

# **INFORMED INSIDER**

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## PROJECT 101

October 2024

### TOP NEWS

- What's a Project?
- Signing up for Projects
- Completing Projects
- Project Workshops/Leaders

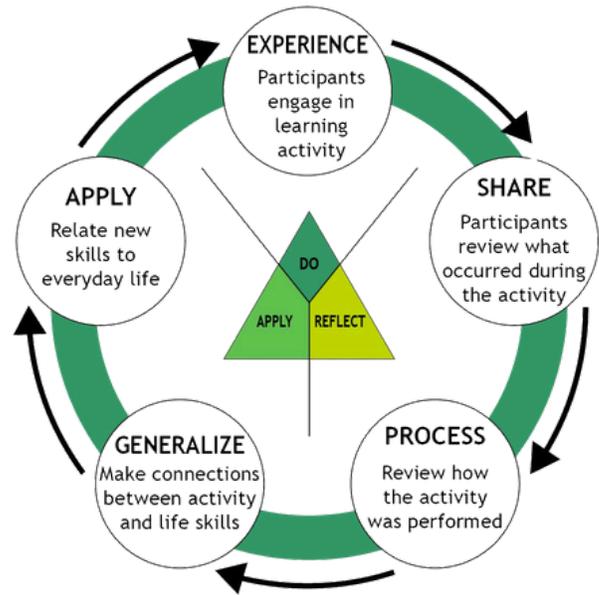
### WHAT'S A PROJECT

The 4-H slogan "Learn by Doing" reflects the 4-H educational philosophy. Through the 4-H program, youth engage in project-based education which allows them to dive deeper into their interests and passions, ultimately mastering new skills. 4-H projects are meant to be hands-on to create a memorable learning experience.

Projects are a series of educational experiences and the foundation used by 4-H for helping youth develop life skills through "learn by doing" in which youth both learn and apply these skills appropriately. Life skills are nothing more than the abilities and skills that youth can learn to help them be successful in living a productive and satisfying life. Projects can be offered at a club or group setting, or on your own outside of the club.

The majority of New Mexico 4-H project books are digital. Therefore, after enrollment forms are turned in and filled out completely, the Chaves County 4-H office prepares a one drive link with your selected project books. Your link will also have record sheets which can also be found on our website. Books which require being printed, will be ordered and set out at your club meeting for pick up.

### 4-H EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING MODEL



### SIGNING UP FOR PROJECTS

4-H Members in Chaves County are required to be enrolled by March 31st each year to compete in various activities including contests and fairs. However, once enrolled members may add projects up until May 1st. After the March 31st deadline, members must contact the office to add projects.

With over 200 projects to choose from, guiding your child in their selection can be an overwhelming task. Consider the following when selecting a project:

- Interests, needs, and capabilities.
- Opportunity for growth.
- Availability of equipment, space, funding.

Youth may select as many projects as they like. Some projects have different levels of difficulty. We ask that you start at level 1 and then add a level each year if needed.

Note: to exhibit at County Fair youth must be enrolled in the project they are exhibiting. 2

## PROJECT CATEGORIES

Cloverbuds  
 Animal Science  
 Horticulture/Agronomy  
 Natural Science  
 STEM  
 Personal Growth & Dev.  
 Creative Arts  
 Home Economics  
 Food and Nutrition  
 Consumer Education/  
 Home Management  
 Arts and Crafts  
 Family Life

## COMPLETING PROJECTS

Youth are welcome to enroll in the same projects for multiple years to learn and explore all the project has to offer. As mentioned several projects have different levels of difficulty. This is indicated by the number on the project short list. For example, to the right are the projects available under cultural education. New Mexico Flavor would be considered the first project in this series. A project is considered finished, when two activities from the project are completed. In the example there are seven items that can be exhibited under New Mexico Flavor, so once two of them have been completed the youth may move on to Uniquely NM or may choose to continue on with NM Flavor or both. Self Determined projects are for those areas that may not have project books yet or areas where youth have explored the projects and are wanting to do self study to continue learning. Youth may enroll in SD projects after completing the levels leading up to it and may stay enrolled in SD as long as they desire.

5501 New Mexico Flavor (N-18)  
 5502 Uniquely New Mexico (N-18)  
 5503 New Mexico Round Up (N-18)  
 5509 Cultural Education SD

## PROJECT WORKSHOPS

Project workshops are offered for a variety of projects by the Extension Agents, Project Leaders, or Club Leaders. Project workshops may be offered at the county level or at the club level and are open to Novice, Junior, and Senior youth enrolled in the 4-H program. Workshops are offered to assist youth in completing their projects, expand learning with hands on activities, and provide opportunities for social learning with members throughout the County. Attendance at workshops are not required, youth may choose to complete their projects on their own.

There will often be special Cloverbud projects or activities so be sure to check the Cloverbud section of the Cloverleaf each month.

To be a project leader, the leader must enroll as a volunteer, complete all necessary paperwork, and pass the screening process. Then, they will work with the agents to plan dates, times, and activities to guide members through the project curriculum and assist them in developing their projects.

If you are interested in becoming a project leader for any of our over 200 projects please contact the extension office. We are happy to get you plugged in and grateful for help and volunteers.

## PROJECT LEADERS AND WORKSHOPS

- Archery – Kennon Swinney, Kevin Grinder, Natalie Swinney, Laura Dennis, Shawn Boggs
- Braiding – Arlene Rowland
- Dog – Tomma Schumate, Laney Wilkins, Jacob Torres, Carol Valenzuela
- Food and Nutrition – Ginger Miller
- Horse – Georgia Bader
- Hippology / Horse Contests – Brandie Kormendy
- Hunting – Robbie Scott
- Leathercraft – Justin Armstrong
- Livestock – Amber Rodgers
- Photography – Candance Marshall
- Quilting – Debbie Smith
- Rifle – Shawn & Melissa Brink,
- Rodeo – Scott Bader
- Pistol – Ray Melton
- Shotgun – Justin Campbell, Jamie Higgins

### Workshops Hosted By Agents

- **October** – Parliamentary Procedure
- **November** – Scrapbooking, Fiber Craft, Weaving
- **December** – Cultural Education & Fiber Craft
- **January** – STEAM, Quilting
- **February** – Quilting, Braiding, Judging
- **March** – Sewing, Braiding, Judging
- **April** – Sewing, Baking, Judging, Photography, Leather
- **May** – Leather, Wildlife
- **June** – Food Preservation, Judging, Welding, Ceramics
- **July** – State Conference & Fair

# INFORMED INSIDER

## ATTENDANCE 101

November 2024

### TOP NEWS

- What is good standing?
- What attendance counts?
- Why do I need to be 'in good standing'?

### WHAT'S 'GOOD STANDING'?

The New Mexico 4-H program requires all 4-H members to be in 'good standing' to participate in any county, district or state event or to hold any office at the club, county, or state level. 'Good standing' at the state and county level requires members to:

- Enrollment - a member must be enrolled in the 4-H program.
- Attendance- a member shall attend at least 40% of the Club's meetings and activities.
- Leadership- a member shall be involved in at least one leadership experience at the Club or County level such as demonstrations, a speech, serve on a committee, serve as an officer, or serve as a junior or teen leader.
- Citizenship- a member shall be involved in at least one citizenship activity.
- Record Keeping- a member shall complete and turn in to the Extension Office all project records for projects they wish to be considered "completed."

These membership completions are state-wide minimums as set forth in the New Mexico 4-H Policies and Procedures Handbook.

It is the right of the local clubs to establish and enforce more stringent policies providing:

- 1) members are involved in determining requirements;
- 2) all members are provided a written copy of the requirements;
- 3) requirements are to comply with affirmative action guidelines and,
- 4) all requirements shall be enforced uniformly.

### WHAT ATTENDANCE COUNTS?

To be in 'good standing' members must attend 40% of their club's total meetings. For most clubs this is 4 meetings, however it could vary depending on weather and holiday cancellations.

**Fiction** - Attending a County Council meeting "makes up for" missing a club meeting.

**Fact** - Attending County Council Meetings is a great way to get involved in your county, make new friends, and participate in different programs, but it does NOT fulfill your requirement to attend a meeting.

If a club chooses to allow County Council attendance towards 100% attendance awards you may attend the council meeting in lieu of your club meeting. However, the 40% attendance requirement can NOT be met using county council meeting attendance. If you are unsure what your attendance or your club attendance award rules are contact your club leader or the extension office.

### OFFICER REQUIREMENTS

This means all club and council officers must be enrolled, attend 40% of their club meetings, and participate in a citizenship activity to maintain their club or council office.

