

WELCOME TO 4-H:

A NEW FAMILY'S GUIDE

SAN JUAN COUNTY



BE BOLD. Shape the Future.

**College of Agricultural, Consumer
and Environmental Sciences**

Cooperative Extension Service
Extension 4-H Youth Development



HEAD



HANDS



HEART



HEALTH



New Mexico State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and educator. NMSU and the US Department of Agriculture cooperating. If you are a member or volunteer that requires auxiliary assistance, please contact your county agent prior to an Extension program for assistance.

WHEN DID 4-H BEGIN?

The beginning of 4-H club work in New Mexico dates back to 1912. In January of that year, the New Mexico Agricultural College and the Santa Fe railway ran an agricultural train on all parts of the Santa Fe Railway system in the state. The train carried livestock and farm exhibits, and educational talks were given by specialists of the Agricultural College. Special meetings were held for young people in which boys' and girls' club work was discussed and organized. In 1913, the same general plan was followed with an agricultural train run in cooperation with the El Paso and Southwestern Railway. As a result, several boys' and girls' clubs were organized in eastern New Mexico.

With the passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914, and the permanent establishment of Cooperative Extension in New Mexico, more concentrated club work followed.

Today, 4-H projects are offered in creative arts, health and nutrition, natural science, plants and animals, communications, and many more areas! 4-H reaches youth in urban, suburban, and rural communities throughout New Mexico.

WHAT DO YOU DO IN 4-H?

4-H provides opportunities to learn life skills, gain knowledge while having fun, and make contributions in such areas as environmental education, community service, and current youth issues.

The 4-H program is dedicated to providing opportunities for young people to develop leadership and management skills, positive self-esteem, effective communication skills, a solid sense of personal responsibility and the ability to make sound decisions.

The life-skills learned in 4-H enable youth to become productive, well-informed, self-reliant responsible adults.



WHO CAN JOIN 4-H?

CloverBuds

Members who are age 5, 6, 7 or 8 AND in Kinder, 1st or 2nd grade. CloverBuds have their own exploratory curriculum that introduces them to the world of 4-H in a non-competitive, activity-focused setting.

Novice

Members who are 8 years old AND in the 3rd grade or ages 9, 10, or 11 and in the 3rd, 4th or 5th grade.

Junior

Members who are 11 years old AND in the 6th grade or 12 or 13 and in the 7th grade.

Senior

Members who are 13 years old AND in the 8th grade or 14-18 years of age.

4-H Age is Based on a member's age as of January 1 of the current 4-H year.

The official 4-H year is October 1st-September 30th

WHO OVERSEES THE 4-H PROGRAM?

The staff at the New Mexico State University San Juan County Cooperative Extension oversees the San Juan County 4-H program.

The office is currently located at 213-A South Oliver Drive in Aztec.

After December 1, 2025 the staff will relocate to 400 Gossett Drive, Aztec.



505-334-9496 sanjuanextension.nmsu.edu



Enrolling in NM 4-H

New Mexico 4-H enrollment is completed on the Z-Suites website. Please work with the Extension office to select a club, and communicate with that club leader **PRIOR** to enrolling on zsuites. Members must have an approved zsuites enrollment, and club approval to be fully enrolled in 4-H. Members must follow the bylaws of their specific club guidelines to maintain 4-H membership.

1

Create Your Account

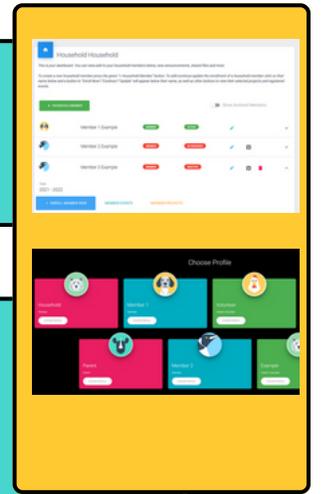
- Go to 4h.zsuite.org in your web browser.
- Click the "Sign Up" button to create a new household account.
- Enter your preferred email, select your state and county, and provide the household last name.
- Create a strong password and a four-character PIN for the primary household member.



