

Pueblo County 4-H

New Member Guide

We're glad you're here!



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
PUEBLO COUNTY EXTENSION

Hello New 4-H Families!

We are glad you've chosen to become part of the Pueblo County 4-H Program! We look forward to growing and learning with you through your first year in the 4-H Program.

This New 4-H Member Guide is designed to help you navigate your first year in 4-H. It is designed to be a roadmap to help you have a fun and successful first 4-H experience. Whether you've heard of 4-H before or if its completely brand new – we hope that this guide provides you with the helpful information you need to thrive in 4-H.

Meet the Pueblo County 4-H Team

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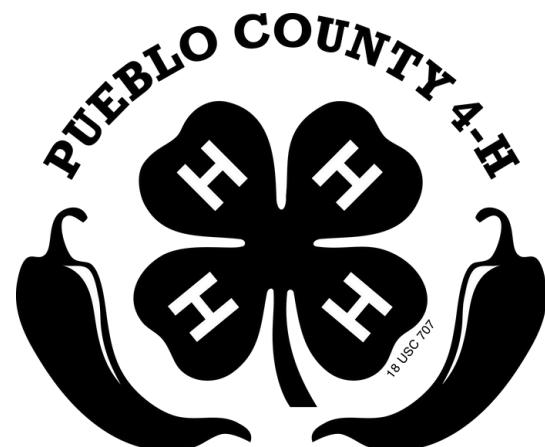
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Frequently Asked Questions About 4-H

Isn't 4-H only about livestock?

Not at all! Historically, 4-H was a program focused on livestock and agriculture but it has grown into a thriving community that offers a variety of learning opportunities. From robotics to veterinary science, clothing construction to entomology, there is something for everyone! If a member has a passion about a particular topic, there is likely a 4-H project all about it!

Do I need to live on a farm to participate in 4-H?

Nope! We have members from all across Pueblo County. Some live within city limits, while others live in more rural areas. We have clubs that meet all across Pueblo County so you are likely to find one that meets near you.

When is 4-H?

The 4-H year runs from October 1st to September 31st. Members sign up or reenroll in the fall and work on their projects throughout the year. The projects you select will determine the schedule of your 4-H year. Some clubs meet year round, and others focus on specific times like spring and summer. Be sure to determine which projects and clubs fit your needs best.

What benefits can my kid get from 4-H?

4-H is considered the premiere youth development program in the United States, reaching 6 million youth annually! 4-Hers are 4 times more likely to give back to their communities, 2 times more likely to make healthier choices, and 2 times more likely to participate in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) activities.

A national survey of over 6,000 former 4-H members suggests alumni benefit significantly from their 4-H experience over the course of their lives—socially, physically, emotionally and economically.

The 4-H Program method of “Learning by Doing” encourages youth take a hands-on learning approach that builds life skills and peer connections while engaging in positive youth development practices.

I'm an adult interested in helping out. How do I become a volunteer and what can I do?

We always welcome new adult volunteers! Approved 4-H Volunteers serve in a variety of capacities throughout the program. Volunteers can be Club Leaders, Project Leaders, Shooting Sport Instructors, County Fair Superintendents, Camp Chaperones, Resource Mentors, and so much more. To become a volunteer, you will need to enroll in 4-HOnline, complete the volunteer training, pass a background check, and come in for an interview with the 4-H Staff. If you're interested in getting involved as a volunteer, we would be thrilled to have you join the team!

4-H Terms & Lingo to Know

4-H Year

October 1 to September 31 of the following year. Club members and volunteers re-enroll each year. New 4-H members need to enroll by the beginning of February. Returning members need to enroll by the beginning of December.

4-H Age & Membership Divisions

A member's "4-H Age" is determined by their age as of December 31 of the 4-H year. This "age" is what they are during the entire 4-H year and determines their age category.

- **Cloverbuds:** Ages 5 – 7
- **Juniors:** Ages 8 – 10
- **Intermediate:** Ages 11 – 13
- **Senior:** Ages 14 – 18

Cloverbuds

Cloverbuds is a program for youth ages 5 to 7 that introduces them to 4-H in a fun, non-competitive environment. Cloverbuds engage in hands-on activities that help develop social skills, creativity, and a love for learning.

Volunteer Leader

Adults who volunteer in various capacities throughout the 4-H Program including: Club Leaders, Project Leaders, Project Resource Mentors, Camp Chaperones, etc. All volunteers must complete the volunteer onboarding process before working with 4-H youth.

4-H Project

A 4-H project is a series of learning experiences for 4-H members to learn new skills or a new subject. Most projects have volunteer leaders who have knowledge of the project and are willing to assist members through their experiences.

Record Book or E-Record

An E-Record/Record Book is a record of a 4-H member's year in a project. An E-Record/Record Book is required to be completed each year, for each project a member enrolls in.