# WHY DO I NEED TO BE IN GOOD STANDING?

The New Mexico 4-H program requires all 4-H members to be in 'good standing' to participate in any county, district or state event; this includes county contests, district contests, State Conference, Youth Get Away (YGA), Senior Leadership Retreat (SLR), county fair, state fair, and Eastern New Mexico State Fair, State Shooting Sports, FCS School, Dog School, Horse school, etc. A member must also be in good standing to hold any office at the club, county, or state level. 4-H Members in Chaves County are required to be enrolled by March 31st each year to compete in various activities including contests and fairs. Even if members enroll in March, they are still expected to attend their April, May, June, and July club meetings to meet the 40% requirement for county fair.

## LEADERSHIP

To complete the leadership requirement members must do one of the following; hold a club or county office, present a demonstration (a short presentation of a project you participate in or related topic), serve on a committee (community service committee, snack & refreshment committee, clean up crew, etc.), serve as an officer, or serve as a junior or teen leader.

## CITIZENSHIP

To complete the citizenship requirement members must participate in a citizenship activity at any level. In practice this may look like fair grounds clean up, participating in a supply or food drive, volunteering at a local shelter, writing cards for service member, etc. Our goal is to help youth connect meaningful community service experiences with learning about a social situation/subject, civic responsibility while undergoing personal growth. Service-learning is a process that takes time and intentional planning. The goal is to balance learning and service. Over the long term, the experience has a significant impact on the child, club and community.

## RECORD BOOKS

A project isn't truly "completed" until it has been recorded in a member's record book. Each fall the extension office hosts record book workshops to help members complete their record books. Record books are due to the extension office each November 1. They are judged by experts outside of the county then returned to the members. Record books are the key to earning many county level awards and can earn members a trip to National 4-H Congress.

## BUT WHY ALL THE RULES?

Club meetings and activities are fun! Your club meetings are a great place to make friends, play games, get to know new friends and learn more about projects and opportunities in the 4-H program.

Club activities and meets are the core community of the 4-H program!

## WHO'S KEEPING TRACK?

At each club meeting there is a sign in sheet. This sign in sheet is reported to the extension office where we keep track of all members' attendance and standing. This attendance sheet is verified by the secretary's roll call in the beginning of the business portion of each meeting.

When verifying attendance we will check each club's attendance log. If someone does not meet requirements we will verify their attendance or lack thereof with the club leader.

# INFORMED INSIDER

## GOAL SETTING & PROJECT PREP

December 2024

### TOP NEWS

- Why set goals?
- How do I set goals?
- Recording my progress
- Tips & Tricks
- Did I reach my goal?

### WHY SET GOALS?

- ✓ Keep your focus on important things like learning and progress
- ✓ Helps in making good decisions
- ✓ Finish tasks more efficiently
- ✓ Helps build confidence, enthusiasm, belief in yourself
- ✓ Creates life-long motivation
- ✓ Complete quality projects
- ✓ **You need strong goals in your project record sheets for your record book**

### HOW DO I SET GOALS?

When setting goals it can be overwhelming to look at the whole 4-H year ahead; break your goal setting down by project, and/or levels (club, county, state, national). For example, look at one project like rocketry. Then, consider the previous year and what you could do moving forward.

*'My rocket didn't stay together last year, it fell into pieces, so I couldn't launch it and it didn't go to any fairs. This year my rocket needs to stay together so I can display it.'*

In this example, it is clear that the member has goals to improve their rockery but these are not complete goals.

A complete goal should be as specific as possible, measurable, attainable, realistic and time bound or SMART.

Ask yourself questions like...  
What do I want to achieve?  
What do I need to learn to meet my goal?  
How do I meet my goal?  
Who can help me learn, build, etc. ?  
When do I want to achieve this goal?  
How will I know if I met my goal?

Then, your goal may become multiple goals and have attainable steps to reach it.

- *'This year I will create a model rocket, that will stay together because it is build sturdy, in time for county fair.'*
- *'I will attend a rocketry workshop to learn more from about my materials and how to keep it together.'*
- *'I will make two practice rockets to make sure they stay together.'*
- *'I will make adjustments and corrections as needed.'*
- *'I will exhibit my new, strong rocket at county, state, and eastern fairs.'*

When you set your goals ahead of time you create a plan to achieve goals, you will be more invested in your project, and are more likely to learn, grow and achieve your goals.

Research has shown that people who write down their goals are 42 percent more likely to achieve them than those who don't.

## TYPES OF PROJECT RECORD SHEETS

- Foods Project Record Sheet
- General Project Record Sheet
- Livestock/Animal Project Record Sheet
- Self Determined Project Record Sheets
- Shooting Sports Project Record Sheet

## RECORDING MY PROGRESS

- Use your project record sheet to write down all of your goals.
- Create a plan or list of activities to help work towards achieving your goals like attending workshops, leading demonstrations, and talking to experienced leaders or volunteers.
- Then, list all activities, demonstrations, practices, and workshops in your project record sheet. This will show your progress and efforts towards your goals.
- Keep records & take pictures all year long.
- Do not overlap photos & make sure each has a caption explaining the photo.
- Don't leave a section blank, write N/A or None.
- Use the same few projects year to year to complete report forms so when you complete your State 4-H Portfolio you can show your progress and growth over the years.
- Don't do it all at once. This is a lot of work, break it up and work on one part at a time.

## TIPS & TRICKS

- Write your goals on paper
- Post your goals where you'll see them regularly
- Share your goals with others
- Remain positive
- Celebrate every success
- Don't be afraid of mistakes

## DID I REACH MY GOAL?

How do you know if you achieved your goal or not? Some goals are easy to determine, like winning a certain placing, or completing something. Others require more reflection and thought. When considering if you met your goals or not think through these questions:

- What did you learn about through this project?
- Why is the life skill you practiced important?
- What did you learn about yourself by doing this activity?
- How did others help you?
- How did you make your decisions? What steps did you take?
- What problems came up over and over? How did you handle them? What was the most challenging part of your activity? Why? How did you solve it?
- What suggestions would you have for someone else who wanted to do a similar activity?
- Why does it matter (to you or anyone else) that you did this activity?
- What new questions do you have about yourself and others?
- How does what you learned relate to other parts of your life?
- How can you use what you learned?
- How can you apply (the life skill you practiced) in the future?
- Why was this project/activity important to you?
- Are there any things you learned that you can use in real-life situations?
- How can you use these skills in different situations?
- How will you act differently as a result of this activity?

Check out this goal setting activity on CLOVER by National 4-H:



<https://4-h.org/clover/activities/setting-smart-goals/>

# INFORMED INSIDER

## VOLUNTEERING 101

January 2025

### TOP NEWS

- What is a Volunteer?
- What do Volunteers do?
- How do I Volunteer?
- Why should I Volunteer?
- Volunteer Code of Conduct
- Volunteer Recognition
- Where do I fit?

### WHAT IS A VOLUNTEER?

Volunteers are the heart of our program. They are a valued partner in providing hands-on, non-formal educational experiences to 4-H youth. Volunteers are defined as members who give time and expertise without receiving or expecting monetary compensation. The Chaves County 4-H program reaches over 3,600 kids with the help of over 100 leaders and volunteers who share their knowledge and experiences teaching life skills to help youth become better communicators, more effective leaders, enhance their organizational and management abilities, improve self-motivation and self-esteem, foster cooperation and teach responsibility to become productive members of society. Whether you want to be a club leader or work with youth on a short term project, there's a role for YOU in Chaves County 4-H!

The Chaves County 4-H Program believes in providing a safe environment for youth to learn and excel. To be enrolled as a volunteer, individuals must:

- Be at least 19 years of age by January 1 of the current 4-H year.
- Complete the 4-H volunteer screening including background check and enrollment.
- Complete Working with Minors training annually.
- Submit a new background check every 5 years and/or when requested by office staff.
- Be enrolled in county of residence.

### WHAT DO VOLUNTEERS DO?

Volunteers can do so many different things based on their interest!

- Serve as a club leader
- Lead projects as a project leader
- Share special presentations or demonstrations
- Help at club, county, and even state events

### HOW DO I VOLUNTEER?

1. Consider your interests, time, and resources.
2. Decide where you feel you best fit into supporting the 4-H program.
3. Contact the extension office to begin the volunteer vetting process.
4. Complete paperwork including background checks, enrollment, and training.
5. Upon approval, begin exploring the possibilities of 4-H and sharing your passions and skills with our youth.

### WHY SHOULD I VOLUNTEER?

- To share your passions and skills with others
- To develop new skills and knowledge
- Creating and joining new community groups
- Teach and empower the next generation of youth
- Mentor and inspire youth
- Give back to your community

### DID YOU KNOW...

Volunteers are greatly impacted by their experience. The University of Minnesota shares the impacts of volunteering in 4-H:

- **92% built new relationships with youth**
- **86% gained skills that are useful in other settings**
- **79% increased their confidence as a leader**

**CURRENT VOLUNTEERS...** Thank you for your continued support and your dedication to this program. We see all of the hard work you are doing!

**PAST VOLUNTEERS...** Thank you for your time in the 4-H program. Know that your time and efforts are still making a lasting impact on Chaves 4-H.

