

February 2024

# Otero County 4-H NEWSLETTER



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## 4-H Meeting Schedule

4-H Club	Time/Location	Monthly Meeting	Next Meeting
Alamogordo 4-H	6pm @ New Exhibit building - Fairgrounds	2nd Tuesday	Feb. 13
Cloudcroft 4-H Club	6:00pm @ Cloudcroft Middle School Commons Area	Last Thursday	Feb.29
Heritage 4-H	7pm @ Fairgrounds	2nd Monday	Feb. 12
Mescalero 4-H	3pm @ first Baptist Ruidoso (Country Club Drive)	1st Sunday	Feb. 4
Mustangs 4-H	6pm@ High Rolls Senior Center	Last Tuesday	Feb. 27
Tularosa 4-H	7pm @ Carroll Family Home	1st Tuesday	Feb.6
Wildcats 4-H After-School	5:30pm @ Tularosa Public Schools	3rd Tuesday	Feb. 20

Please ensure the 4-H Club you are enrolled in on Zsuites matches the club you are actively attending. If you are enrolled in two ore more clubs you are expected to be in good standing for both clubs.



**BE BOLD. Shape the Future.**  
**College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences**  
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# 4-H Age Groups for the 2023- 2024 4-H Year

	*Cloverbud	Novice	Junior	Senior
Grade as of January 1, 2024	Kinder, 1st, 2nd	3rd, 4th, and 5th	6th, 7th	8th and up
Age as of January 1, 2024	5 year olds; 6 year olds; 7 year olds; 8 year olds and in the 2nd grade	8 year olds in the 3rd grade, 9 year olds, 10 year olds, 11 year olds in the 5th grade	11 year olds in the 6th grade; 12 year olds; 13 year olds in the 7th grade	13 year olds in the 8th grade; 14 year olds; 15 year olds; 16 year olds; 17 year olds; 18 year olds; Youth who are 19 by December 31 of the current 4-H year are not eligible to enroll as a 4-H member

The current 4-H program year is October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024. Rodeo age requirements vary slightly from other 4-H programs and can be found in the NM 4-H Rodeo Rule Book on the NM 4-H Website.

\*While the 4-H Cloverbuds program is a component of the overall 4-H Youth Development program and 4-H Cloverbuds members are recognized as 4-H members for the purposes of enrollment, they are considered to be in a special membership category with regard to programs and policies.

## Good Standing

Members, parents and leaders, do you know exactly what 4-H members need to do to be in "good standing"? Do you know what the "good standing" requirements are? If not, please take a moment to check these out now. Don't wait until before the fair (or other events/activities) when you may not have enough time to meet the requirements.

Remember, a 4-H member in good standing is one who has met the following requirements:

- Enrolls in a 4-H Club by February 1, 2024.
- Attends at least 40% of all club meetings held between October 1, 2023 and the date of the event or activity. Some 4-H Clubs require members to attend at least 50% of club meetings. So, be sure to check with your 4-H club leader for the minimum number of club meetings you are required to attend to be considered in "good standing".
- Follows the NM 4-H Conduct and Behavior Expectations of Youth and Adults.

## 4-H Project Materials

In 4-H, there are numerous projects available to members. Projects include animal science, gardening, photography, foods, clothing, public speaking, creative arts, Cloverbuds and more. A complete list of projects is available on the NM 4-H website. Project materials are available for each 4-H project which include manuals and record forms. Members receive materials by enrolling in the project and requesting materials from the Otero County Extension Service. Leaders may also request project materials to facilitate 4-H project meetings.

Many of the 4-H project materials are available as a digital file (free of charge). In Otero County, the first three printed project materials are provided free of charge to 4-H members and any additional projects cost \$4.00 each. If you would like to request digital or printed project materials, please call (575-437-0231) or email (otero@nmsu.edu) the Otero County Extension Service. There is no deadline for adding a project to your enrollment during the 4-H program year.

## 4-H Enrollment Changes and Meeting Attendance

Please contact the Extension Office, 575-437-0231, if you would like to make any changes to your 4-H enrollment. After February 1, 2024, you will not be able to make any changes in the Zsuite enrollment program via the Zsuite website and therefore you will need to contact the Extension Office by phone, 575-437-0231, or email, otero@nmsu.edu, and request changes be made to your enrollment. This includes changing to a different club, adding/dropping 4-H projects, updates to your contact information, etc. Parents/guardians need to check with their organizational 4-H club volunteer leader and confirm their youth are enrolled in the 4-H club they are attending 4-H club meetings for as good standing verification will be sent to the 4-H club youth are enrolled in via the Zsuite enrollment program. 4-H members will only receive credit towards good standing for attending 4-H club meetings for which they are enrolled in via Zsuite. Also, 4-H youth enrolled in multiple 4-H clubs via Zsuite are required to meet the attendance requirements of all clubs they are enrolled in to be considered in good standing.

