What is 4-H?

4-H is a community of youth, ages 5-18, learning leadership, citizenship and life skills!
- 4-H is the largest out-of school youth development program in the nation.
- 4-H involves the whole family and spans across generations.
- 4-H is not just for kids. Adult volunteer 4-H leaders provide guidance, knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm that help 4-H members as well as communities.

In 4-H, you will...
- Take part in club meetings and activities with friends.
- Learn to present educational demonstrations.
- Develop citizenship and leadership skills to take action and make a difference in your community.
- Master new skills through hands-on project work and record keeping.
- Have fun at camps, fairs, and contests, while learning about fair and ethical competition.

Elbert County 4-H Enrollment Information
- Members must be enrolled in a community 4-H club and attend monthly club meetings.
- Contact Club Leaders as soon as possible, some clubs fill up quickly!
- Enrollment at club meetings takes place from October – December 31.
- After the Dec. 31 deadline, interested families will have to wait until the following fall in October to enroll.
- All 4-Hers must enroll in at least one project.
- The basic enrollment fee is $30.00 per member. (Additional project literature fees apply.)

How do I join?
1. Select a 4-H club from the Elbert County 4-H List of Community 4-H Clubs. (Usually based on location and regularly scheduled meeting or knowing someone who is already a 4-H member of a given club.)

2. Call the 4-H Leader for the club you have selected. Ask questions like:
   - Where and when does the club meet?
   - Are there specific club requirements?
   - When can I enroll online?

3. Attend the regular monthly meeting and work with the leader to facilitate getting your child(ren) enrolled in 4-H by using 4honline.com, pay enrollment fees to the club.

Where do I get more information?
Call the CSU Extension, Elbert County 4-H Office at (303) 621-3162.

See Frequently Asked Questions, Project Areas, and 4-H Community Club List.
Frequently Asked Questions

Who can enroll in 4-H?  Anyone 5 to 18 years old as of December 31. Youth 5-7 years of age are considered “Cloverbuds” and do not enroll in actual projects, but are participants in activities instead. Youth 8-18 enroll as traditional 4-H members in projects that interest them.

How much does 4-H cost?  The basic enrollment fee is $30.00 per member, plus project literature.

When does the 4-H year begin?  The 4-H year begins on October 1. Begin contacting Club Leaders in your area NOW for more information. Enrollment begins in October and continues through December 31.

How many 4-H clubs are there in Elbert County?  Currently, you can choose from 11 community clubs that serve over 400 members throughout Elbert County! In addition, we are always welcoming new adult volunteer 4-H leaders. Please contact the Extension office for an adult volunteer application. All volunteers complete forms, consent to a background check, provide references, and complete training.

Is 4-H really for everyone?  Yes! 4-H has something to offer all youth. We have members that live in urban and rural areas that enroll as traditional 4-H members and do not enroll in actual projects, but are participants in activities instead. Youth 5-7 years of age are considered “Cloverbuds” and do not enroll in actual projects, but are participants in activities instead. Youth 8-18 enroll as traditional 4-H members in projects that interest them.

4-H Community Clubs:  You are required to attend a minimum of six club meetings a year as part of the Member in Good Standing requirements. Upon joining a community 4-H club, regular members are able to take any of the hundreds of projects 4-H has to offer. Elbert County 4-H allows youth living in a geographic area to belong to the same community club. Occasionally some of the project training is offered at separate project meetings, but there are not separate groups for all projects. Some members may take a project under the guidance of their parents or a resource person they locate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club Name</th>
<th>Main Club Leader</th>
<th>Regular Monthly Meeting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elbert Area</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Elbert Creekside</td>
<td>Ben Duke 303-646-4699</td>
<td>1st Sunday @ 3 pm, Elbert Christian Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Timber Ridge</td>
<td>Amy Phillips 303-243-0239</td>
<td>1st Wednesday @ 6 pm Elbert School <em>Usually</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>*Meeting may be moved due to conflicting school schedule</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gold Creek</strong></td>
<td>Becky Leach 303-646-2718</td>
<td>3rd Monday @ 6:30 pm, Harvest Bible Church</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>High Plains</strong></td>
<td>Tracey Feist 303-646-2083</td>
<td>2nd Thursday @ 7 pm, Running Creek Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rattlesnake</strong></td>
<td>Colleen Freund 303-841-7901</td>
<td>3rd Monday @ 6:45 pm, Rattlesnake Fire House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Running Creek</strong></td>
<td>Jonna Negus 303-646-3115</td>
<td>1st Monday@ 7 pm, Elizabeth Middle School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sun Country</strong></td>
<td>Jill Parker 303-646-0347</td>
<td>3rd Wednesday @ 6:30 pm, Singing Hills Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kiowa Area</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Comanche Creek</td>
<td>April Sigmon 303-621-2202</td>
<td>3rd Thursday @ 6:30 pm, Fairgrounds, Ag Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiowa Community</td>
<td>Vicki Hutson 303-898-9720</td>
<td>1st Monday @ 7 pm, Kiowa High School</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Eastern Plains Area</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural Rustlers</td>
<td>Patty Churchwell 719-541-3755</td>
<td>4th Sunday @ 4:00 pm, Matheson Community Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer Trail Eagles</td>
<td>Jo Sickendick 303-641-0039</td>
<td>4th Sunday @ 4:00 pm, Matheson Community Church</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Meeting may be moved due to conflicting school schedule*
Elbert County 4-H Member in Good Standing Requirements