**FUTURE VOLUNTEERS...** Thank you for considering where you can serve. We know life gets busy and appreciate your thoughts and potential to invest in our youth.

*Thank you!*

## VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT

The primary purpose of the code of conduct is to insure the safety and well-being of all 4-H participants including members, parents, families, staff, and volunteers.

### 4-H volunteers will:

- Cooperate with, support, and empower adult staff and youth leadership.
- Oversee the health, safety, and whereabouts of youth they are responsible for.
- Acts as a mentor and model appropriate behavior.
- Abide by the same rules as the youth spelled out in the Code of Conduct and Clothing Guidelines.
- Orient youth participants as to expectations for the event and answer questions and/or concerns.
- Refrain from causing or demonstrating conflict with other parents, volunteers, or agents in front of youth.
- Act in the best interest of the youth.
- Communicate with fellow adults and youth in an appropriate manner.
- If transporting youth: provide the office with valid driver's license and vehicle insurance including medical and liability

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Each year we celebrate the success of Chaves County 4-H members, families, volunteers and supporters at the Chaves County Achievement Awards program in December. Here we recognize registered volunteers who serve as club leaders, project leaders, and volunteers who have served our youth.

Club leaders are registered volunteers who serve as the adult leader of each club. Some clubs have one leader, others have a leader and co-leader, and others may have a club leader and many assistant club leaders. All club leaders serve a vital role in our organization by being the first face many youth and new families meet. They strive to guide the clubs' leadership teams with wisdom and encourage community building and belonging. These club leaders are recognized each year with a special thank you gift.

Project leaders serve as instructors for particular projects within the program. With over 200 programs, volunteers with expertise in specialty topics are crucial to educating youth on the wide variety of projects offered. Project leaders are recognized each year with a certificate of appreciation.

All registered volunteers (meaning that paperwork and trainings have been completed yearly) that have served the youth of Chaves County 4-H at the club or county level are recognized with a certificate of appreciation and receive their volunteer pin. Pins are given based on the number of years someone has been an enrolled volunteer (in Z-suites). Pins are awarded at years 1-12, then every 5 years at 15, 20, 25, 30, etc.

## LOOKING FOR WHERE YOU MAY FIT IN??

We are always looking for project volunteers....

- Cake Decorating
- Electricity
- Food Preservation
- Gardening
- Jewelry
- Leathercraft
- Livestock
- Photography
- Robotics
- Rocketry
- Small Engines
- STEM
- Sport Fishing
- Vet Science
- Welding
- Wildlife
- Wood Science
- and more

## INTERESTED??

Let us know!

Katy Wright

Chaves County 4-H Agent

kkwright@nmsu.edu

575-622-3210

*"Every person can make a difference, and every person should try"*  
- John F. Kennedy

*"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."* - Sherry Anderson

# INFORMED INSIDER

## RECORD BOOKS 101

February 2025

### TOP NEWS

- What's a Record Book?
- Why complete a Record Book?
- A Complete Record Book Includes
- Project Sheets and Zsuites
- Tips & Tricks
- Specialty Record Books
- Other Important Information

### WHAT'S A RECORD BOOK

A 4-H record book is a portfolio created annually by a 4-H member to record and present their work throughout the 4-H year including leadership, citizenship, events, and projects. Typically, a record book includes an Awards area sheet, a county report form, a 4-H story, picture pages, and project record forms nicely organized with a cover page, table of contents, and labeled dividers.

### WHY COMPLETE A RECORD BOOK?

4-H'ers Keep Records to:

- ✓ Measure progress in their project(s)
- ✓ Identify expenses and financial gains or losses of their project
- ✓ Document all 4-H activities and experiences year by year
- ✓ Evaluate project growth over the years
- ✓ Refer to when filling out applications for out-of-county educational events
- ✓ Serve as a guide when applying for local 4-H awards and scholarships
- ✓ Assist in completing employment and/or college application forms
- ✓ Help when writing resumes for college and/or employment

4-H'ers Learn to:

- ✓ Plan and organize their work
- ✓ Evaluate economic growth
- ✓ Budget their project and other financial needs
- ✓ Improve their written communication skills
- ✓ Pay attention to detail, follow instructions, and meet deadlines
- ✓ Make decisions and set priorities
- ✓ Appreciate the life skills they are developing
- ✓ Understand the value of keeping records.

### A COMPLETE RECORD BOOK INCLUDES...

- A green 4-H Member Record Cover – These are available for purchase at the extension office and should be filled out with permanent marker or using a label maker.
- An Awards Area sheet attached to the inside of the front cover and completely filled out.
- A cover sheet with a nice photo of yourself, your name, age, and club.
- A Table of Contents and dividers for each section.
- The Chaves County 4-H Report Form, fully completed.
- Your 4-H Story – Things to include: your name, age, where you live, and how you became interested in 4-H. Tell something about your projects, about goals you set for yourself, about some of the things your club did through out the year and how 4-H has made you a better person.
- Photos of things you did this year.
- Project Record Sheets & Project Photos

### PROJECT SHEETS AND ZSUITES

Doing project record sheets for your record books in Zsuites is easy and allows members to log onto any computer and up date their record throughout the year.

- Login
- Select member profile
- Select record books for the left hand tool bar
- Click green "+" Record book button
- Complete section Once it has been created- click on the project wanting to edit.
- Tool bar on the left will populate with the various sections of the record sheet- completion sections saving when possible
- When each section is completed- on the left tool bar select record book. Download, print, and submit
- When starting a new year, archive the previous year record sheets for future reference and to easily keep track of the 10 upcoming year's projects

## TYPES OF PROJECT RECORD SHEETS

Its important to have the correct record sheet for the project. Select from:

- Foods Project Record Sheet
- General Project Record Sheet
- Livestock/Animal Project Record Sheet
- Self Determined Project Record Sheets
- Shooting Sports Project Record Sheet

## TIPS & TRICKS

- Be Neat! Neatness is an eye catcher for the judge.
- Check all spelling, punctuation, & addition/subtraction.
- Clear page protectors can be used. This keeps pages clean & protects from being torn.
- Organize pages vertically, so your book does not have to be turned sideways.
- Keep records & take pictures all year long.
- Do not overlap photos & make sure each has a caption explaining the photo.
- Don't leave a section blank, write N/A or None.
- Use the same few projects year to year to complete report forms so when you complete your State 4-H Portfolio you can show your progress and growth over the years.
- Don't do it all at once. This is a lot of work, break it up and work on one part at a time.
- Attend record book workshops to get help and work with others.

## SPECIALTY RECORD BOOKS

### Cloverbud Record Books:

Cloverbuds complete a record book that is more age appropriate for younger members. It includes a green cover, a photo page, a Table of Contents and dividers, a fill in the blank Cloverbud story, photos, and Cloverbud project and activity sheets with photos.

### State 4-H Portfolio:

Portfolio is another word for a record book that covers your entire career in 4-H, as opposed to only one year. Not only will you have a comprehensive record of your 4-H activities and gain the valuable skills mentioned above, you have an opportunity to compete for a sponsored trip to the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Georgia, beginning Thanksgiving evening through the following Tuesday afternoon. Delegates may be asked to pay a portion of the fees associated with this trip dependent upon funding. This opportunity is available to Senior 4-H members. There is no minimum number of years you have to have been a member or submitted a county record book. Books are evaluated based on growth in the timeframe submitted. The State 4-H Portfolio is due in January at Senior Leadership Retreat – contact your County Extension Office to find out their deadline for submission. All books must be submitted with the approval of the County Extension Office and all appropriate signatures.

More information regarding State 4-H Portfolios can be found at

<https://nm4h.nmsu.edu/policies/forms.html>

[https://nm4h.nmsu.edu/documents/nm-4-h-portfolio-instructions\\_r-2018.pdf](https://nm4h.nmsu.edu/documents/nm-4-h-portfolio-instructions_r-2018.pdf)

## DIGITAL COPIES & INFORMATION



<https://chaves-extension.nmsu.edu/4-h/record.html>

## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Record Books are due each year on November 1st and must be submitted by the deadline to qualify for completion pins and awards at the Annual Awards Banquet that takes place during the winter. A record book must also be submitted to qualify for specialty awards including:

- Chris Harshey Memorial Swine Scholarship Application
- Flaxie Mitchell Memorial Horse Scholarship Application
- Jewell Limacher Memorial Clothing Scholarship Application
- Patrick Pirtle Memorial Diary Scholarship Application
- Sam Bradley Memorial Sheep Scholarship Application
- I Dare You Leadership Award Application
-

# INFORMED INSIDER

## SHOOTING SPORTS

2025

### TOP NEWS

- What is Shooting Sports?
- Why participate?
- What are the requirements?
- Equipment & Contests
- Coaches & Becoming a coach

### WHAT IS SHOOTING SPORTS?

“The goal of the 4-H Shooting Sports Program is youth development. Through participation in firearm safety training and shooting sports activities, young men and women are given the opportunity to learn responsibility, sportsmanship, self-discipline, and other qualities critical to the development of productive citizens.

