

Colorado State University



WELCOME TO San Miguel and West Montrose COUNTY 4-H!

“To Make the Best Better”

SMB 4-H has a \$30 Enrollment Fee for the 1st project and \$15 each additional project/Cloverbuds.

INTRODUCTION

The 4-H Youth Development Program is a growing, changing and evolving organization of youth, volunteers and salaried staff who work together to provide a safe environment where Colorado 4-H youth develop life skills. The 4-H Youth Development program is unique from other youth organizations through its relationship with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA); Colorado State University (CSU), the state’s land-grant university; Extension; and San Miguel County. With public, corporate and private-sector funding, the programs are research-based, age-appropriate, and designed for experiential learning. 4-H Youth Development programs are open to all economic, social & cultural groups. The Cloverbud program is for youth ages 5-7 and age 8-18 for all projects (as of Dec 31st of each year).

THE 4-H’s

Head—clearer thinking and decision making. Knowledge useful throughout life.

Heart—greater loyalty, strong personal values, positive self-concept, concern for others.

Hands—larger service, community service, workforce preparedness, useful skills.

Health—better living, healthy lifestyles.

THE 4-H Pledge

I pledge my **HEAD** to clearer thinking, my **HEART** to greater loyalty, my **HANDS** to larger service, and my **HEALTH** to better living, for my club, my community, my country, and my world.

THE 4-H Value Set

We believe that youth development is the focus of everything we do.

We believe youth/adult partnerships are essential to successful youth development.

We believe that volunteerism is fundamental.

We believe in the strength attained from diversity across the entire range of 4-H experiences.

THE 4-H PROJECT CLUB/COMMUNITY CLUB

All 4-H clubs have a 4-H adult volunteer leader, a recommended membership of at least five youth, and have completed all the chartering requirements. Each 4-H adult volunteer leader enjoys working with youth and specializes in a specific project related to the club. In these 4-H project clubs, youth members learn life-skills while learning the hands-on skill of the project. 4-H project clubs meet throughout the year, while focusing on setting goals and completing their 4-H project and record books for the Annual 4-H Exhibit Days in July. Our 4-H Exhibit Days & Shows provide opportunities for 4-H members to receive recognition and feedback on their 4-H project work. All 4-H projects earning champion awards and higher are eligible to enter the 4-H Colorado State Fair in Pueblo every August.

WHAT EVERY PARENT CAN DO IN 4-H

The most successful 4-H members have the interest and support of their parents.

If you are wondering just how you can help in 4-H, here are some pointers:

*Advise your child in selecting appropriate 4-H projects for your family setting.

*Some of our 4-H Clubs request that parents participate in the project club meetings. If your child is ages 5-7(Cloverbud), please talk with your 4-H leader regarding parent participation in the meetings.

*Show your interest and enthusiasm for the projects selected. And have a positive attitude☺

*Help guide your child with the project, but don't do it for him/her.

*See that when a project is started, it is completed satisfactorily. Projects should be suited to the abilities of your child.

*Keep informed on 4-H information that comes to members of your family.

(i.e. reading 4-H e-mails and marking your calendar/visit our web sites frequently)

*Offer your services to assist the 4-H volunteer project leader. Get to know your child's 4-H Club Leader by offering to help set-up or clean-up. Parents can really help out & make a club thrive by participating. When the need arises, help find a local leader for our 4-H club(s). Always support the leader selected. There is probably a place for you to serve as a volunteer 4-H leader, perhaps a project leader in an area that interests you!

4-H ENROLLMENT www.extension.colostate.edu/sanmiguel/

SMB 4-H enrollment starts every October 1st through April 1st, and all returning 4-H members must re-enroll each year. Enrollment is completed through <https://co.4honline.com/>. New members can enroll in the 4-H program anytime throughout the year, but all the requirements must be met in order to complete the program. The \$30/or \$15 4-H enrollment fee helps pay for club supplies, insurance, State 4-H fees, leader recognition, and awards. Financial Aid scholarship applications are available if needed. **If you need help, our office can guide you through the 4-H online enrollment process**

Once enrolled, you will receive a project book and information regarding the requirements for the project, our monthly "4-H Upcoming" e-mails with current SMB 4-H, as well as event and activity information. Also, check out our local Facebook page at [Colorado State University Extension, San Miguel Basin, 4-H](#). For more questions on the 4-H online enrollment process and to register for events, contact the 4-H office at 327-4393 or by e-mail at dawn.bruce@colostate.edu, maryw@sanmigulecounty.org, or yvette.henson@colostate.edu.