- In order to be a 4-H member in Elbert County the policy is you must reside in Elbert County.
- The Extension office may request proof to verify policy compliance.
- Regular 4-H members are ages 8-18 as of January 1. Cloverbud Activity is available for ages 5-7.
- The 4-H annual cycle begins October 1 and ends September 30 each year.

4-H Membership requires commitment and active involvement. Please make sure you are able to meet expectations and requirements before joining Elbert County 4-H.

A 4-H member must complete the following requirements by July 1 to be in good standing.

1. Attend six (6) of the regularly scheduled club meetings.
2. Complete over 50% of previous year’s projects. (First year members are exempt)
3. Give one oral demonstration, illustrated talk, or public presentation once a year. (One set of oral reasons at a judging contest counts as a public presentation)
4. Complete one community service project approved by main 4-H leader.

Additional Requirements:

- Other 4-H projects like Horse, Dog, and Shooting Sports have additional and project specific requirements, mandatory practices, testing, etc.
- All animal project members must complete the “Animal Care and Housing Form” and be the primary care taker of their animal(s).
- All livestock (both breeding and market) project members enrolled in goat, beef, swine, sheep, poultry, and rabbit need to attend a Meat Quality Assurance Class and test before June 1.
- All Market Sale participants will comply with all the rules set by the Elbert County Fair Board Market Sale Committee.

Exceptions:

- College students will develop a plan of membership requirements with their main 4-H leader and turn it in to the Extension Office.

- Attendance at six of the regularly scheduled club meetings excludes weigh-ins, practices, project meetings, special classes, fair, etc. A maximum of three (3) pre-approved substitutions are allowed for the six (6) meetings. Any substitution must be cleared by your club leader first and can include participation as a contestant in a specialty contest such as performing arts, speech arts, creative cooks, cake decorating or judging contests; or active work performed as a youth leader at an out of county camp, or attendance at a County Youth Council meeting.

- Member policy exceptions for persons not residing in Elbert County must meet specific criteria; have approval from the county in which they reside, complete a variance application, and then be evaluated by Elbert County 4-H Leaders Council. The state policy is: “Should a county Extension program close, 4-H members residing in that county will not be allowed to join 4-H in another county unless they have been enrolled in another county’s 4-H program prior to the closure of the Extension office in the county of their residence.”

Note: 4-H members can participate in only one county 4-H program annually. For example, a 4-H member cannot be enrolled in the Elbert County 4-H program and in the Lincoln County 4-H program at the same time. This member can only participate in one county fair.

Next page for State level regulations...
STATE 4-H Member Requirements and Consequences

Participation in certain state and county events is limited to those members who are in “good standing” with their local 4-H club and county. This includes abiding by the 4-H Code of Conduct, meeting deadlines, attending a majority of club and project meetings, and the following requirements:

- Exhibit each project taken during the club year (exhibit may be local).
- Participate in a demonstration or other speech arts presentation.
- Participate in a club citizenship program (community service) or activity.

4-H Code of Conduct:

Program participants at all levels are expected to abide by the stated rules for 4-H activities and events and will:

- Conduct themselves in a courteous, respectful manner, use appropriate language, exhibit good sportsmanship and act as a positive role model;
- Adhere to program rules, curfews, dress codes, policies and guidelines;
- Fully participate in scheduled activities;
- Respect other's property and privacy rights;
- Apply rules of safety to individuals, groups and property; and
- Accept personal responsibility for behavior.

The following behaviors will not be tolerated:

- Behaviors including the possession or use of: alcohol or illegal drugs; tobacco products; stolen goods; weapons (unless a part of a sanctioned shooting sports event); fireworks.
- Sexual, physical or verbal abuse;
- Females in rooms of males, and males in female rooms.

Conduct not in keeping with Colorado 4-H Youth Development standards will not be tolerated.

Violation of items listed above will result in consequences to the participant.
Law enforcement may be called and illegal behaviors may result in citations or arrest. Consequences may include, but are not limited to:

- removal, at the individuals’ expense and without refund, from participation in the event;
- restitution or repayment of damages;
- sanctions on participation in future local, state, regional or national 4-H events;
- forfeiture of financial support for this event;
- removal from offices held in 4-H;
- loss of status as a member in good standing;
- sanctions on involvement in the county fair;
- sanctions from participation in events which require Extension agents to certify that members be in good standing including, but not limited to, county fairs, Colorado State Fair, National Western Stock Show, AKSARBEN, and other regional and national events;
- forfeiture of financial awards or support