4-H Shooting Sports is a national program with over 300,000 young people taking part, thus making it one of the largest shooting education programs in the United States. New Mexico 4-H Shooting Sports involves many youth and continues to grow annually.”

From NMSU 4-H Shooting Sports

### WHY PARTICIPATE?

The 4-H Shooting Sports Program strives to enable people, their parents and adult volunteers to become responsible, self-directed and productive members of society. It is the goals of the shooting sports program:

- To enhance development of self-concept, character and personal growth through safe, educational and socially acceptable involvement in a shooting sports related activity.
- To encourage participation in natural resources and related natural science

- programs by exposing participants to the content through in shooting activity.
- To teach safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment including sound decision-making, self-discipline and concentration.
  - To promote the highest standards of safety, sportsmanship and ethical behavior.
  - To expose participants to the broad array of vocational and lifelong avocational activities related to shooting sports.
  - To strengthen families through participation in lifelong recreational activities.
  - To complement and enhance the impact of existing safety, shooting and hunter education programs using experiential educational methods and progressive development of skills and abilities.

From NMSU NM4-H Shooting Sports Policy

### WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

Before attending practice youth participating in shooting sports must:

- Be fully enrolled in the 4-H program
- Complete a NM Department of Game and Fish Hunter Education Course.
- Attend an annual shooting sports safety meeting held monthly Oct-March.
- Fill out range releases
- Pay their dues - \$20 per discipline, or a \$5 per practice fee.
- Complete 4 practices before competing at the county contest which will determine participation at the district, state, and/or national level
- Remain in good standing at the club, county, and state level at all times.

## EQUIPMENT

Chaves County 4-H is blessed with equipment for youth to use as they learn which shooting sports disciplines best fit them.

Each discipline's coaches are knowledgeable of the equipment and can help pair youth to the right firearm or other supplies they need. They are also happy to help you figure out what is the best purchase for your child when and if you decide they are ready for their own equipment.

## DISCIPLINES

Archery  
Hunting  
Shotgun  
.22 Rifle  
Air Rifle  
.22 Pistol - Seniors only  
Air Pistol - Seniors only  
Muzzleloading - Seniors only

## LEAD COACHES

Archery - Kennon Swinney  
Hunting - Drew Garnett  
Shotgun - Justin Campbell  
.22 Rifle & Air Rifle - Melissa Brink  
.22 Pistol & Air Pistol - Ray Melton  
Muzzleloading - Robbie Scott

## INTERESTED?

**Let us know!**

Katy Wright

Chaves County 4-H Agent

kkwright@nmsu.edu

575-622-3210

## CONTEST DETAILS:

### COUNTY

February- May  
depending on  
age group

### DISTRICT

Novice & Junior youth  
Mid June  
Rotated among counties on the  
Southeast side of the state.

### STATE

Seniors Only  
First weekend in May  
Whittington Center, Raton, NM

### NATIONALS

Seniors Only  
End of June  
Grand Island, NE

District and State teams will be determined by County Contest scores.

## COACHES

Our shooting sports coaches go to great lengths to serve and teach our youth well. Coaches are required to complete a State level 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor certification. Workshops provide a minimum of fifteen (15) hours of instruction including a minimum of twelve (12) hours instruction in each specific discipline and a minimum of three (3) hours instruction in teaching youth development, life skills, and risk management, and are required to re-certify after 7 years.

Following certification coaches host regular practices, plan county contests, and assist youth as they progress through various levels of completion, all while teaching the importance of firearm safety, practice, and consistency.

Coaches meet as a board twice a year in the Fall and Spring to review policy and bylaws.

## BECOMING A COACH

Before becoming a coach:

- Consider your interests, time, and resources. Which discipline best fits your interest and availability ?
- Contact the extension office to begin the volunteer enrollment process.
- Complete your paperwork, and any necessary training.
- Register for the next Shooting Sports Coaches Certification. Training are only held once a year in early spring.

If you are interested in becoming a coach please let Katy know and she will assist you in beginning the process.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE 101

April 2025

### TOP NEWS

- What is Community Service?
- What is Service Learning?
- Why do Service Projects?
- Service Project Ideas
- Reflection on Service Leadership
- Making a Difference

### WHAT IS COMMUNITY SERVICE?

Community service is simply the act of volunteering. This may look like picking up trash, donating old clothes or toys, or cooking a meal for someone else. This is the 'hands to larger service' portion of 4-H. However, we see more growth when we combine our 'hands to larger service' with 'our heart to greater loyalties' and our 'head to clearer thinking'; the combination can be better defined as service learning.

### WHAT IS SERVICE LEARNING?

"Service-Learning is more than volunteering. Service learning projects 1) determine a real need, 2) learn about the need, 3) plan a project that applies the knowledge/skills learned and 4) do the act of service. The practice of service learning supports the 4-H Essential Element Model focusing as much on "education" (Mastery), as the act of service (Generosity). The blending enriches both the service and the learning experiences. For instance, the elementary schools in Washington started an adopt-a-stream movement, helping to reclaim some of the state's most important environmental gifts. At the same time, their service

involved mastering a great deal of scientific knowledge (stream, habitat and ecology), language arts (writing public information tracts, writing to the city council), social studies (getting community support for their project), geography, critical thinking and practical arts (building a fish ladder, a weir, etc.) "

*From Oklahoma State University, The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Oklahoma 4-H Volunteer Development Series*

### WHY SHOULD I DO SERVICE PROJECTS?

Service is an essential part of the 4-H program, so much so that it is a requirement each year:

**"A member must be involved in at least one citizenship activity to help others."**

*CLUB MEMBERSHIP COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS, New Mexico 4-H Policies and Procedures Handbook*

Ways members benefit:

- Personal Growth
- Social Growth
- Intellectual Growth
- Civic Responsibility
- Career Exploration
- Leadership Development
- A Heightened Sense of Purpose
- Intellectual Growth
- Social and Personal Growth
- Citizenship Development
- Increased Interest in learning and 4-H Work
- Acceptance and Awareness of Others from Diverse and/or Culturally Different Backgrounds



Make it a part of every club meeting. Elect a Community Service officer to coordinate activities for the club to participate in.

## IDEAS FOR SERVICE PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES:

- Clean up a public space like a park
- Distribute food at a homeless shelter or food pantry
- Donate clothes or toys you don't use
- Tutor other students
- Plant or upkeep a community garden
- Collect and donate books to a local school
- Help at a local animal shelter
- Deliver groceries to those in need
- Visit people in the senior centers or other facilities
- Write thank you notes and notes of encouragement to service members, first responders or medical staff
- Gather supplies needed for local services like shelters and care centers
- Fundraise for a group that is serving the community through their own program.

There are many project specific ideas located on the *Greentops* for each project. Need more? Let us know.

## HELPFUL HINT

Keep record your service activities all year to make putting your record book together easier.

## REFLECTION OF SERVICE PROJECTS

Reflection is where the most in-depth growth occurs. In reflection members identify what they gained from their service experience. This is where members can evaluate their skills and effectiveness. When completing activities as a group members will see where their team works well together and where they do not. Consider questions such as: What was new about this experience? What am I thankful I did? What could I do to continue this service?

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR CLUB, COMMUNITY AND COUNTRY

For more than 100 years the 4-H program has emphasized citizenship, leadership and service. This is done through the project work of individual members, local clubs and county, state and national programming.

Youth “learn by doing” through positive youth development efforts. Our goal is to help youth connect meaningful community service experiences with learning about a social situation/subject, civic responsibility while undergoing personal growth.

Service-learning is a process that takes time and intentional planning. The goal is to balance learning and service. Over the long term, the experience has a significant impact on the child, club and community.

Youth are active participants in the project. They are provided the support and flexibility needed to learn about the setting and circumstances in which the service is needed or will be delivered and the opportunity to develop and carry out a plan.

When this is achieved, students are using newly acquired skills and knowledge in real life situations. In addition, these experiences assist in the development of a sense of caring for others and empower youth with the belief that they can make a difference in the community

# INFORMED INSIDER

## 4-H COUNTY CONTESTS

### TOP NEWS

- What are Contests?
- When and Who
- Schedule
- Explanation of Contests

### WHAT ARE CONTESTS?

4-H programming is guided by the experiential learning model that includes goal setting, cognition, practice, and performance. The performance stage, which includes competition, is when members demonstrate their skills and knowledge learned through the project in which they are enrolled. These contests can be individual or team contests and cover a wide range of topics like health, animal judging, and public speaking.

4-H contests provide opportunities for youth to:

- Practice skills: Develop and refine skills learned through their 4-H projects.
- Learn from others: Interact with peers, mentors, and industry leaders.
- Build confidence: Gain confidence in their abilities and overcome challenges.
- Explore career interests: Discover potential career paths through hands-on experiences.
- Develop leadership skills: Contests often encourage proactive leadership roles and teamwork.