## 4-H Volunteer Requirements

**To help with 4-H events, adult volunteers will need to**

**1. Complete a background check**

**2. Enroll as a Volunteer either paper copy or on Zsutes.**

**3. Complete the working with minors course on Zsutes:**

1. Go to <https://4h.zsuite.org> For best results: Use Google Chrome, Safari or Firefox as your internet browser. Complete this training on a laptop or desktop computer. If you are using a tablet device, please note you may need to scroll to have text and interactive elements in this training to appear and/or work properly.
2. Sign-up and register a new household account. If you already have an account skip to #3. (A tip sheet for creating a new household account is available from the ZSuite website.)
3. Log in with your email and password. If you had an account and can't remember your password select "Forgot Password?" to reset.
4. If you open any window in Zsutes and you see the pink "UPDATE READY - CLICK TO RELOAD" – click on the pink update button so that you have the latest updates.
5. Select "Clover Academy" on left menu bar, then select "ENROLL" for the New Mexico – Working with Minors training. You may need to scroll to the bottom of the page to see the training and "ENROLL". Please note, there are additional trainings on this page that are optional.
6. Select "YES" for confirming your enrollment in New Mexico – Working with Minors training.

7. Select "OK" indicating that you have been successfully enrolled in the training
8. Select "LAUNCH" to open the next page of New Mexico – Working with Minors training.
9. Select "New Mexico Working with Minors" to open the next page of New Mexico – Working with Minors training.
10. Select the blue box to begin the training.
11. Select "START EXPLORING" and read each lesson. After you scroll to the end of each lesson, you will see the title of the next lesson at the bottom of the screen. Select the next lesson shown on the bottom of the screen to advance through each lesson. Click on lesson features (such as images, symbols +, etc.) as provided to expand and read additional text. There are two quizzes (knowledge checks) within the training that you must complete. If you do not score 80% or higher to pass, you will need to retake the quiz. There is a retake button at the end of each quiz.
12. Once you complete all lessons and successfully pass the quizzes, select "Completion Certificate" button in the bottom right corner of the screen.
13. You will be taken to another page where you may view a certificate of completion for successfully completing the New Mexico – Working with Minors training. No additional actions need to be taken on your part. Zsuite will notify the County Extension Office that your annual training is complete. Please contact the Extension Office if you have any questions, 575-437-0231. Thank you!

## February County Council Meeting

The next County 4-H Council Meeting is scheduled for:

Thursday, February 15th, 6:30 pm at the Extension Office

Everyone is welcome to attend....but, please be especially sure to send your County 4-H Council club voting representatives!

# SAVE THE DATE

**Southern Regional Livestock School**

**June 12th- June 14th, 2024**

**Registration will Open May 1st!**

**Jackpot Information TBD**

**Luna Co. Fairgrounds  
Deming, NM**

**Featuring:**

**Cattle, Sheep, Goat & Swine Tracks**



## NM 4-H Community Service Scholarship

The NM 4-H Community Service Scholarship provides financial assistance to any Novice, Junior, or Senior 4-H member participating in a state 4-H event (examples: Senior Leadership Retreat or Youth Get-Away). The scholarship will cover the registration expenses for the state 4-H event. In addition, the scholarship also provides \$250 of the team fees for Senior 4-H members serving as a State 4-H Officer or Ambassador. A complete description of the scholarship criteria and an application form can be obtained from the NM 4-H website. A list of scholarship application deadline dates is also included on the website.



FCS School

Albuquerque, NM



\$60 Registration fee

Due Feb. 5th

March 9-10

Youth Get Away

Glorieta, NM

April 19-21



State Shooting Sports  
Championship

Raton, NM

May 2-5



# Welcome to New Mexico 4-H Workshop

Join us Thursday February 15th at 5:00pm at the Otero County Fairgrounds to create your New Mexico 4-H T-shirt! Stay and join us for the County Council meeting following! Participants must bring their own shirt to the workshop. White shirts work the best.