Demonstration

A speech or demonstration is a way for members to show off a skill or teach their peers something. A speech-arts or demonstration is a requirement each year, for each member.

Community Service Activity

A 4-H sponsored community service activity done through a 4-H Club/Council, service done during a 4-H project meeting, or service done during a 4-H Camp/Conference. The work must benefit others outside of 4-H. A community service activity is a requirement each year, for each member.

4-H Terms & Lingo to Know Continued

Extension Office

The Pueblo County Extension Office is responsible for administering the Pueblo County 4-H Program as part of the Colorado State University system.

4-H Online

The registration and enrollment website used to enroll in the 4-H program. It is also used to enroll in projects, camps and other opportunities.

FairEntry

The enrollment website used to enter the Pueblo County Fair. This site may also be used for other enrollments and registrations.

County Fair

The Pueblo County Fair is an annual event where 4-H and FFA members have the opportunity to showcase their projects. Members can enter animal shows, Exhibit Day, Fashion Review, and more! The fair usually happens in mid to late July.

State Fair

The Colorado State Fair is an annual event in which members can participate. Some shows and contests may require that members qualify at the Pueblo County Fair or Contest Day.

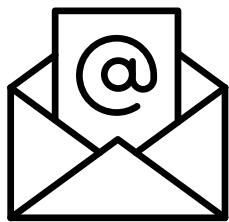


Stay Connected

There are several methods of communication between the Pueblo County 4-H Program and 4-H Families. All methods hold critical information, event calendars, and opportunities for members.



Email Communication



Direct emails will be sent to 4-H Families with announcements about upcoming events, opportunities, and deadlines. Be sure to mark emails from the Extension Office as not spam and check your junk folder.

Friday In4mation Newsletter



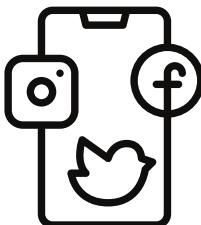
The Friday In4mation Newsletter will be sent directly to members' email address every Friday at 5:00 PM. Newsletters will have important project announcements, deadline reminders, and information about upcoming events.

Website/4-H Calendar



Visit the [**Pueblo County Extension website**](#) on a regular basis and, while you're there, check out the [**4-H Google Calendar**](#), where all scheduled practices, workshops, and events are posted with location information.

Social Media



Visit the [**Pueblo County 4-H Facebook page**](#) for recaps from recent events and latest updates that will also be communicated through email and the Friday In4mation Newsletter.

Other Important 4-H Information

Below are some additional resources which might be helpful to you along your 4-H journey. Please click the orange, bolded titles to be directed to the website. You can also access the resources by scanning the QR code.

Colorado 4-H Website

Visit the Colorado 4-H Website to discover all that 4-H has to offer across the state.



4-H Project List

Use this list to discover all the State-level projects available in 4-H!



Project Material List

Use this link to access the Record Books, Manuals and other helpful resources for each project.



Colorado 4-H Policies

4-H members and families should be familiar with both local county and state policies.



Pueblo County 4-H Policies

This document contains the policies used in Pueblo County 4-H.



Colorado 4-H Code of Conduct

The expectations of all 4-H members, volunteers and parents. This is signed annually each year.



4-H Dress Code

The Dress Code is designed to promote safety and inclusion for all and is an expectation at all 4-H events.



Know Your Project Completion Requirements

There are a TON of opportunities in 4-H, but not all of them are required. So, what does it take to simply complete your 4-H Project for the year?

Demonstration or Speech Arts Presentation

Each 4-H member must complete at least 1 required 4-H related demonstration or speech arts presentation each year. These can be completed during a club meeting or through participation at events like Contest Day.



4-H Sponsored Community Service

During the 4-H year, members must complete at least 1 required community service activity. The activity needs to be 4-H sponsored through a Club/Council, project meeting, or 4-H camp/conference. The work done must benefit others outside of 4-H.



Complete a 4-H Record Book

For each project a 4-H member is enrolled in, they must complete a Record Book/E-Record and achieve a score of 70% or higher each year.



Camps, Carnivals, Conferences, & Contests

Meet other youth and volunteers from across Colorado and the United States!

Leadership Development Conference (LDC)

Age 14-18 ★ **January** ★ **Denver, CO**

Develop leadership skills and civic responsibility. Highlights include a trip to the state Capitol and a County Night Out.

Youth Fest

Age 9-13 ★ **March** ★ **Pueblo, CO**

Promote leadership, team work, and life skills. Highlights include workshops and sledding (when the weather cooperates!).

South Central District Retreat (SCDR)

Age 13-18 ★ **March** ★ **Divide, CO**

Meet and make friends with other members throughout the South Central 4-H Region. Highlights include Officer Elections and a swimming pool!