County Contest serves as the qualifying event for 4-H youth to advance to other competitions. There are contest opportunities at the County, District, State and National levels for qualifying youth based on rankings at qualifying competitions.

### WHEN AND WHO

With the exception of Shooting Sports, County Contest takes place the first full week in May and is open to all Chaves County approved 4-H youth including cloverbuds having met enrollment deadlines and are in good standing with their clubs. (see Attendance 101 Informed Insider).

Shooting Sports County Contest (Reminder: Shooting Sports Youth are required to attend four practices prior to County Contests. See Shooting Sports Informed Insider)

- Seniors: selected dates between February and March
- Novice and Juniors: selected dates in May

### SCHEDULE

The week before

- Favorite Foods recipes due
- Fashion Revue Garments due

Monday:

- Public speaking
  - Demonstrations
  - Presentations
  - Talent Show and Poetry
- Horse Judging

Tuesday

- Favorite Foods Contest
- Livestock Judging

Wednesday

- Open Contests
  - Agronomy
  - Entomology
  - Hippology
  - Horticulture
  - Livestock Skill A Thon
  - Meats
  - Wildlife
  - FCS Skill a Thon
  - Consumer Decision Making
  - FCS Bowl- Closed

Thursday

- Fashion Revue
- Awards/Talent Show Case/Dinner

Practices for various contests will start in January with study packets available through in office or sent through events of the week emails. Be sure to watch the cloverleaf as County Council will typically hold a Contest Carnival each Spring as a way to introduce youth to the various contests. 16

Note: Senior Dairy Judging, Land Judging, and Pasture/Range take place during FFA contests each April. If wanting to participate please contact the office.

# EXPLANATION OF CONTESTS AT THE COUNTY LEVEL

Available to all age groups unless noted.

<b>Agromony</b>	This contest consists of plant, seed, farm equipment, and insect identification as well as three placing classes from the following classes: grain crops, forage crops, and fruit or vegetable crops.
<b>Clothing Construction/ Fashion Revue</b>	Member must be enrolled in the 4-H clothing project and complete a garment in one of the following clothing projects: Sewing I or II; Mix & Match I or II; Sew 'N Go; Serger Sewing; Creative Touches; Quilting; Sr Clothing Construction I or II; Clothing SD; This is a two part contest. Cloverbud model their favorite outfit.
<b>Consumer Decision Making</b>	This contest has members learn decision making skills to become good consumers. Contestants places 4 classes of 4 items based on a given scenario. Contest at the District and State level requires youth to give reasons. Topics are released by the state each year in April.
<b>Entomology</b>	This contest tests the member's knowledge of insects commonly found in NM. The participant will ID and answer one question per specimen. There is an additional test of 25 questions concerning collection and mounting techniques taken from Entomology I project material.
<b>Family Consumer Science Bowl</b>	This is a buzzer type game where the objective is to provide 4-H members with an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge in home environment, food, nutrition, clothing, health and child development. At the District and State level this is played as a team event consisting of 4 youth.
<b>Family Consumer Science Skill-A-Thon</b>	This is an individual or team event where youth identify a set number of items from Housing and Interior Design, Kitchen Equipment and Sewing Equipment and materials.
<b>Fashion Magic (Seniors)</b>	In this contest youth put together and model a purchased outfit along with accessories. This contest involves 3 phases of judging: The outfit/accessories, notebook, and Interview. Each phase will be evaluated using the project evaluation form.
<b>Favorite Foods</b>	The objective of this contest is to allow 4-Hers the opportunity to experience meal planning and presentation while preparing a dish that they like. 4-Hers learn about food preparation and nutrition while preparing for the show. Youth decorate a table and place setting in addition to preparing the favorite food.
<b>Hippology (Seniors)</b>	Hippology is a contest of knowledge and understanding of equine science and husbandry. The contest involves judge several classes of horses in addition to ID/tests
<b>Horse Bowl</b>	This contest is a team event in which members demonstrate their knowledge of the horse and the horse project in a 'Jeopardy' type format.
<b>Horse Judging</b>	This contest consists of placing classes of horses at halter and performance. Performance classes may consist of Western Pleasure, Western Riding, Western Reining, or Hunter Under Saddle.
<b>Horticulture</b>	This contest consists of identifying fruits, nuts, vegetables, herbs, and common houseplants found in most grocery stores, florist shops.
<b>Livestock Judging</b>	Classes of market &/or breeding beef, sheep, and swine are judged to develop decision making skills.
<b>Livestock Skill-A-Thon</b>	This contest provides an opportunity for youth enrolled in 4-H to develop their livestock production skills and incorporates meats and wool judging, tool and livestock breed ID, and much more!
<b>Meats ID</b>	This contest consists of evaluating classes of retail cuts and ID individual cuts of beef, lamb, and pork.
<b>Parliamentary Procedure (N, JR, Sr)</b>	This is a team event in which youth conduct a meeting according to the items of business presented and will execute the motions and actions required. At State this happens during SLR.
<b>Poetry (Novice &amp; Jr's)</b>	Contestants will present either an original poem or one obtained from a book. The poem must be memorized and the participant may not use notes.
<b>Presentations (N, JR, Sr)</b>	This contest consists of 2 different presentation types: Demonstration or Illustrated talk. NOTE: The member must be enrolled in the project area in which the presentation is given.
<b>Public Speaking (N, JR, Sr)</b>	Participants present an original prepared speech that is no longer that 7 minutes in length.
<b>Talent Show</b>	To encourage 4-H members to discover and develop their talents you may select from a choreographed routine, vocal, musical, or comedy routine. Available to N and JR at county only.
<b>Wildlife Habitat Evaluation</b>	The purpose of the wildlife contest is to stimulate wildlife knowledge and participation in the 4-H Wildlife project area. ID of various animals and habitat

# INFORMED INSIDER

## CHAVES COUNTY COUNCIL

### TOP NEWS

- What is County Council
- Council Representatives
- Council Advisors
- Council Officers

### WHAT IS COUNTY COUNCIL?

The Chaves County 4-H Council is a group of elected youth leaders from all Chaves County 4-H clubs and adult representatives. The council's purpose is to promote, plan and implement 4-H programs and activities across the county, provide support for clubs, set policies, encourage membership and act as a voice for youth in the county's 4-H program.

The council also serves as a platform for youth to develop leadership skills. The Chaves County Council is led by a slate of nine elected youth officers from various 4-H clubs across the county, two elected council representatives from each of the clubs in the county and three elected adult advisors.

County Council meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm with the exception of:

- July- County Wide Swim Party
- November- County Wide Bowling Party
- December- County Wide Christmas Party

Council meetings are structured much the same way as traditional 4-H meetings:

- Opening Ceremonies
- Reports
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Educational Programs
- Recreation
- Announcements

County Council is also called upon to assist in organizing county-wide events, community service projects, fundraising activities, educational workshops, and also participate in district and state-level 4-H meetings.

### COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Each Chaves County 4-H Club should elect two council representatives when electing officers every fall. These representatives serve as the club's voice on the Council and are also the clubs voting delegates.

Council Representatives responsibilities include:

- Roll Call: during the roll call a representative will stand when called and state who is present from their club.
  - "Madam secretary there are 2 voting delegates, 3 members, and 4 adults present from Barn Buddies 4-H club"
- Club Reports: during club reports a representative will stand and give a report on their last club meeting. What decisions were made? What activities took place?
- Voting: Each club is allowed two votes in addition to any that serve as a council officer on any business before the council.
- Taking it back: At the next regular club meeting, be sure to report back to your club all that happened at the council meeting and get their opinions on any pending votes or business.

### COUNCIL ADVISORS

There are three advisors that serve on the council that act as a link between the extension office and the Council. These adults serve a two year term on a staggering basis and don't have a vote in council business.

Council Advisor responsibilities include:

- Be a signatory on council bank accounts
- Provide County Council Officers advice and ideas
- Assist at County Council hosted events (Fall Formal, County Achievement 18 Awards, etc.)
- Other duties that may arise

# COUNCIL OFFICERS

## OFFICER POSITIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS

- **President** – Preside at Council meetings. Presidents will put together the monthly agenda with the assistance of the 4-H Agent.
- **Vice-President** – Preside in the absence of the president, coordinate community service projects, and help coordinate programs for each council meeting.
- **Secretary** – Keep accurate minutes of the Council meetings and take care of all correspondence.
- **Treasurer** – Keep an accurate record of all funds. Treasurer will need to visit the office each month to put together the treasurer's report prior to the meeting.
- **Reporter (2)** – Publicize Council activities and compile a year end slide show which records Council activities for the year.
- **Recreation Leader (2)** – Conduct recreational activities at the meetings and other events.
- **Parliamentarian** – Be familiar with parliamentary procedure and see that meetings are conducted in a democratic manner.

