

INFORMED INSIDER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Projects	2-3
Attendance	4-5
Goal Setting & Project Prep	6-7
Volunteering	8-9
Record Books	10-11
Shooting Sports	12-13
Community Service	14-15

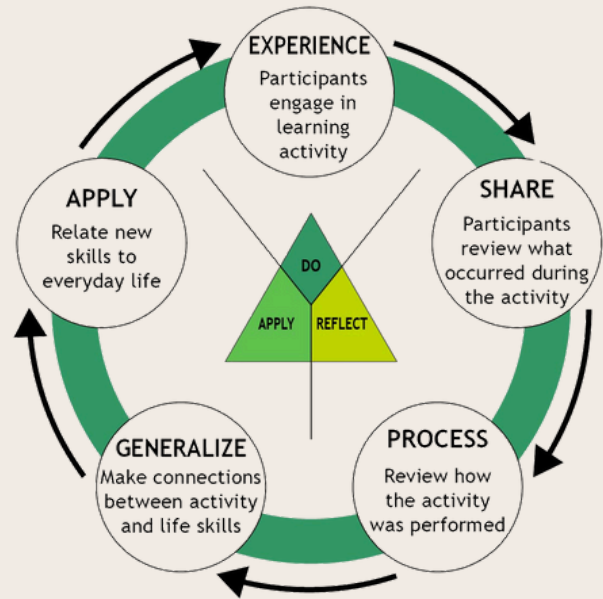
PROJECT 101

October 2024

TOP NEWS

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

4-H EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING MODEL



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.

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 clubs 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 rocketry 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

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
-

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