



2024-
2025



PARK COUNTY
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

4-H MEMBER'S GUIDE

www.colorado4h.org



Our Team



Vacant

Extension Director
719-836-4152



Vacant

4-H, Agriculture, Natural Resources
719-836-4148



**Hillary
Spivak**

Administrative Assistant II
719-836-4296
hillary.spivak@parkcountyco.gov

 <https://park.extension.colostate.edu>

 PO Box 603, FairPlay CO 80440



Welcome!

What is 4-H?

4-H is the youth development arm of Colorado State University. Other support for the 4-H program comes from the local government, state government, and the US Department of Agriculture.

4-H is a youth organization that belongs to the members, their families, and interested adults who serve as volunteer leaders, under the direction and guidance of your County Extension Office. This organization provides learning experiences designed to help youth develop life skills such as goal setting & organization, communication, citizenship, decision-making, leadership, interpersonal relations, community involvement, and global awareness.

This mission is accomplished through the involvement of parents, volunteer leaders, and other adults who recognize and conduct educational experiences in community and family settings.

4-H is young people sharing, doing, and learning together in all kinds of projects, events, and activities in an informal situation with the guidance of their families and other volunteer leaders.

Purpose of 4-H

- To provide real life learning experiences for youth through a fun, hands-on action-oriented, and practical program.
 - To provide an opportunity for parents and other caring adults to work with youth in their development.
 - To provide an opportunity for families to develop a stronger bond through learning and having fun together.
-



Who can be in 4-H?

Any person, regardless of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, ancestry, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, or disability may enroll as a 4-H member. Youth between the ages of 5 and 18 who belong to a club or participates in a special-interest or school-enrichment project.

There are four 4-H age divisions:

Cloverbuds – Ages 5 to 7. They are encouraged to participate in most events, but there is no competition in Cloverbuds. Parents are heavily involved.

Juniors – Ages 8-10 (must be 8 on or before December 31st of the previous year). If intermediates are combined into this age division, then juniors are between the ages of 8 and 13.

Intermediates – Ages 11-13 (must be 11 on or before December 31st of the previous year). The Intermediate age division is some-times combined into the Junior division. Some projects will break them out into their own age division.

Senior – Ages 14-18 (must be 14 on or before December 31st of the previous year). Anyone turning 19 on or before December 31st of the previous year has aged out of the 4-H program and is encouraged to continue as an adult 4-H volunteer leader.

4-H PLEDGE

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.



How Do I Enroll?



We recommend that if there are multiple clubs available in your area that you visit all of them to see where you feel your family would best fit in.

Once you have attended a meeting and found a club to join visit www.4honline.com

All returning families are already enrolled in 4Honline and have a sign in, please do not create a new one. Returning families only need to update information.

In 4Honline:

Fill out all personal information. It is very important that we have correct information in order to process the enrollment correctly

If you are doing any animal project you must fill out the Animal Care and Housing Form. This form is **REQUIRED** to participate in an animal project

Fill out and Sign the Code of Conduct, permission to participate and photo release forms.

Choose only **ONE** club.

Add projects that you are interested in doing. If a project is still on the project list after the add/drop date and it is not completed, the member will not be able to enroll in that project again for at least another year.

Project manuals will be ordered by the club leaders through the extension office in batches.

Animal Identification is done through 4Honline. Please see important dates for deadlines on species id's.

For help with 4honline please contact the Extension Office or your Club Organizational Leaders



Fees

The annual fee for members 8-18 years of age enrolling in 4-H is \$45.00 plus any 4-H project costs. The annual fee for Cloverbuds (age 5-7) is \$25, which will include a Cloverbud Camp. There is no fee for leaders. We firmly believe that ANY youth who wants to join 4-H should have the opportunity to do so. Full or partial scholarships are available. These scholarships may be obtained by contacting the Extension Office.

Communication

The Extension Office will communicate through the Club Organizational Leaders, email and newsletters. If you have questions about projects or 4-H matters please contact your project and/or Organizational Leader. If they cannot answer the question they will communicate with the Extension Office to get answers.

It is extremely important for you to receive correspondence from your leaders and the Extension Office please make sure your contact info is correct in 4Honline and update your profile if any of your information changes in both 4honline and with your club leaders.

If you do not have access to email, please let us know so that the office can make arrangements with you and your club leaders to ensure you are getting all the correspondence.