Please RSVP no later than February 9th by 5:00pm. You can RSVP by calling the Otero County Extension Office at 575-437-0231 or emailing kalie17g@nmsu.edu



If you are an individual with a disability and need an auxiliary aid or service, please contact Kalie Gillespie at 575-437-0231 two weeks prior to event

## Take 10 with 4-H

### What: Idea/Information Sharing for 4-H Volunteer Leaders via Zoom

An extension agent or 4-H volunteer will present about 5-7 minutes on a topic and open up for sharing from participants for remainder of the 10 minutes. Sessions will be recorded and shared on the State 4-H website. Since the scheduled Take 10 sessions will only focus on one small part of a larger topic, additional resources will also be found on the State 4-H website under the selected Take 10 topic.



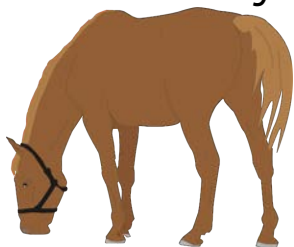
**When:** 1st Thursday of the month on the dates below during the lunch hour.

The topics held during the same lunch hour will be separate presentations.

2024 Dates/Topics/Times:	
<b>January 4, 2024</b> NM 4-H 101- Part 1 (12:15pm) Community Service Plan for the Year (12:30pm)	<b>May 2, 2024</b> Ranch Camp (12:15pm) Food Challenge(12:30pm) Parliamentary Procedure (12:45pm)
<b>February 1, 2024</b> Livestock School (12:15pm) Horse School (12:30pm)	<b>October 3, 2024</b> New Family Information (12:30pm) NM 4-H Adult Forum (12:45pm)
<b>March 7, 2024</b> Judging Quick Facts (12:30pm)	<b>November 7, 2024</b> Range School (12:30pm)
<b>April 4, 2024</b> Dog School (12:30pm)	<b>December 5, 2024</b> Project Clips (12:30pm)

# Horse Project

Sid Gordon the Agriculture Agent for Otero County works with 4-H youth and their equine to ensure better and safe riding practices. Youth attending must wear a helmet and bring their own horse. The first riding practice will take place at the Otero County Fairgrounds at 10:00am on Saturday, February 10th. Horse certificates must be turned in to the Otero County Extension Office by May 1st. NM 4-H Rodeo forms are due February 1st.



## Rocketry

Rocketry will be starting back up in the 2024 year. If you are interested in participating in the rocketry workshop please RSVP with Christine Martin at [alamogordo4H@gmail.com](mailto:alamogordo4H@gmail.com). Members must attend at least 3 of the 4 workshops offered.

February 24th at 10am

March 23rd @ TBD

April 27th @ TBD

May 18th @ TBD

All workshops will take place at the Extension Office.



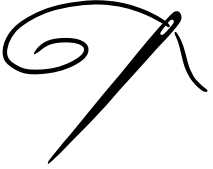
## Senior Leadership Retreat

14 Senior 4-H members attended SLR in Las Cruces, on the NMSU Campus. They toured the NMSU campus, got hypnotized, and danced the nights away with their new and old friends.

## 4-H Day at the Roundhouse

Four of Otero County 4-H members were able to make it to 4-H Day at the Roundhouse. They were able to meet with Senator Griggs and see the House of Representatives.





# Sewing

4-H sewing workshops will be held on Monday afternoons in February at the Otero County Extension Office. All Novice, Junior, and Senior 4-H members may participate in the sessions. If you are interested in participating in the sessions, please contact Kelly at the Extension Office, 575-437-0231 or [kelknigh@nmsu.edu](mailto:kelknigh@nmsu.edu). Kelly will provide assistance to 4-H families for selecting a 4-H sewing project. Sewing options include garments, tote bags, aprons, quilts, to name a few. All sewing levels are welcome, beginners to advanced. Sewing machines will be provided for 4-H members to use or 4-H members may bring their own machines to the sessions. There is no fee for participating. However, 4-H members are responsible for purchasing some supplies such as fabric, thread, patterns, buttons, elastic, etc.

Last 4-H year we had a growing number of 4-H members participating in the sewing sessions. If the numbers continue to grow, we will need more adults to stay and assist 4-H members during the sessions.

Parents are always welcome to attend the sewing sessions and help their child(ren). Parents do not have to be experts in sewing to help, they simply need to be willing to learn and help. The agent and volunteer leaders will provide direction and assistance to 4-H members during the sessions, but we may need additional adults to attend with their youth. An adult who is an enrolled 4-H leader is welcome to assist any of the 4-H youth. Parents who are not enrolled 4-H leaders may assist their own child(ren) during the sewing sessions. We have 10 sewing machines available each week for sewing. If we have an occurrence of not having enough machines for the number of youth attending the sessions, then we may need to look at requiring 4-H families to RSVP for the sewing sessions.

