



2017 Important Information

4-H is the largest out-of-school youth organization in the United States with over 7 million youth members world-wide. 4-H is a non-formal, educational, youth development program that is offered to kids age 8 to 18, regardless of their race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, gender, or handicap. A “Cloverbud” Club for younger members ages 5-7 is also offered in Converse County. There are extension staff responsible for 4-H programs in every county in Wyoming. Whether you live in a city, suburb or rural area, there’s something for you in 4-H. Members learn life skills, make new friends, enhance self-esteem, achieve personal goals, develop positive relationships with peers and volunteers, and have fun learning and sharing as a family and a club.

Wyoming 4-H has “open enrollment” meaning you can enroll in the program at any time. It is highly suggested you enroll as close to October 1st as possible to take advantage of all the fall activities. Also, different projects and events (animal projects, shooting sports projects, Self-Determined, Junior Leader Project, event registration, etc.) have different enrollment deadlines, so check with the 4-H Office if you have questions about specific projects. There is a \$10 fee for enrollment in Converse County 4-H. This fee covers the cost of insurance. All 4-H members and leaders are covered by Wyoming 4-H Insurance during 4-H functions.

University of Wyoming 4-H uses a software program called 4-HOnline for their data management. Whether you are a parent enrolling your children, or an adult wishing to volunteer, it all starts by enrolling at 4-H Online (<https://wy.4honline.com>).

Newsletters are published periodically at the 4-H Office and can be hard-copy mailed if requested. Newsletters contain information about 4-H projects and events and information that applies to the 4-H program. There will be tips and pointers in the newsletter as well. The newsletter is one method information is distributed about the 4-H program.

The newsletter is available online at the Converse County 4-H webpage at <http://www.wyomingextension.org/converse4h>.

LIKE US on our Converse County 4-H Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Converse-County-4-H/210321986821> for weekly (and sometimes daily!) updates.

4-H Clubs are the main method of structuring for the 4-H program. 4-H Club structure has been found to be the best delivery method to accomplish youth development. Clubs offer opportunities outside of projects for youth to learn and develop socially by teamwork, community service activities, and public speaking opportunities. There are two different types of 4-H Clubs: Community Clubs and Project Clubs. Most of the clubs in Converse County are Community Clubs, with a few Project Clubs. Members may belong to more than one club if their interests fall within the scope of different clubs. Clubs hold events such as fundraisers, community service activities, and have a leadership structure made up of 4-H members. Clubs are overseen by a Club Leader but are really run by their members. Most clubs elect officers such as President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer with some clubs offering Reporter, Historian, Recreation Leader, Refreshment Officer and other offices to allow a larger number of member leadership opportunities. A 4-H meeting generally lasts one to two hours, depending on if there is a speaker or if members are giving presentations.

Converse County 4-H Office can help you to find a local club or program that’s right for you. Most clubs meet once a month and some meet more or less as needed. Your club leader can tell you when and where the club meets. Be sure to attend club meetings so you know what is going on in your 4-H club. You will learn what’s happening with 4-H at both the county and state level and make new friends!

Current Converse County 4-H Clubs

Cloverbud Club, for 5-7 year old members

C. C. Cavaliers

C. C. Range Club, focuses on range management and judging

Dry Creek Willing Workers, Dry Creek/Bill area

Future Stars

Labonte Sagebrush

Magic Chefs, Glenrock

Sand Creek, Glenrock

Walker Creek

Wild Bunch

Woolly Bully's

Projects are open to all eligible 4-H members. 4-H projects are “learning by doing” experiences. You should select a project you are interested in and would like to learn about. You work on the project(s) throughout the year, keep records of what you do and learn, and can exhibit your projects at the Converse County Fair as well as other competitions. You may enroll in the same project or a different project each year and you can enroll in as many projects **as you have time for**. If you are a new 4-H member, it might be a good idea to start with one or two projects your first year. If you have a project idea that isn't on the list, talk to your 4-H/Youth Educator to see if it would be eligible to be a Self-Determined project.

Most projects have Project Leaders that hold classes or workshops. You can also work on your project at your own home, with the help of a parent or an adult. Watch the current newsletter for announcements about classes or workshops being held at the project, county and state levels.

