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# 4-H LEADS FOR LEADERS

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## 4-H EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

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Leader's Guide



Special 4-H events and activities are scheduled each year on a local, county, state, national and international basis to supplement the work in the local clubs. Such events provide 4-H members with opportunities to have new experiences, meet new people and enlarge their circle of friends. Some events also are used to acquaint the public with the 4-H program and to gain understanding and support for 4-H.

### Local Events

Each local 4-H club usually plans some special activities of its own. These events give most members an opportunity to take an active part and help parents and other observers understand the real purpose of 4-H work.

#### *Exhibit Days*

Exhibit days are held to show local people what 4-H members accomplish. Your members benefit from seeing the projects of others and by preparing and displaying their own exhibits.

#### *Parent Programs*

Many clubs have a special meeting for parents of 4-H members at the beginning and at the close of each club year. The first meeting helps parents understand the purpose of 4-H; what is to be done and how they can assist. The meeting at the end of the year gives them a chance to see the progress. As parents become more acquainted with the 4-H program, they usually are more interested in assisting the club and are able to guide the work of their own children more wisely. Meetings and programs for parents may be held at any time during the year. Some clubs have parents in attendance at most of the meetings.

### *Community Programs*

During the year, your club may want to schedule one or more community meetings and invite their friends. Club members may give demonstrations, project talks, or show pictures of projects and activities. Members and guests should also participate in recreational activities. Fund-raising may be integrated into community events. Be sure each club member has a job to do in planning and carrying out such programs. This experience is fun today and valuable training for tomorrow.

### *Achievement Programs*

Everyone likes recognition. It is suggested that your club hold an achievement program at the close of the club year and invite parents and neighbors. Recognize each member of your club with some appropriate remarks as the Certificate of Achievement is presented. Recognition will encourage your members to continue in their work and will interest prospective 4-H members.

### *Promotional Displays*

Your club can help inform the community about 4-H by making posters, window displays, building parade floats, and interactive displays in shopping malls. Alone, or in cooperation with other clubs, your club may build highway welcome signs. Promotional activities give your members a chance to participate. They may also influence others to join 4-H.

## **County Events**

Events at the county level vary. Many counties or districts conduct 4-H camps, fairs or shows, achievement days and leader training programs. County events usually are planned and conducted by the county member, leader or junior leader council or committees set up by the Extension staff in cooperation with these councils.

### *4-H Camps*

For many 4-H members, 4-H camp is one of the highlights of the year. Camps may be held in the summer and last several days or be held over weekends during the school year.

Besides adventure and fun, camps offer training in such things as the environment, leadership and other areas of interest that can be taught in an informal outdoor setting.

Camps afford opportunities for 4-H members to test themselves physically, mentally and socially. Young people learn to get along with others, to take responsibility and to learn health and safety practices in the out-of-doors.

#### *Fairs and Shows*

County fairs and 4-H exhibit days give 4-H members a chance to display some of the things they made or produced and to gain recognition for their efforts. This also is a time to acquaint the public with some aspects of the 4-H program. Various contests also are held in connection with some fairs.

When judges evaluate exhibits, they should explain their reasons to the participants. Members should then return home with new ideas and enthusiasm that will help them do a better job in the year ahead.

Top exhibits are eligible to be sent to the state fair. Winners in the county contests are eligible to compete in state contests.

#### *Judging Training and Contests*

Counties vary in the number and kind of judging training and contests they hold. Separate contests may be held in livestock judging, dairy judging, horse judging, wool judging, meats judging and home economics judging.

#### *Fashion Revue*

Most counties have a fashion revue for members who complete projects in clothing, knitting, crocheting or leathercraft. Two senior members may be selected to participate in the state contest.

#### *Demonstration Contests*

Learning to show and tell is important to 4-H members. A county contest encourages the development of well-planned and presented demonstrations.

#### *Creative Meals Contests*

A different and more informal demonstration of skills learned is provided in favorite foods and creative meals presentations.

### *Talent Contests, Festivals and Recreation*

Some counties have talent contests, festivals or special county-wide recreation events. These help members get acquainted and develop skills in communications and arts.