## APPLICATIONS

County Council Officer applications become available in August and are due back to the office in October prior to elections. The due date may vary year to year. In this application members share which office(s) they would like, why, and what skills they have that make them qualified for the position. These applications require member, parent and club leader signatures, so if you choose to apply, make sure you have time to get your club leaders signature.

## EXPECTATIONS

County Council Officers are held to a high level of expectations as they represent Chaves County and New Mexico 4-H. These expectations include:

- Adhere to the 4-H Code of Conduct
- Remain in good standing at the club, county, and state level.
- Regularly attend club and council meetings
- Fulfill officer responsibilities in a timely manner to the best of your ability
- Wear appropriate attire and specific attire when requested
- Complete all tasks and responsibilities to the best of your ability
- Represent your club, team, county, and the 4-H program in a positive light. Representing others is one of your most important responsibilities because it exists at all times— not just while you are at 4-H events.
- Serve as a kind, responsible role model for other 4-H members

## EVENT ATTENDANCE

County Council Officers are expected to attend many events including:

- County Council Pre-Meeting Meetings – 30 minutes before the regularly scheduled mtg.
- County Council Meetings –
- County Council Event/Program – Pool Party, Bowling Party, etc.
- County Fair Dinner/Awards Program
- Ice Cream Parlor during ENMSF
- Club Officer Training Day
- Council Officer Training Day
- County Achievement Awards
- 4-H Day at the Roundhouse (February)
- Rise With Roswell (March)
- Workshops and events as needed

## INCENTIVES

There are many perks to serving as a County Council Officer. Here are just a few things youth can expect to gain from their council officer term:

- County Council Swag – Button Ups & Polos
- Officer Team Trip
- Experience leading groups through meetings, events, and activities
- Training in office specific duties and council duties
- Public speaking practice
- Service opportunities within the county 4-H program and community
- Team activities
- Teamwork and team building skills
- Leadership opportunities
- Communication skills
- Event planning & preparation activities

# INFORMED INSIDER

## INDOOR EXHIBITS

### TOP NEWS

- What is an indoor exhibit?
- How do I prepare it for fair?
- Where can my exhibit go?

### WHAT IS AN INDOOR EXHIBIT?

Indoor Exhibits are the completed products from activities outlined with a 4-H project curriculum, other exhibits using the information learned in the project, or a self-determined exhibit using knowledge learned in the project.

**Fact:** An exhibit is the end result of learning within a project area. We complete exhibits to showcase our gained knowledge.

**Fiction:** Exhibits are the end goal or primary purpose of a project.

### Exhibits outlined in the 4-H Curriculum:

Some exhibits will be outlined in the 4-H curriculum. For example, within the Wood Working project youth may enter a Flower Box. In the Ceramics project youth may enter one over glazed item with a decorative finish fired on a glazed surface. These exhibits are very specific and follow a set of standards outlined within the curriculum and fair book. If the set specifications are not met for the exhibit item, the exhibit may place lower in the class or may even be disqualified.

### Self - Determined Project Exhibits:

Some projects, especially more advanced projects are considered Self-Determined projects were youth do self study. In a self-determined project youth will set goals, explore resources and activities, create their project, reflect on their learning experience and record any financial information. Youth may create their own exhibits following exhibit size guidelines and should submit a self-determined form so the judge can clearly evaluate the goals, activities, and outcome of the project.

### Exhibits not outlined in the 4-H curriculum:

Some projects such as livestock, gardening, health & safety, and many more allow freedom in what type of exhibit youth may enter to showcase their knowledge of the project. These may take many forms based on the project; posters, 3-D diagrams, items made using bi-products and so much more! Here are a few examples of exhibit ideas:

- Shooting Sports
  - 3-D Diagram of a shooting range, firearm, bow, shells, etc.
  - Safety kit to take to the range
- Livestock
  - Video exhibit explaining how you feed, care for, or fit your animal
  - Journal of events and growth with your animal
- Gardening
  - Gardening essentials kit
  - Diagram of potential garden layouts
  - Diorama
  - Video explaining best practices
- Beekeeping/Dairy
  - Products made using honey or milk
  - Video explaining how to make products
- Babysitting
  - Babysitters bag of essentials

These are just a few ideas of the many many exhibits you could display at fair. Get creative, think about practical ways to share knowledge of your project. Posters are a great tool and can be great exhibits but do not feel limited to a poster.



# HOW DO I PREPARE FOR FAIR?

The most important part of preparing for fair is reading your project book, attending project meetings, and learning about your project. Once you have completed your project here are a few things to do:

- Complete any necessary paper work. Does your project require a project form or a self-determined form? Complete it neatly and accurately. Then find a good way to attach it to your project.
- Submit your county fair entry form to the extension office by July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Tag your item. See the section below.
- Drop off your item for exhibit by the deadline.



## TAGGING YOUR PROJECT

Tags for fairs are separated by color code according to age.

- Cloverbuds - Blue
- Novice - Pink
- Junior - Yellow
- Senior - Green

Each tag will require the same information:

- Section - This is Cloverbud, Novice, Junior or Senior
- Class - This is a number found in your fair book
- Project - This is the name of the project which you signed up for-found in your fair book
- Article - Write what the object is here. Ex. Leathercraft Unit II Display Board, Welding Unit I Name Plate, One jar of Bread & Butter Pickles. It helps to tell us a bit about your article in case the tag comes off (purple keychain with horseshoe)
- Exhibitor - Your first & last name

Please tag your exhibit ahead of time- tags are available for pick up in the office.

Please mark the back of your exhibit as well, with your name and county incase the tag comes off.

## WHERE CAN MY EXHIBIT GO?

**Chaves County Fair** - All Chaves County 4-H Exhibits can be displayed at the Chaves County Fair, including Cloverbuds. Novice, Junior and Senior classes will be placed 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>. County Only classes and Cloverbuds are not eligible for ENMSF or State.

**Eastern New Mexico State Fair** - Any exhibit shown at the Chaves County Fair that received first through fourth place will be eligible to display and compete at Eastern New Mexico State Fair. Exhibits are automatically entered, youth will need to drop items off at the fairgrounds the day of judging.

**New Mexico State Fair** - Any exhibit shown at the Chaves County Fair that received first place will be eligible to compete at the New Mexico State Fair. Exhibits will be kept after county and automatically be entered and taken to State Fair. Unless we are notified

## PROJECT INFORMATION SHEETS

*A few projects require project information sheets that list the techniques used, resources, skills learned, purpose of project, supplies and cost.*

- Floral Arrangement using purchased flowers, greenery, etc
- Needlepoint - All projects
- Crochet - Other item not in project book
- Macrame - All projects
- Knitting - Other item not in project book
- Duded Up Denim - Other item not in project book
- Jewelry - Other item not in project book
- Origami - Other item not in project book
- Serger Sewing - Other item not in project book
- Housing & Interior Design - Article for living room, bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, specialty room

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The best place to find the most up to date information and exhibit information is the fair book:  
<https://chaves-extension.nmsu.edu/4-h/fairs.html>



# INFORMED INSIDER

## DEMONSTRATIONS

### TOP NEWS

- What is a demonstration?
- How do I give a demonstration?
- Why do we give demonstrations?
- Demonstration Ideas

### WHAT IS A DEMONSTRATION?

A 4-H demonstration is a short presentation where youth teach others how to do something by showing and explaining each step. It's a hands-on way for members to share what they've learned in their projects. Demonstrations are a regular part of club meetings and are required for members to stay in good standing. Members should give at least one demonstration each year and record it in their council report forms and project record sheets.

Demonstrations are not just about public speaking. They help youth learn how to explain ideas clearly, organize information, and take ownership of their learning. Preparing and presenting a demonstration encourages responsibility and helps members grow as leaders.

Demonstrations can be simple. What matters most is that the presenter understands the topic and can explain it in a way others can follow.

Youth choose a topic they know well, usually something tied to a project they're working on. They prepare materials, organize their thoughts, and present the process to their peers. The goal is to help others understand how to do the task while building confidence and communication skills.

### HOW DO I GIVE A DEMONSTRATION?

First: Let your club or project leader know that you are interested in giving a demonstration and sign up for a month to present. Then it's time to get to work

A demonstration should have three parts: an introduction, a body, and a summary. Think of the parts of a demonstration like the parts of a turtle.



The **introduction** is like a turtle's head. This is small and looks ahead to see where it is going. Include who you are, what your demonstration is about and why it is important.

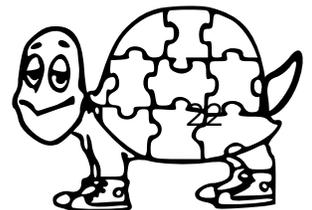


The **body**, like a turtle's body, is larger and takes small steps to keep it moving. Include all the ideas you want to share with your audience as you go through the steps to explain your topic.



