

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



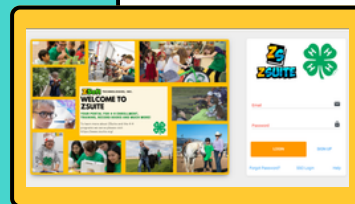
Enrolling in NM 4-H

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

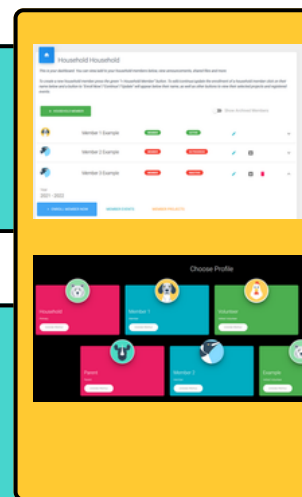
- Go to 4h.zsuite.org in your web browser.
- Click the "Sign Up" button to create a new household account.
- Enter your preferred email, select your state and county, and provide the household last name.
- Create a strong password and a four-character PIN for the primary household member.



2

Add Household Members

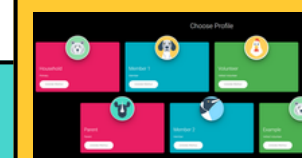
- Once logged in, click "Add Household Member" on your dashboard.
- Fill in the required information for each youth or volunteer, including their name and date of birth.



3

Complete Waivers and Information

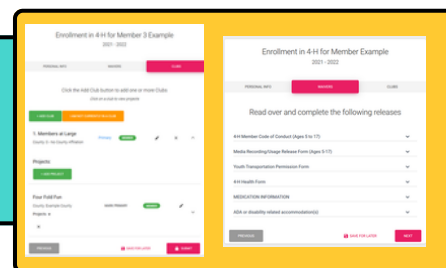
- Sign the electronic waivers, which may include a risk waiver, code of conduct, and photo release. The Extension office needs a signed copy.
- Provide other requested details, ensuring they are accurate for your county office.



4

Register for Clubs and Projects

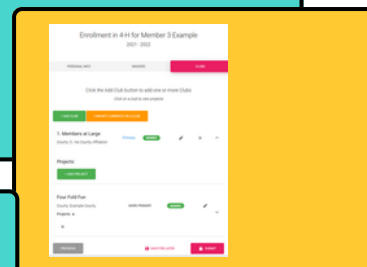
- Find and select the club and projects you want to join.
- Ensure you update your project choices to receive the correct communications.



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

1st Monday 6:30pm SJC Extension Office

Country Rebels

Miranda Meader 505-419-4355

Heather Thompson 505-486-4312

Meets at McGee Park 2nd Thurs 6pm

Dreamweavers

Ferrari Arviso 505-947-8886

Christy Garcia 505-793-2363

2nd Mon 6:30pm Meets at McGee Park,

La Plata Blue Ribbons

Amy Hadden 505-486-1072

Cortney Preator 307-202-1607

1st Mon. 7pm Old Red Schoolhouse, La Plata

Levi & Calico

Tara Walraven 505-947-3179

Sealee Foster 505-320-0423

1st Mon 7pm Waterflow Community Hall,

Los Rancheros

Davin Jacquez 619-888-3722

Melissa Babcock 505-215-8945

Meets in Bloomfield,

2nd Wed 6pm (7pm summer)

Outlaws

Kelly Lackey 928-243-2241

Brittinie Brown 970-903-7717

2nd Thurs 6pm Meets at San Juan College

Pioneer Kidz

Tamera Hargis 505-330-9445

Robin Rivera 575-639-0845

Park Ave Cafeteria Aztec

3rd Tuesday 6:30pm Odd months

Primetime 4-H

Taffnie Anderson 505-793-1518

Jill Cunningham 505-486-2348

1st Wednesday 6:30pm SJC Extension Office

Ribbon Ropers

Taylor Ashcroft 505-516-2533

Sherri Ashcroft 505-

1st Monday of each month McGee Park

Rm. C

Roadrunners

Roxanne Kennedy 505-609-0131

Brooke Klitzke 970-764-7036

1st Thurs 5:30pm Club meets at McGee Park

***Ropes & Revolvers/Freedom Riders**

Amber Wilkins 505-801-4402

1st Monday Aztec High School 6:30pm

Shiprock 4-H

Leighann Frazier 505-639-2394

3rd Sunday 4pm Shiprock High School AG
classroom,

Showtimes 4-H

Sabrina Huntington 970-946-8564

Tasha Lucero 505-634-3407

1st Sunday 3:30pm Bloomfield High School

Silver Dollar

Andrea Beaty 505-330-0208

Lisa Reilley 505-330-7628

1st Tuesday 6:30 SJC Extension Office

Upper Fruitland

Roxanne Lee 505-947-5977

Upper Fruitland Chapter House

Urban Orchard

Jamie Ortiz 505-710-6629

Rachael Banks 505-330-4420

Farmington Knights of Columbus,
2nd Monday 6pm

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.



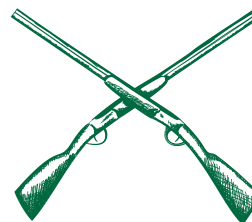
The Life Skills Wheel shows the many life skills that youth can and do learn through hands-on, project-based learning with 4-H. Youth carry these life skills forward into later life, as a foundation for citizenship and leadership in adulthood.



Archery Program

David Meador 505-258-5924

David Rhodes 505-860-1173



Shotgun Program

Jessie Graham 505-947-0052

Jourdyn Hockenhull 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



Lena Sanchez 4-H Agriculture Agent

Lena Sanchez is a New Mexico native and a graduate of New Mexico State University, with a strong background in agriculture. Lena is the 4-H Agriculture Agent, she assists with 4-H ag programs and events such as rodeo, livestock and the horse program. lena015@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.

MAJOR SAN JUAN COUNTY 4-H DATES AND EVENTS

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



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