### *Exchanges*

Many counties carry out exchange programs with other counties, other states, other countries or with different cultures (rural—urban). Planning and funding is all done on the county, state and national level.

### *Fund-raising activities*

Counties often carry out fund-raising projects for expenses that are incurred in the county program.

Carnivals, suppers, talent programs, club sales and service projects often are successful fund raisers.

Members gain valuable experience working together to organize and carry out such activities. It is recommended that 4-H fund-raising activities give people something worthwhile for their money and develop 4-H members in the process.

### *Achievement Days and Recognition Events*

Achievement programs are held to recognize the accomplishments of both members and leaders. Certificates or other awards may be presented to all 4-H members who complete their project. Leaders and clubs may also receive recognition at the achievement program.

### *Leader Training Programs*

With the help of qualified leaders, Extension agents conduct leader training meetings in various project areas and in general aspects of 4-H work.

Extension specialists may also assist with leader training on a county, district or state-wide basis.

## **State Events**

State and other 4-H events beyond the county level are designed and conducted to encourage and help develop more effective 4-H work in the county and among the clubs.

### *State 4-H Conference*

A conference for youth 14 and over is held in June on the Colorado State University campus. It is coordinated by the state 4-H staff using suggestions from the district member and leader officers and assistance from many of the Extension agents. The purpose of the conference is to enable youth:

- to receive training in selected subject-matter areas;
- to learn and practice leadership skills;
- to participate in state contests held at that time; and
- to make new friends statewide.

### *State Fair*

The Colorado State Fair provides an opportunity to display agricultural, home economics and general project exhibits. Teen clerks and adult volunteers assist in managing the entry, judging and exhibition of projects.

### *Citizenship-Washington Focus*

Approximately 70 youth, 15 and over, from Colorado are selected each year to travel to Washington, D.C. and participate in a concentrated citizenship experience. Each county determines the selection process for these delegates and pays a part of the expenses for the trip.

## **Regional and National Events**

Many events are held on a regional or national basis. Information on these may be secured from your Extension agent.. The National Western Stock Show is held each January in Denver. The 4-H Catch-A-Calf Contest is held during the show.

### *National Western 4-H Roundup*

Delegates to the National Western 4-H Roundup, held in Denver in January, come from Colorado and surrounding states. Colorado delegates, 14 and over, are selected as a result of accomplishments in contests, exhibits or records. Extension agents have information on the Roundup. An educational program is carried out for all participants.

### *National 4-H Youth Congress*

4-H Congress is in December each year. State winners are selected on the basis of a resume that highlights the learning experiences and achievement of youth.

### *National 4-H Conference*

This event is held during April in Washington, D. C. A team of 4-H members, leaders and Extension personnel represent each state. The team members serve in an advisory capacity in developing many of the national 4-H programs.

### *Camp Miniwanca*

Located at Stony Lake, Michigan, Camp Miniwanca achieved national recognition in leadership training for young people. Selection is based on a well-rounded, long-time leadership record and delegates must be 17 and not over 21.

### *National Institute for Cooperative Education (NICE)*

NICE is held each year in early August at a different land-grant university (like Colorado State University). Its purpose is to provide opportunities to learn about various forms of conducting business, such as; cooperatives, private entrepreneurs, partnerships, and corporations. Delegates must be 14 or over.

## **International Events**

The 4-H idea (by many different names) is in operation in more than 80 counties around the world. More and more interchange of ideas between countries occurs through various exchanges and conferences. Ask your Extension agent for the latest information on these and other programs.

### *International 4-H Youth Exchange (19 to 25)*

Since 1951, Colorado has participated in this program to help promote better world understanding. Colorado sends two young people abroad each year to spend approximately six months living with host families in another country. Upon return, they visit Colorado counties, make personal reports and show colored slides they have taken.

Incoming delegates are hosted by Colorado families who keep the delegates in their homes and teach them about our way of life.

*Japanese Exchange Program (age 12 to 18)*

Colorado hosts approximately 100 teens from Japan in July and August. At the same time, Colorado teens who are able to finance their own trip are sent to Japan.

*IFYE Ambassador Programs*

These programs are available to 15 to 19-year-old Colorado 4-H members who are able to finance their own trips. These are usually five to six weeks in length to selected countries.

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