The **summary**, like the turtle's tail, is short and to the point. "Wrap-up" to help your audience remember the most important points or steps and display a finished product if you have one. You will also make a closing statement so your audience will know you are finished.

Follow these 3 steps and your demonstration will be turtly awesome!

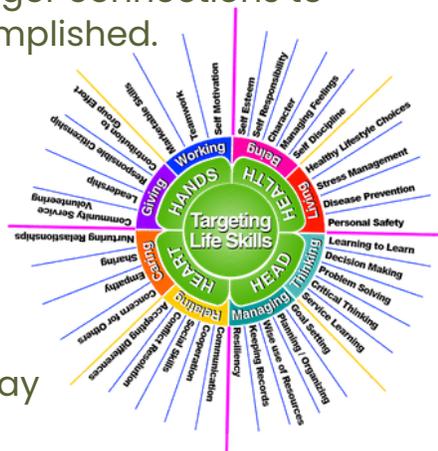


# WHY DO WE GIVE DEMONSTRATIONS?

One of the main reasons we do demonstrations is to help youth become better public speakers. Speaking in front of a group can be uncomfortable, but 4-H provides a safe space to practice. Demonstrations are usually done during club meetings, surrounded by friends and leaders who are there to support. Over time, youth learn how to speak clearly, organize their thoughts, and explain their ideas with confidence.

Demonstrations also encourage deeper learning. When youth teach something, they understand it better. It's one thing to complete a project, but explaining it to others helps them think through each step and why it matters. This builds stronger connections to their project work and helps them take pride in what they've accomplished.

Preparing and presenting a demonstration also allows youth the opportunity to gain other important life skills such as Self Esteem, self Discipline, Decision Making, and many others on the Targeting Life Skills Model.



They also meet 4-H requirements. In New Mexico, every member must complete at least one leadership experience each year to stay in good standing. Giving a demonstration is one way to meet that requirement. It's a simple and meaningful way for youth to participate and grow.

For clubs, demonstrations help keep meetings interesting. They give members a chance to share what they're working on and learn from each other. Leaders can include time for demonstrations in the agenda, encourage sign-ups, and even host special nights where several members present. Younger members can be paired with older ones to build comfort and teamwork.

## DEMONSTRATION IDEAS:

### Animal Science

- Grooming an animal for show
- Halter breaking a calf
- How to vaccinate livestock

### Automotive & Small Engines

- How to check tire pressure
- Changing oil in a vehicle
- Safe use of lawn mowers

### Family Life

- Making toys for toddlers
- Preparing a First Aid kit

### Foods & Nutrition

- How to frost a cake
- Making breakfast pancakes
- Packing a lunchbox meal

### Electricity

- Making a simple circuit
- Using a test light
- Safety tips for using electrical appliances

### Photography

- Posing for a photo
- Taking pictures indoors

### Woodworking

- Using a hand saw
- Sanding and finishing
- Making a birdhouse

### Outdoor Skills

- Selecting a campsite
- Cooking outdoors
- First aid basics

### Horticulture

- Planting seeds
- Taking a soil sample
- Transplanting flowers

**For more ideas check out this resource from the Ohio 4-H Clubs Advisors Handbook:**

<https://gunnison.extension.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2019/04/Demonstration-Ideas.pdf>

# INFORMED INSIDER

## CHAVES COUNTY AMBASSADORS

### TOP NEWS

- What's an Ambassador?
- How do I get involved?
- Why apply?
- State Ambassadors

### WHAT IS AN ABASSADOR?

The Chaves County 4-H Ambassador Program gives Senior 4-H members the chance to take their leadership skills beyond the club level. Ambassadors are mentors, role models, and advocates for the 4-H program.

Serving as an Ambassador means you'll not only represent your project area but also the entire Chaves County 4-H community. Ambassadors help younger members feel welcome, promote 4-H to the public, and share their own 4-H story to inspire others.

This program is a great way to strengthen your public speaking, leadership, and organizational skills while making a difference in your county.

### AMBASSADOR AREAS

Youth may apply to serve in an ambassadorship area that matches their passions and experience. Areas include:

- Livestock (Beef, Dairy, Goat, Poultry, Rabbit, Sheep, Swine)
- Shooting Sports (Archery, Rifle/Air Rifle, Hunting, Shotgun, Pistol, Muzzleloading)
- Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS)
- Agriculture & Natural Resources

### RESPONSIBILITIES

Ambassadors commit to:

- Assisting at Tractor Supply events, Ag-exploration, and Safety Days
- Helping lead workshops, project activities, and clean-up efforts
- Writing for the "Be an Ag-vocate!" newsletter page
- Serving as mentors and role models for other 4-H youth
- Completing an end-of-term evaluation

### REWARDS

Serving as an Ambassador comes with recognition and real-world skills!

Ambassadors receive:

- A \$250 award upon successful completion of duties
- Recognition at the Achievement Awards Banquet
- A polo shirt to wear at events
- An end-of-year pizza party
- Financial assistance to attend a state level or out of state training with approval.
- Most importantly, skills and memories that last a lifetime!

### DO I QUALIFY?

- **Who can apply?** Any 4-H member who is a high school sophomore, junior, or senior with a 3.0 GPA or higher.
- **Do I have to show an animal?** No! Ambassadorships are available in Livestock, Shooting Sports, FCS, and Ag & Natural Resources.
- **How much time does it take?** The term runs November–September. You'll commit to key county events, 24 workshops, and activities throughout the year.

## HOW TO APPLY

Applications are available at the extension office and are due the week before the October County Council Meeting. This is the same deadline as County Council Officer Applications. Applicants must be sophomores, juniors, or seniors in high school, have a 3.0 GPA, and at least three years of experience in their project area. Applicants will also do an in person interview with all Extension Agents.

## WHY APPLY?

4-H youth leaders develop leadership and management abilities, positive self-esteem, effective communication, personal responsibility, and decision-making through the opportunities provided by county leadership roles. Serving as an Ambassador offers real-world opportunities to strengthen these core life skills.

Life Skill	How Ambassadors Grow in This Area
Leadership & Citizenship	Representing 4-H publicly, planning, mentoring, and engaging with community stakeholders
Communication	Public speaking, writing newsletters, promoting through media and formal presentations
Responsibility & Decision-Making	Planning events, fulfilling service commitments, managing tasks and choices
Career & Life Preparedness	Interview/application experience, résumé-building projects, real-world leadership situations
Teamwork & Community	Working with peers/adult partners, serving as 4-H ambassadors regionally or in project areas
Confidence & Self-Esteem	Growth through visibility, skills-building, and purposeful service

## STATE 4-H AMBASSADORS

Each year, four to five youth are selected as State 4-H Ambassadors, serving as ex-officio members of the New Mexico State 4-H Council. Ambassadors work with State Officers to plan and lead statewide events while promoting a specific 4-H project or program area. This role allows Senior 4-H members to represent New Mexico 4-H and grow leadership skills that last a lifetime.

### Ambassador Duties

- Promote a 4-H project or program statewide
- Assist with statewide events in partnership with State Officers
- Share their 4-H story through workshops, presentations, and outreach
- Serve as role models for youth across New Mexico

### How to Apply:

Candidates complete an application packet, submit two sealed references, and provide certification forms. Finalists give a 5-minute presentation and interview during the State 4-H Conference in July, where new Ambassadors are selected by the panel of judges.

# INFORMED INSIDER

## LEADERSHIP EVENTS

### TOP NEWS

- What are leadership events?
- Why should you attend?
- What to expect at a leadership event

### WHAT IS A LEADERSHIP EVENT?

Leadership events in 4-H are designed to help youth and adults grow as leaders through hands-on experiences, workshops, and networking opportunities. These events are hosted throughout the year and across New Mexico, offering participants a chance to:

- ✓ Meet new friends
- ✓ Learn from professionals and peers
- ✓ Build confidence and communication skills
- ✓ Explore leadership roles in 4-H and beyond

Leadership is one of the foundational pillars of the 4-H program. Through leadership experiences, youth develop essential life skills such as decision-making, teamwork, communication, and responsibility. These skills not only help members succeed in 4-H but also prepare them for future education, careers, and civic engagement. According to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), youth who participate in leadership development programs are more likely to become confident, capable, and community-minded adults. Leadership events also foster a sense of belonging and purpose, encouraging youth to take initiative and make a difference in their clubs, communities, and beyond.

### LEADERSHIP EVENTS OFFERED IN NEW MEXICO 4-H

**Senior Leadership Retreat (SLR)** is a multi-day event (Friday-Sunday) held in January for senior 4-H members. Typically hosted in Las Cruces or Albuquerque, SLR brings together youth from across the state to participate in workshops, service projects, and team-building activities. It's a chance for senior members to represent their counties, build statewide connections, and strengthen their leadership skills in a fun and engaging environment.