The purpose of the 4-H sewing project is to provide 4-H youth with a lifetime skill. Youth will learn skills that can save them money throughout their lifetime. They can replace a lost button or sew a seam that ripped open. They will also gain self-confidence, patience, perseverance, problem-solving and they'll have an opportunity to express their creative side through sewing. 4-H'ers will enter their completed sewing items in the Otero County 4-H Achievement Day (usually scheduled in August) and may participate in 4-H Fashion revues (summer months).

Please contact Kelly at the Extension Office if you have any questions regarding 4-H sewing projects, 575-437-0231 or [kelknigh@nmsu.edu](mailto:kelknigh@nmsu.edu).



# New Mexico 4-H Shooting Sports Youth Leadership Summit



Shooting Sports Youth Summit will be held on March 22-24, 2023, at the NRA Whittington Center in Raton, New Mexico. The event will be open to Senior Age 4-H members enrolled in a 4-H Shooting Sports Project. The Summit will be limited. Applications will be due by February 15th in the Extension Office and the cost will be \$250.00 per participant and will include housing and meals at the Whittington Center.

The activities throughout the weekend will be a “hands-on” approach. Each individual will have an opportunity to be exposed to all the shooting sports disciplines offered in the New Mexico 4-H Program and will learn safety and techniques to teach and help other youth in those areas. Leadership activities throughout the weekend will allow youth to become spokespersons and ambassadors for the New Mexico 4-H Shooting Sports Program and take what they have learned back to their County to be an asset to the program.

This is not an event to develop better shooters, but is a leadership event based around the 4-H shooting sports projects and to develop state-wide ambassadors for the program. The application process will give more weight to leadership activities than shooting sports activities.

## Tagging Dates

### Cattle

April 18th from 5pm to 7pm

April 20th from 8am to 10am

### Sheep, Goat, and Swine

June 6th from 5pm to 7pm

June 8th from 8am to 10am

If you have scheduling conflicts with these dates, please contact Kalie at the Otero County Extension Office at 575-437-0231 to schedule a time to bring livestock to be tagged at least two weeks prior to these dates.





# Shooting Sports

## Hunter's Safety

All 4-H members must complete a hunter education class before they are eligible to participate in shooting sports practices and contests. 4-H members participating in practices and contests need to submit a copy of their hunter education card and signed county plan to the Extension Office if they have not already done so. The New Mexico Game and Fish website has information regarding hunter education classes including an online course. California also offers an online hunter education class with no minimum age requirement.

## Practice Requirements

Before being able to participate in shooting sports, participants must:

- Enroll Completely in 4-H
- Provide Hunters Safety Completion
- Signed County Plan
- Liability Waivers (can be copies from enrollment)
- Must attend at least 1 in said discipline practice before March 1

## Archery Practices :

Location: Fair Grounds

February 1

February 8

February 22

February 29

Novic & Juniors 6pm - 7pm

Seniors 7pm- 8pm

## Rifle Practices :

Location: Roadrunner Trap Club

All age divisions 1pm

February 4

February 18

## Shotgun Practices :

Location: Roadrunner Trap Club

RSVP with Tommie Sue 575-491-6725.

February 4 9am

February 11 1pm

February 25 9am

All Shooting sports meeting will be held February 8th at 5:30 at the Otero County Fairgrounds prior to the archery practice.



Happy Valentines Day!

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# 2024 February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Archery Practice	2	3
4 Shotgun Practice 9am Rifle Practice 1pm Mescalero 4-H Meeting	5 Sewing	6 Tularosa 4-H Meeting	7	8 Shooting Sports Meeting Archery Practice	9	10 Horse Practice
11 Shotgun Practice 1pm	12 Sewing Heritage 4-H Meeting	13 Alamogordo 4-H Meeting	14	15 Welcome to NM 4-H Workshop County Council	16	17 Shooting Sports Coaches Training Albuquerque NM
18 Rifle Practice 1pm Shooting Sports Coaches Training	19 Sewing	20 Wildcats 4-H Meeting	21	22 Archery Practice	23	24
25 Shotgun Practice 1pm	26 Sewing	27 Mustangs 4-H Meeting	28	29 Archery Practice Cloudcroft 4-H Meeting		