Contest Day

Age 5-18 ★ **April** ★ **Pueblo, CO**

Show off your skills in Public Presentations, Speech, Demonstrations, Cake Decorating, or Creative Cooking! Some members can qualify for state competitions.

Colorado State 4-H Conference

Age 14-18 ★ **June** ★ **Fort Collins, CO**

Head up and check out the CSU campus in Fort Collins! Highlights include so many workshops, and the state level competitions.

4-H Camp

Age 8-13 ★ **June/July** ★ **Beulah, CO**

The Pueblo County 4-H take on Summer Camp! Highlights include wacky games, silly songs, and awesome teen counselors who run it all. (Senior members, that'd be you!)

4-H Carnival

All Ages ★ **October** ★ **Pueblo, CO**

Promote your club and raise some funds at this open-to-the-public event! Highlights include awesome club booths and a 4-H Dance.

Colorado Leadership Conference (CLC)

Age 11-13 ★ **November** ★ **Glenwood Springs, CO**

The State 4-H Officers lead this exciting workshop-based conference. Highlights include guest speakers and a dance!

Dare To Be You Camp (DTBY)

Age 9-13 ★ **November** ★ **Pueblo, CO**

First time camper? Consider Dare To Be You! Highlights include developing life skills while staying a little closer to home.

Western National Roundup

Age 14-18 ★ **January** ★ **Denver, CO**

Participants qualify to attend by winning a State Contest at Colorado State 4-H Conference. Participants compete in their contest, visit the National Western Stock Show and meet 4-H members from across the Midwest.

National 4-H Conference

Age 15-19 ★ **March/April** ★ **Chevy Chase, MD**

Allows members to engage in round-table topics, connect with others on a National scale and create positive social change in their communities. (Application and interview required.)

National 4-H Congress

Age 14-18 ★ **November** ★ **Atlanta, GA**

This opportunity is for Senior members who receive a Grand Champion in specific projects at the Colorado State Fair. Colorado delegates participate in state-of-the-art educational workshops, global awareness activities, and eat amazing foods at the Cultural Food Night!

Other Ways to Get Involved

Below are just a few of the many additional ways to get involved in the Pueblo County 4-H Program!



Leadership Society

- Ages 13 - 18 (4-H Age)
- Year round

Want to make local change? Members in good standing attend meetings, vote and engage in civic projects, are involved in Teen Clerking, Carnival and County Fair, and are eligible for special camp scholarships. Senators chosen here go on to vote at SCDR, LDC and Colorado State 4-H Conference.



Pueblo County Globetrotters

- Ages - Intermediate and above
- Year round

The Pueblo County Globetrotters Travel Group gives youth the chance to explore new places through 4-H travel opportunities like Citizenship Washington Focus, member-led Excursion Trips, and more. The group builds leadership and communication skills while fostering community connections. It includes a senior delegation and recently added an intermediate delegation to help younger members participate in age-appropriate travel experiences.



Project Council/Committee Meetings

- All Ages
- Year round

Attend a Council/Committee meeting to stay up to date about upcoming events and meet other youth who are passionate about the project. Parent Leader Group, Dog Council, General Consumer Science Advisory Committee, Horse Council, Shooting Sports Council, and Livestock Council.



Appy to be a Camp Counselor

- Ages 14-18
- Year round

Want to be a leader and plan events that other 4-H members will enjoy? Consider applying to be a camp counselor!

And much more!



Month-By-Month 4-H Timeline



Use this helpful timeline guide to make sure you are on-track throughout the 4-H year. Requirements are marked in **RED** and opportunities to check out are marked in **GREEN**.

EVERY MONTH:

- Read the weekly Friday In4mation Newsletter, sent directly to your email, for information about upcoming events and deadlines.
- Attend your monthly 4-H Club Meetings and 4-H Project Meetings.
 - Ask your Club Leader about these important dates.
 - Project meetings are also listed in the Friday In4mation Newsletter.
- Check the 4-H Calendar for the most up-to-date information about times and locations of events.

OCTOBER:

- **4-H Enrollment for all begins October 1st!** (Enroll through 4HOnline. Please make sure you enroll with an email address that is accurate, and one that you check often!)
 - Review and select projects for the year!
 - Check with your Club Leader to find out when your club meetings begin!
- **4-H Achievement Night**
- **4-H Halloween Carnival**
 - Ask your Club Leader if you can help with the club booth

NOVEMBER:

- **4-H Enrollment for all continues**
 - Check out any upcoming project meetings
 - Discuss with your Club Leader about how to pay your enrollment fee
- **Are you enrolled in Any Animal Projects?** Start getting your required Animal Project enrollment documents ready!
 - Animal Care and Housing Form
 - Animal IDs
- **Colorado Leadership Camp (CLC) - Ages 11-13**
- **Dare To Be You Camp (DTBY) - Ages 9-13**