MEMBER'S RECORD

Record Books

In 4-H, members record what they have worked on during the year in a project record book and every 4-H Project has a record book that must be turned in to the Extension Office by its designated due date. If a record book is not completed the project is not complete and the member can not enroll in that project again for at least a year. Members in animal projects who do not show at fair, have an animal who dies, or does not make weight must still complete their record book for that animal project.

Keeping accurate records is one of the most valuable skills a young person can learn in 4-H. Compiling a detailed record of what was planned, accomplished, and learned in each project is an excellent way to learn record keeping. Many find the record books to be a daunting and overwhelming task especially when they wait until the last minute to start. The key is to treat them as a journal that you work on as you go through the project, this also allows for better record keeping.

Often times record book scores determine the winners in many of the Special Contests. Money is often donated by a generous sponsor to award the top 6 Record Books a cash prize.



Important Dates

*Dates are subject to change

- **2024**

- November 16–Beef Weigh In
- December 1–Beef Animal Id’s Due in 4–H Online
- December 31–Re Enrollment Deadline

- **2025**

- TBD(Discipline Specific) Mandatory Shooting Sports Safety meetings
- April 1–Add/Drop deadline; new member enrollment
- May 1–Animal ID’s Due

- TBD-MQA
- May 15-Fair Entry Opens
- June 9-Fair entry Deadline
- June 26-Rabbit and Poultry ID's
- TBD-Shooting Sports Contest-See Fair Schedule
- July 11-20-Park County Fair
- July 13-General Projects/Shooting Sports Record Books Due
- August 7-Livestock, Horse, Dog, record books due





Meetings

Club meetings take place once a month at a regularly scheduled time and place. Many projects have a required number of club meetings and project meetings that must be attended in order to be a member in "Good Standing". Clubs may have requirements for a certain number of hours of community service that must be performed, fundraising participation, and demonstrations. These meetings are very important to attend as they are where you will receive the majority of your information and plan your 4-H year as a Club. In order to participate in County Fair, State Fair or other 4-H sponsored events you must be a member in goodstanding. Club meeting attendance records may be asked for by Extension Office, Fair Board or Livestock Committee.

Returning members must attend 6 general club meetings and new members must attend 4 general club meetings to show and/or sell at Fair and in the Junior Livestock Auction. Members can attend other clubs meetings if they are short attending the number of required meetings.

Project meetings are specific to the project(s) you choose to participate in and are scheduled by your project leader. Project leaders may have their own requirements in place for participating in or completing projects. Project leaders can limit the number enrolled in the project.

Shooting sports members must attend a minimum of 4 shoots per discipline with their leaders in order to compete at County Shoot. Shooting sports members must have a parent or guardian present at all shoots unless prior arrangements have been made with an approved Shooting Sports Leader. All Shooting Sports members must have their Hunter Safety Certification to participate in shoots.

Some projects may not have a leader, these projects will be considered self or parent led projects and should be reviewed occasionally with your organizational leader to ensure the project is on track and following guidelines.

There are many opportunities for state and district meeting, conferences and events for members to attend. Scholarships may be available to help members finance these opportunities.

Parents, Guardians and Volunteers



Parents and/or guardians are very important to the success of the children enrolled in the 4-H program. Parents and/or guardians are greatly encouraged to attend the monthly club meetings with their children. Important information is given out at these meetings that is crucial to the success of members. Parents are also encouraged to attend project meetings to see what the members are learning. The most important role adults play in 4-H is the support they give to their children. Support your child/children in the commitment they make by helping them see and complete their goals. Adult volunteers are vital to the success of the clubs. Parents are encouraged to help at fundraisers, meetings, events, and county fair. Besides helping in these areas, there are other ways for parents /guardians to help: guide your child's project work, encourage completing the project without doing the project for them, support your club leaders and offer your services, and be an example of good sportsmanship. 4-H can't survive without the generous donation of time given by our adult leaders. If you have a talent or knowledge in a specific area or just want to become more involved consider volunteering as a project leader, or joining one of the committees (Park County Fair Board or Park County Livestock Committee) that contribute to our youth program.



Animal Project Information

Any 4-H Member showing a market beef, sheep, swine, and/or goat must have the animals identified prior to fair and provide proof of ownership. Animals may be identified by ear tags, ear notches, tattoos, retinal scans and/or leg bands. Weigh in dates will be scheduled and are subject to rescheduling or cancellation.

A Meat Quality Assurance Program (MQA) is required for all 4-H members enrolled in a Market and/or Breeding Livestock Project.