2

Add Household Members

- Once logged in, click "Add Household Member" on your dashboard.
- Fill in the required information for each youth or volunteer, including their name and date of birth.



3

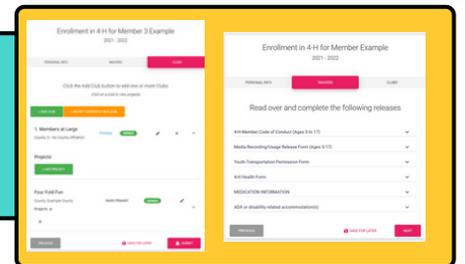
Complete Waivers and Information

- Sign the electronic waivers, which may include a risk waiver, code of conduct, and photo release. The Extension office needs a signed copy.
- Provide other requested details, ensuring they are accurate for your county office.

4

Register for Clubs and Projects

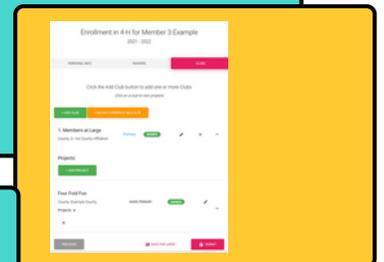
- Find and select the club and projects you want to join.
- Ensure you update your project choices to receive the correct communications.



5

Submit and Await Approval

- Click "Submit" to send your enrollment for approval.
- Wait for the county 4-H staff to approve your submission, which will then be visible on your dashboard.



4h.zsuites.org

SCAN ME



Please get in contact with your San Juan County Extension Office to make sure you have completed all the forms. Enrollment approval will be sent through email.

(505-334-9496)



Clever Clovers

Jesse Keating 505-360-1730
Missy Hastings 505-947-6939
Meets in Aztec 1st Monday 6:30pm

Country Rebels

Miranda Meader 505-419-4355
Julie Brown 505-330-0303
Meets at McGee Park 2nd Thurs 6pm

Dreamweavers

Ferrari Arviso 505-947-8886
Christy Garcia 505-793-2363
Meets at McGee Park, 2nd Mon 6:30pm

La Plata Blue Ribbons

Amber Elrdidge 505-330-0292
Amy Hadden 505-486-1072
Old Red Schoolhouse, La Plata 1st Tues 7pm

Levi & Calico

Tara Walraven 505-947-3179
Sealee Foster 505-320-0423
Waterflow Community Hall, 1st Mon 7pm

Los Rancheros

Davin Jacquez 619-888-3722
Meets in Bloomfield, 2nd
Wed 6pm (7pm summer)

Outlaws

Kelly Lackey 928-243-2241
Brittinie Brown 970-903-7717
Meets at San Juan College 2nd Thurs 6pm

Pioneer Kidz

Tamera Hargis 505-330-9445
Robin Rivera 575-639-0845
Aztec HS Ag Barn,
2nd Tuesday 6:30pm ODD months

Primetime 4-H

Jennifer Halphen 505-801-2801
Jill Cunningham 505-486-2348
Clubs meet at McGee Park, 1st Wed 5:30

Roadrunners

Brook Klitzke 970-764-7036
Sandra Russell 505-360-8047
Club meets at McGee Park, 3rd Thurs 5:30pm

Ropes & Revolvers/Freedom Riders

Amber Wilkins 505-801-4402
Leah Schmidt 505-486-4360
Aztec High School, 2nd Monday 6:30pm

Shiprock 4-H

Leighann Frazier 505-639-2394
Shiprock High School AG classroom,
3rd Sunday 4pm

Showtimes 4-H

Sabrina Huntington 970-946-8564
Meets in Aztec, 1st Sunday 3:30pm

Silver Dollar

Andrea Beaty 505-330-0208
Lisa Reilley 505-330-7628
Meets at McGee Park, 1st Tuesday 6:30

Upper Fruitland

Roxanne Lee 505-947-5977
Upper Fruitland Chapter House

Urban Orchard

Jamie Ortiz 505-334-9496
Rachael Banks 505-330-4420
Farmington Knights of Columbus,
2nd Monday 6pm

Please contact the Leaders or Co-Leaders to find out where the 4-H meetings take place. Some meetings maybe held different places cause of scheduling conflicts

What to do once you're enrolled---sign up for specific projects!