DECEMBER

- **4-H Enrollment Deadline for RETURNING MEMBERS is December 2, 2025 at 5:00 PM**
 - Make sure to pay your enrollment fee to avoid any late penalties.
- **Enrollment for NEW MEMBERS continues (Ends February 10, 2026)**
- **Late Enrollment for RETURNING MEMBERS continues (Ends February 10, 2026)**



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JANUARY:

- **Enrollment for NEW MEMBERS continues (Ends February 3, 2026)**
- **Late Enrollments for RETURNING MEMBERS with \$20 late fee continues (Ends February 10, 2026)**
- Continue reviewing the available projects for the year.
- **Leadership Development Conference (LDC) - Ages 14-18**

FEBRUARY:

- **Enrollment Deadline for NEW MEMBERS is February 3, 2026 at 5:00 PM**
- **Late Enrollment Deadline for NEW or RETURNING MEMBERS is February 10, 2026 at 5:00 PM**
 - With \$20 late fee
- Its time to finalize your project selections for the year. Check 4-HOnline to make sure you are enrolled in the correct projects and units.
- **Cloverbud Camp - Ages 5-7**

MARCH:

- **Project Add/Drop Deadline for ALL projects - March 3, 2026 at 5:00 PM**
 - Want to do more than 3 projects? Write a letter to the Extension Office with your plan for completing them.
- Check for Pueblo County Fair Rule Updates
- **In the Horse Project? Attend Horse 101 and a Horse Safety Clinic**
- **In the Shooting Sports Project? Attend the Mandatory Shooting Sports Safety Training**
- **In a Livestock market/breeding project? Attend the MQA Training.**
- **In the Beef Project and want to do County Fair? Participate in Beef Weigh In**
- **Colorado 4-H Scholarship Applications Due March 1**
- **Speech Workshop (Usually March or April)**
- **South Central District Retreat (Usually March or April)**
- **YouthFest (Usually March or April) - Ages 9-13**



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APRIL:

- **Horse & Dog Project ID's Due in 4-H Online - April 27 by 5:00 PM!**
- Watch for Pueblo County Fair Updates!
- **Contest Day/Fashion Revue Clinic**
- **Adventure Day Camp/4-H Camp Counselor Applications Due April 10, 2026**
- **Horse Project Clinics**

MAY:

- **In the Sheep/Goat/Swine Project and want to do County Fair? Participate in Sheep/Goat/Swine Weigh In**
- **In a Livestock Project and want to do County Fair? Attend the Mandatory Showcase Sale Meeting**
- **In a Livestock Project and want to do County Fair? Attend a Livestock Test Night**
- **Spring Horse Show for Horse Project Members**
- **Horse Project Clinic**

JUNE:

- **County Fair Entries Due in Fair Entry by 5:00 PM on June 2, 2026**
- **Adventure Day Camp - Opportunity for Senior member to be counselors**
- **Colorado State 4-H Conference - Ages 14-18**
- **Pueblo County 4-H Camp - Ages 8-13 (Opportunity for Senior members to be Camp Counselors)**
- **Dog Show for Dog Project Members**
- **Summer Horse Show for Horse Project Members**



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JULY:

- **Pueblo County Fair**
 - Come see all that the fair has to offer!
- **Did you qualify for the Colorado State Fair during County Fair Shooting Sports Tournament or Exhibit Day?**
 - Practice and prepare your entries!

AUGUST:

- **Colorado State Fair**
 - Check out the 4-H Projects from across the state!

SEPTEMBER:

- **It's time to turn in your project record book – 2nd Monday of September**
 - **ALL Shooting Sports/Dog/Horse/Livestock Record Books** are due to the Extension Office by the **2nd Monday in September**.
 - They will be evaluated by a committee under the supervision of the 4-H Specialist/Coordinator.
 - Those with **General Consumer Science Projects** that **did not exhibit at County Fair or received a white or participation ribbon**, must turn in their Record Book to the Extension office by the **2nd Monday in September**.
 - For exhibits that earned a blue or red ribbon at County Fair, the Record Books do not need to be resubmitted for grading.

Welcome to the 4-H Family!

We are thrilled to have you join our community and embark on this exciting journey with us. We hope this guide serves as a helpful resource as you navigate the many opportunities and experiences that 4-H has to offer. Remember, you are not alone—our team is here to support you every step of the way. If you ever have questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out. Together, we'll make your 4-H experience truly rewarding and memorable. Welcome aboard—we're so glad you're here!

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I pledge my **Head** to clearer thinking,
my **Heart** to greater loyalty,
my **Hands** to larger service,
and my **Health** to better living,
for my club, my community, my
country, and my world.



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