Denver. Leadership workshops, senate meetings, and social activities. Usually the beginning of February..

State 4-H Conference - Four day conference for youth 14-18 with contests, workshops, social activities and involvement with the State Legislature in mid-June at Colorado State University, Fort Collins.

Colorado Leadership Camp - October camp in western Colorado for 15 - 18 year old members. Youth learn leadership skills and enjoy fun activities during leisure time.



Cloverbuds

Children, ages five to seven as of December 31, 2009 (2009-10 year), enroll only in the 4-H Cloverbud Project through an existing 4-H club. This age group **may not enroll** in any state or county project, other than the Cloverbud project. Cloverbud experiences will be cumulative. 4-H membership will begin at the first year of enrollment in the program and continue through such time as the individual discontinues enrollment.

The primary objective of the Cloverbud Project is to provide young children with the opportunity to be involved with 4-H to: *learn life skills, increase self esteem and have fun.* A secondary objective is to enhance parent/child relationships through educational programming that parents/guardians can do with their children.

Participation in Competitive Events - The Cloverbud Project is a non-competitive membership opportunity. Cloverbuds receive participation ribbons only but are encouraged to display their completed projects at the county fair and/or other events. Cloverbud participation in State Fair is not allowed.

Colorado State University 4-H Youth Development programs **do not allow, support, or recommend the following for youth under the age of eight:** large animal activities and projects including cattle, sheep, swine, horses and horseback riding. In addition, participation in shooting sports projects is not allowed. Exploratory activities where youth under age eight do not have contact with animals or firearms are acceptable. These might include reading about, studying, and observing animal behavior and events, or about shooting information and observing events.

Rationale for Policy - The following rationale for exclusion for the five to seven year old 4-H member is based upon developmental research and knowledge. They include:

- ☼ Inadequate development of judgment ability
- ☼ Short attention span; can complete very simple projects
- ☼ Less developed physical abilities, like eye-hand coordination, muscle strength, balance, etc.
- ☼ Child is not mature enough to separate failure from personal feelings about self
- ☼ Limited understanding of animal behavior
- ☼ Inadequate firearm safety and capabilities
- ☼ Lack of insurance coverage
- ☼ Lack of maturity to handle emergency situations

For more information, please contact

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