What projects can I do if I am interested in a specific topic? We encourage members to explore projects by requesting project materials from their club leaders or Extension Office. Each 4-H project has unique educational materials that guide members through a wide variety of interests. While some projects are tied to competitive events like the County Fair, all are made to teach life skills.

4-H PROJECTS QUICK LOOK LIST

Animal Science

Beef
Dairy Cattle
Goats
Dog Care and Training
Cats
Horse
Rodeo
Poultry
Rabbits
Sheep
Swine
Veterinarian Science
Pet Projects: Fish, Hamster, Guinea Pig,
Indoor Birds

Home Economics

Clothing: Sewing and Design
Quilting
Cake Decorating
Food and Nutrition
Food Preservation
Interior Design
Consumer Education
Family: Babysitting, Child
Development
Etc.

Horticulture and Agronomy

Plant and Soil Science
Gardening: Flowers, Landscape, Vegetables
Range and Pasture Management
Forestry
Entomology
Wildlife
Beekeeping
Shooting Sports: Air Rifle, .22 Rifle, Pistol,
Shotgun, Archery, Muzzleloading
Sports fishing
Etc.

Personal Growth and Development

4-H Growth and Development
Health: Physical Fitness, Training and Weights
Leadership
Public Speaking
Story Telling
Citizenship
Clowning
New Mexico Culture and Education
Computer Science
Etc.

Creative Arts

Leather Craft
Braiding
Fibercraft: Embroidery, Cross Stitch, Weaving,
Needlepoint, Macrame, Denim
Ceramics
Jewelry Making
Photography
Scrapbooking
Origami
Arts & Crafts
Etc.

Engineering

Electric Energy
Small Engines
Wood Working
Rocketry
Wood Science
Robotics
Etc.



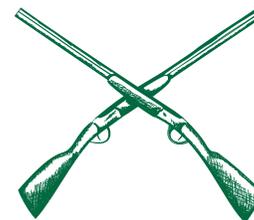
The Life Skills Wheel shows the many life skills that youth can and do learn through hands-on, project-based learning with 4-H. Youth carry these life skills forward into later life, as a foundation for citizenship and leadership in adulthood.



Archery Program

David Meador 505-419-4355

David Rhodes 505-860-1173



Shotgun Program

Jordan Hockenull 505-716-1939

Jourdyn Hockenull 505-330-4149

Orientation January 2026 at Expert Archery, Practice TBA

Please contact the coaches or Extension Office to get signed up.

San Juan Wildlife Federation Range, 5652 US 64 Practice TBA
Please contact the coaches or Extension Office to get signed up.



Air Rifle/ .22 Small Bore Rifle

Ronnie James 505-860-2473

Amber James 505-860-7265

Greg Cresswell 505-320-3093



Initial meeting and practices will begin in November, for Seniors (specific dates to be announced).

AIR RIFLE (Seniors)- Air Rifle practices on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. All practices are at the San Juan Wildlife Federation

.22 Small Bore Rifle (Seniors) San Juan Wildlife Federation Range, 5652 US 64
Dates (TBA)

Initial meeting and practices will begin in January, Junior & Novice (specific dates to be announced).

AIR RIFLE (Junior & Novice) Air rifle practices on Sundays at 12:00 pm
.22 Small Bore Rifle (Juniors & Novice) Smallbore practices on Sundays at 1:30 pm.
All practices at the San Juan Wildlife Federation Range.