4-H EXPECTATIONS & GOALS <http://www.colorado4h.org/policy/4H-Policy-Handbook.pdf>

CODE OF CONDUCT

All 4-H members, leaders, and clubs are expected to abide by the Colorado 4-H Code of Conduct. The 4-H Code of Conduct is listed on your 4-H Enrollment Form and on our San Miguel County 4-H web site.

MEMBER & CLUB COMMITMENT

4-H Members are expected to participate in all or most of the 4-H Project Club meetings throughout the year (A minimum of 6 meetings are required). Members are also expected, if they want to complete for the year, to participate in a least one community service event, complete a demonstration, participate in a leadership development activity, and complete their record book. In order to be considered for State Fair and other awards, you must complete the above requirements as well as follow the requirements for your project according to the State Fair guidelines and by following your project book (listed at

http://www.colorado4h.org/project_resources/StateFairExhibitReq.pdf). When a child misses several meetings, it is difficult for them to “catch up” to where the rest of the club is at on their 4-H projects. 4-H Leaders and Clubs are more productive and effective when their 4-H Members are all working at the same stage on their projects.

4-H Projects RECORD BOOKS www.colorado4h.org/project_resources/index.php

It is very important to use the State 4-H website for project information, state fair requirements and to get your e-record book.

All 4-H Members (ages 8-18) are required to complete 4-H Record Books for each one of their chosen project(s), if they want to complete for the year. Cloverbuds (5-7 years) are not required or expected to do a record book. They will be given an activity book to work on for their project interests and can show for fun at the fair and receive a participation ribbon. Cloverbuds are not judged competitively at this age, it is their time for learning about 4-H and preparing them to be members at age 8. Parents are encouraged to help their child work on their 4-H Record Books throughout the year, not all at once right before fair. This will make the process much easier. All 4-H Record Books (Exhibit Projects) are due at our annual SMB 4-H Exhibit Days of the SMB County Fair in July. 4-H Record books for livestock will be due on the first Monday of August. (Dates are subject to change.) 4-H Record Books are listed on our SMB 4-H web site and the State/CSU 4-H web site. Your leader will also assist members on completing their Record Books.

4-H EXHIBIT DAYS & LIVESTOCK SHOWS

All 4-H Members are encouraged to participate in our 4-H Exhibit Day at the fair, if they want to be considered for State Fair. Members can choose not to participate at the county level fair. If they complete all the other requirements (see above) they will complete for the year, but will not be eligible for State Fair judging and awards. 4-H Record Books and 4-H Projects are to be completed for entry into our 4-H Exhibit Day. Our 4-H Exhibit Days provide important positive recognition and feedback for increased educational opportunities for 4-H Members to learn life-skills by their participation. For 4-H members and clubs that don't have a “project” to show at fair, i.e. Fly Fishing, Shooting Sports, and Dog Therapy, children are required to make a display board or stand alone project related to their 4-H experience (all of the details are listed on the 4-H website and poster boards are available at the local office for purchase).

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

All 4-H Members are expected to participate in at least one **Community Service Project and one Leadership Development Activity or workshop** each year. Many of our 4-H clubs host different community service projects throughout the year—all 4-H members are encouraged to participate. There are also many great leadership opportunities such as our local District 10 events and many State conferences and workshops.

STAY INFORMED We are here to help you in any way we can, don't hesitate to ask any of us ☺

Please stay informed on all 4-H information by attending 4-H Club meetings, staying in touch with your 4-H Leader, and by frequently visiting our 4-H web sites listed below:

SMB 4-H www.extension.colostate.edu/sanmiguel/, State 4-H www.colorado4h.org/

Thank you and Welcome to San Miguel & West Montrose Counties (SMB) 4-H!

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