- Once as a first year member who is a Junior or Intermediate member (between the ages of 8 and 13)
- Again when a member becomes a Senior (age is 14 years old)
- The only exception to being required to take it twice would be for a first time member who was 14 or older, in that case it would only be required once.
- Those members not required to attend a MQA Program are encouraged to complete a Quality Assurance Checklist.
- To qualify for State Fair as a Swine exhibitor, Pork Quality Assurance must be taken the first three years and then again at age 15.

*Requirements are subject to change at CSU's recommendation *

A primary care form must be filled out by all 4-H members that take any animal project. This form is completed in 4Honline during registration. 4-H members must provide primary and continuous care of their project animals. Primary care is defined as the 4-H member making the decisions for and providing the care, handling, and training of their animal project at least 51% of the time.

Colorado 4-H Dress Code



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

The Dress Code is designed to promote safety and inclusion for all. Clothing worn by participants should be neat, clean, and practical for the activity occurring. When participating in this event, youth and adults are representing themselves and their organization.



Casual Wear:

- Pants/shorts/skirts
- Shirt/sweater/hoodies
- Comfortable shoes/ sandals

Business Casual:

- Nice slacks/pants/skirt
- Button-up shirt/blouse
- Pants suit/skirt
- Comfortable/dressy shoes

Formal Wear:

- Dresses
- Suits and suit jackets
- Dress pants/slacks
- Button-up shirt
- Bow ties/ties/suspenders
- Dress Shoes

Colorado 4-H Dress Code



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Shirts/sweaters/ hoodies/etc:

Should be free of any reference to:
drugs/alcohol/sex/pro
fanity/violence/politic
al affiliation. All other
clothing must cover
undergarments.

Pants/shorts/ skirts:

Should be long enough
to ensure safety and
comfort in the activity
occurring.

Dress-up to Semi- formal:

Should cover your
midriff. Outfit should
be long enough to stay
put while moving
about.

Footwear:

Should be practical
and reflect the activity
occurring. Closed-toe
shoes are a necessary
precaution for specific
activities and will be
required during those
activities.

Colorado State University Extension is an equal opportunity provider. | Colorado State University does not discriminate on the basis of disability and is committed to providing reasonable accommodations. | CSU's Office of Engagement and Extension ensures meaningful access and equal opportunities to participate to individuals whose first language is not English.

Colorado State University Extension es un proveedor que ofrece igualdad de oportunidades. | Colorado State University no discrimina por motivos de discapacidad y se compromete a proporcionar adaptaciones razonables. | Office of Engagement and Extension de CSU garantiza acceso significativo e igualdad de oportunidades para participar a las personas quienes su primer idioma no es el Inglés.

Colorado 4-H Code Of Conduct

4-H members, leaders, parents, and other adults participating in 4-H activities will:

1. Adhere to program rules, curfews, dress codes, policies, and rules of the facility being used.
2. Conduct themselves in a courteous, respectful manner, use appropriate language, exhibit good sportsmanship, and provide positive role models.
3. Abstain from illegal behaviors, use of alcohol, illegal or illicit drugs, and tobacco during 4-H events and activities.
 4. Fully participate in scheduled activities.
 5. Respect other's property and privacy rights.
6. Abstain from child abuse (physical and/or verbal) and harassment.
7. Accept personal responsibility for behavior including any financial damage.
8. Be responsible for any financial damage caused by inappropriate behavior.
9. Adhere to rules of safety.

Consequences for violating any part of this code of conduct may include, but are not limited to: removal from participation in the event in which the code of conduct has been violated (at the individual's expense); sanctions on participating in future 4-H events; forfeiture of financial support for the event; removal from offices held, etc. Behavior outside of 4-H activities can affect "member in good standing" or "volunteer in good standing" status. It is the responsibility of all program participants to reinforce the code of conduct and intervene when necessary to enforce the rules.

Colorado State University Extension is an equal opportunity provider. | Colorado State University does not discriminate on the basis of disability and is committed to providing reasonable accommodations. | CSU's Office of Engagement and Extension ensures meaningful access and equal opportunities to participate to individuals whose first language is not English.

Colorado State University Extension es un proveedor que ofrece igualdad de oportunidades. | Colorado State University no discrimina por motivos de discapacidad y se compromete a proporcionar adaptaciones razonables. | Office of Engagement and Extension de CSU garantiza acceso significativo e igualdad de oportunidades para participar a las personas quienes su primer idioma no es el inglés. Col.st/110t3