**Youth Get Away (YGA)** is designed for novice and junior members and is typically held in the spring at Glorieta Adventure Camps (Friday-Sunday). YGA offers younger members a chance to explore leadership through games, outdoor adventures, and interactive workshops that are project based. Senior members can serve as Counselors or Counselors-in-Training (CITs), gaining valuable mentoring experience while helping guide younger participants.

**Adult Retreat** is a one-day event for registered adult volunteers. This retreat provides training, resources, and networking opportunities to help adult leaders better support their clubs and youth. It's a great way to connect with other volunteers, learn new strategies, and stay inspired in your role as a 4-H leader.

A full list of State 4-H events can be found at: <https://nm4h.nmsu.edu/events/state.html>

### HOW DO I ATTEND A LEADERSHIP EVENT?

Watch for announcements in the Cloverleaf newsletter, events of the week emails, and updates from your club leader or the Extension Office for registration information and deadlines. Registration typically opens a few months before each event and may include forms, fees, and deadlines. For Senior Leadership Retreat (SLR), senior members should contact the Extension Office in early winter to register. For Youth Get Away (YGA), novice and junior members can expect registration to open in late winter or early spring. Adult volunteers interested in the Adult Leader Retreat will receive information and registration links in the late summer or early fall.

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The cost to attend a 4-H leadership event varies each year depending on the location, duration, and type of event. Senior Leadership Retreat (SLR) and Youth Get Away (YGA) may each have different registration fees, travel costs, and lodging arrangements. Typically, the Chaves County 4-H Council votes to reimburse 50% of the event cost for youth participants. This reimbursement is provided on the day the member departs for the event, as long as they attend. If a member registers but does not attend, no reimbursement is offered. In addition to council support, there are scholarship opportunities available to help fund a member's trip. One opportunity is the New Mexico 4-H Essay Contest, which can cover the full cost of attending a leadership event. To learn more and apply, visit [nm4h.nmsu.edu/4h/essay-contest.html](http://nm4h.nmsu.edu/4h/essay-contest.html).

## CAN ADULTS ATTEND YOUTH LEADERSHIP EVENTS?

Adult volunteers are a vital part of our leadership events and are encouraged to attend as chaperones as needed. Chaperones help supervise youth, support logistics, and ensure a safe and positive experience for all participants. To attend, adults must be fully enrolled 4-H volunteers, which includes completing the volunteer process, background check, and annual Working with Minors training. Chaperones must also register for the event through the Extension Office. If an adult will be transporting youth, we require a valid driver's license and proof of vehicle insurance to be on file with the office. Adult support makes these events possible, and we're grateful for volunteer's time and dedication!

## WHAT TO EXPECT

Each leadership event is a mix of learning, fun, and connection. Participants attend a variety of workshops focused on leadership, community service, and 4-H project areas. These sessions are hands-on and designed to help you build confidence, explore new ideas, and discover how you can make a difference.

Outside of workshops, there are plenty of chances to meet new friends. You might find yourself dancing, playing games, or working together in group activities that bring everyone closer. Many events also feature a guest keynote speaker who shares an inspiring message to help you reflect on your experience and feel motivated to take what you've learned back to your club and community.

Leadership events are designed to help you grow, connect with others, and have a great time while doing it. Whether you're attending for the first time or returning for another round, you'll leave with new skills, new friendships, and memories that last.

## ADULT LEADER RETREAT

The Adult Leader Retreat is a one-day event created just for registered 4-H volunteers across New Mexico. It offers a full schedule of hands-on workshops, networking, and a keynote speaker to inspire and energize leaders. Topics range from club management and youth engagement to creative project ideas and contest preparation. Volunteers leave with fresh tools, new connections, and renewed motivation to support their clubs and communities. Learn more or register at [nm4h.nmsu.edu/volunteer/adult.html](http://nm4h.nmsu.edu/volunteer/adult.html).

## QUESTIONS ABOUT EVENTS?

Ask us! Call us at 575-622-3210.

# INFORMED INSIDER

## DEMONSTRATIONS

### TOP NEWS

- What is a demonstration?
- How do I give a demonstration?
- Why do we give demonstrations?
- Demonstration Ideas

### WHAT IS A DEMONSTRATION?

A 4-H demonstration is a short presentation where youth teach others how to do something by showing and explaining each step. It's a hands-on way for members to share what they've learned in their projects. Demonstrations are a regular part of club meetings and are required for members to stay in good standing. Members should give at least one demonstration each year and record it in their council report forms and project record sheets.

Demonstrations are not just about public speaking. They help youth learn how to explain ideas clearly, organize information, and take ownership of their learning. Preparing and presenting a demonstration encourages responsibility and helps members grow as leaders.

Demonstrations can be simple. What matters most is that the presenter understands the topic and can explain it in a way others can follow.

Youth choose a topic they know well, usually something tied to a project they're working on. They prepare materials, organize their thoughts, and present the process to their peers. The goal is to help others understand how to do the task while building confidence and communication skills.

### HOW DO I GIVE A DEMONSTRATION?

First: Let your club or project leader know that you are interested in giving a demonstration and sign up for a month to present. Then it's time to get to work

A demonstration should have three parts: an introduction, a body, and a summary. Think of the parts of a demonstration like the parts of a turtle.



The **introduction** is like a turtle's head. This is small and looks ahead to see where it is going. Include who you are, what your demonstration is about and why it is important.

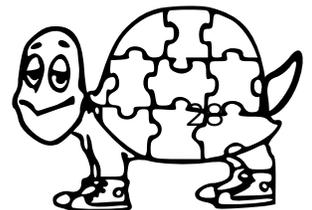


The **body**, like a turtle's body, is larger and takes small steps to keep it moving. Include all the ideas you want to share with your audience as you go through the steps to explain your topic.



The **summary**, like the turtle's tail, is short and to the point. "Wrap-up" to help your audience remember the most important points or steps and display a finished product if you have one. You will also make a closing statement so your audience will know you are finished.

Follow these 3 steps and your demonstration will be turtly awesome!

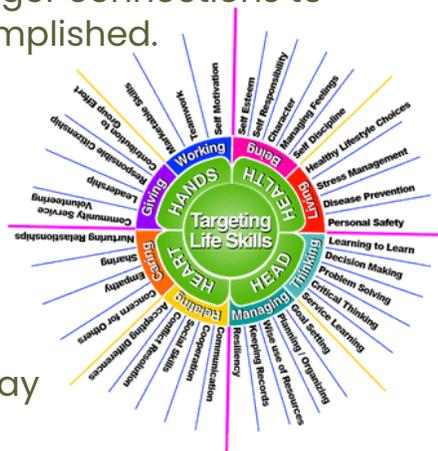


# WHY DO WE GIVE DEMONSTRATIONS?

One of the main reasons we do demonstrations is to help youth become better public speakers. Speaking in front of a group can be uncomfortable, but 4-H provides a safe space to practice. Demonstrations are usually done during club meetings, surrounded by friends and leaders who are there to support. Over time, youth learn how to speak clearly, organize their thoughts, and explain their ideas with confidence.

Demonstrations also encourage deeper learning. When youth teach something, they understand it better. It's one thing to complete a project, but explaining it to others helps them think through each step and why it matters. This builds stronger connections to their project work and helps them take pride in what they've accomplished.

Preparing and presenting a demonstration also allows youth the opportunity to gain other important life skills such as Self Esteem, self Discipline, Decision Making, and many others on the Targeting Life Skills Model.



They also meet 4-H requirements. In New Mexico, every member must complete at least one leadership experience each year to stay in good standing. Giving a demonstration is one way to meet that requirement. It's a simple and meaningful way for youth to participate and grow.

For clubs, demonstrations help keep meetings interesting. They give members a chance to share what they're working on and learn from each other. Leaders can include time for demonstrations in the agenda, encourage sign-ups, and even host special nights where several members present. Younger members can be paired with older ones to build comfort and teamwork.

## DEMONSTRATION IDEAS:

### Animal Science

- Grooming an animal for show
- Halter breaking a calf
- How to vaccinate livestock

### Automotive & Small Engines

- How to check tire pressure
- Changing oil in a vehicle
- Safe use of lawn mowers

### Family Life

- Making toys for toddlers
- Preparing a First Aid kit

### Foods & Nutrition

- How to frost a cake
- Making breakfast pancakes
- Packing a lunchbox meal

### Electricity

- Making a simple circuit
- Using a test light
- Safety tips for using electrical appliances

### Photography

- Posing for a photo
- Taking pictures indoors

### Woodworking

- Using a hand saw
- Sanding and finishing
- Making a birdhouse

### Outdoor Skills

- Selecting a campsite
- Cooking outdoors
- First aid basics

### Horticulture

- Planting seeds
- Taking a soil sample
- Transplanting flowers

**For more ideas check out this resource from the Ohio 4-H Clubs Advisors Handbook:**

<https://gunnison.extension.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2019/04/Demonstration-Ideas.pdf>