PLEASE CONTACT THE COACHES FOR MORE INFORMATION

MEET OUR TEAM



Bonnie Hopkins Byers, County Director/ Agriculture Agent

Bonnie is the Agricultural Extension Agent and County Program Director for the Cooperative Extension Service in San Juan County. Bonnie is a Four Corners native and has been with the Extension office since 2010. As the Agriculture Agent, she assists in all manner of ag production from forage production to invasive weed management as well as overseeing the local Master Gardener volunteer program, the Growing Forward Farm project and New Farmer Network programs.. Bonnie is passionate about on farm food safety, market access for local producers, community health and the legacy of agriculture in San Juan County. Bonnie oversees all office operations, financials, reports and assists with the 4-H program as needed. bhopkins@nmsu.edu



Rick Griffiths, Family Consumer Science Agent

Rick came to the Four Corners from Salt Lake City and has served as the San Juan County FCS Agent since 2014. Rick's Programming focuses on At-Home Food Safety, Resource Management, Organizational Leadership, and Health and Wellness programming. Additionally, He also assists the 4-H program as needed. rickgrif@nmsu.edu



Jamie Ortiz ICAN Health and Nutrition Educator

Jamie Ortiz is our SNAP Educator for the ICAN (Ideas for Cooking and Nutrition) for San Juan County. She works around the county to promote healthy eating and nutrition education. She works with youth and adult community members, in schools and community centers. jamortiz@nmsu.edu



Melissa Hastings. Extension Program Assistant

Melissa Hastings is the Extension Program Assistant. She assists with all manners of the Extension programs including the 4-H program, from enrollments to project organization. Melissa, or Missy, has a strong background in the 4-H program and is a great resource for Z Suite questions and troubleshooting as well as registration for events. She helps club leaders and volunteers with project materials and 4-H events. mhasting@nmsu.edu



Shelly Meisner, Administrative Assistant

Shelly is the San Juan County Administrative Assistant. She assists the office staff in organizing budgets, reports, data and general office records. Shelly helps keep the office running smoothly, taking phone calls and helping community members that come into the office. mei65@nmsu.edu



Daniel Evans, Growing Forward Farm

Daniel Evans joins the NMSU Extension Office bringing with him deep roots in the Farmington, NM community, where he has lived most of his life. A graduate of New Mexico State University, Daniel combines his educational expertise with a strong commitment to community health and growth. He is passionate about making a difference in San Juan County and sees his work on the Growing Forward Farm as a way to build a healthier future for his children and neighbors. Outside of work, Daniel enjoys outdoor activities and sports, and he remains actively involved in local opportunities like Connie Mack and serving on the Hills Academy board.



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MAJOR SAN JUAN COUNTY 4-H DATES AND EVENTS

2025

- November 8: 4-H Adult Retreat, Bernalillo County
- November 14: End-of-Year Awards Banquet
- November 14: Re-enrollment closes
- Nov 28-Dec 14: Tractor Supply Clover Campaign
- Nov 15-Dec 15 Extension office MOVE dates
- Nov-December: Rodeo and Shooting Sports practices begin

2026

- January 24th-26th, 2026: Senior Leadership retreat
- January 30th Project enrollment deadlines for rodeo and shooting sports
- March 1, 2026: 4-H Enrollment closes for Youth and adults
- March 17,18,19: Daycamp (subject to change)

- April: County Contests
- April 10-13: Youth Get Away
- April 18: Beef Tag in for San Juan County Fair
- May 1: The last day to add or drop projects
- May 9: Hog/Lamb/Goat Tag in SJC Fair
- May 29-30: ITTY Bitty Jackpot
- May 1-3: State Shooting Competition
- June 23-24: Northern District Contest
- June: Ag-Tivity Camp (seniors)
- July 13-17: State 4-H contest
- August: San Juan County Fair August 2026
- September: New Mexico State Fair
- October: National 4-H Week
- October: Project Record Books due
- October: County Council Officer Elections
- October 4-H year-NEW Members may begin enrolling
- Nov-December:End of Year Banquet Awards & Rodeo and Shooting Sports practices begin