Aerospace	Dogs	Horses	Pocket Pets	Self-Determined
Alpacas/Llamas	Electricity	Horticulture	Poultry	Sheep
Archery	Entomology	Interior Design	Quilting	Shotgun
Beef	Fabric & Fashion	Knitting	Rabbits	Sport Fishing
Cake Decorating	Foods & Nutrition	Leathercraft	Range Management	Swine
Cats	Gardening	Muzzleloading	Recreation	Veterinary Science
Citizenship	Geology	Nature & Ecology	Rifle	Visual Arts
Computers	Goats	Photography	Robotics	Wildlife/Hunting
Crocheting	Health	Pistol	Ropecraft	Woodworking
				Youth Leadership

Converse County Activities:

Horse Judging

Meats Judging

Range Judging

Wool Judging

Livestock Judging

Produce Judging

Tablesetting

Emblems & Symbols:

Slogan: “Learn By Doing”

Motto: “To Make the Best Better”

Colors: Green and white. The white symbolizes purity and the green is nature’s most common color in the great outdoors and is the color of springtime, growing, life and youth.



Fig. 1. Targeting Life Skills model. Source: Hendricks 1996.



4-H Pledge:

I pledge my HEAD to clearer thinking, (touch head with right hand)
my HEART to greater loyalty, (put right hand over heart)
my HANDS to larger service, (put both hands out in front of you)
and my HEALTH to better living, (fold hands or put them down to the side)
for my club, my community, my country and my world.

Code of Conduct statement must be read and acknowledged each year by the youth and adult volunteers enrolling in 4-H. It is included in the enrollment process in 4-HOnline. The following behavior guidelines and expectations are designed to make everyone’s experience at 4-H events positive and safe. This means that all participants, members, adult volunteers, and 4-H staff, shall adhere to the core values of the University of Wyoming 4-H Youth Development Program, respect the individual rights, safety and property of others. Everyone involved is expected to demonstrate the character traits of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

Portfolios (Record Books) are due from every 4-H member each year. Record books are due in September and are judged at the county level. Part of 4-H is learning to keep good records of your project from start to finish including setting goals, documenting financials, summarizing skills learned and capturing the successes and failures of each project. You can refer to the current 4-H year calendar for the exact date Record Books are due and when they will be judged. You can win awards at the County Level for your record books. Record books are also used when applying for trips and opportunities such as the State Leadership Team or National 4-H Congress Trips at the state level. When filled out and completed, the portfolio also provides members much of the information they need for job applications, college and scholarship applications---all in one convenient location! Forms can be filled out on-line or handwritten in hard copy form. Judges are instructed to give equal consideration to both typed and hand-written records. However, neatness and spelling are important, so make sure the handwriting is legible.

All of these records and instructions can be found on the State 4-H Website at www.uwyo.edu/4-h/portfolio/index.html and workshops are offered throughout the year at the county office.

4-H State Achievement Program is the system used to classify the accomplishments of 4-H members on a yearly basis. Members are divided up into three groups based on their involvement in 4-H. The achievement program is designed to support degrees of annual recognition of youth based upon the extent of their involvement in the 4-H program each year. Over continued years of involvement in 4-H, a youth can earn recognition of prominence that reflects their efforts. The three levels of achievement include Member Recognition, Silver Recognition and Gold Recognition. Silver and Gold membership levels have a certain number of points attached to them. Over time, as a member accrues points, they become eligible for the Wyoming Honor's Club which is the highest honor a Wyoming 4-H Member can achieve. Understanding the Achievement Program is important because it is what a lot of the 4-H year is based on. Members, parents, and leaders need to discuss the possibilities and members should decide early in the 4-H year what type of member they are going to strive to be.

Membership Recognition

- Member has turned in all required enrollment materials.
- Member has behaved in an appropriate manner at all 4-H activities, events, and meetings.
- Member is enrolled in at least one project.
- Member is enrolled in at least one club or has approval of county 4-H Educator. Approval is only granted on the basis of extreme circumstances or distances.

Silver Recognition (1 point)

- Member meets Membership Recognition criteria.
- Member has exhibited what he/she learned at some point in the current 4-H year.
- Member provides documentation of setting goals, knowledge/skills gained, and participation in project (Via the record books.).

Gold Recognition (3 points)

- Member meets Membership Recognition criteria.
- Member has exhibited what he/she learned at some point in the current 4-H year.
- Member provides documentation of participation in all essential elements of positive youth development: setting goals, knowledge/skills gained, recognition, leadership, community service, and participation (Via the record books.).

The ultimate achievement that a 4-H member can obtain is inclusion in the Wyoming 4-H Honors Club. It is based on the principle of providing recognition for youth that maximize their opportunities to foster positive youth development elements of belonging, independence, generosity, and mastery over their time as a member in the program. Nineteen (19) points must be accumulated to obtain the status. Annual efforts are accumulated based on receiving three (3) points for a gold effort and one (1) point for a silver effort. Inclusion in the Honor's Club is the highest degree of recognition that a member can achieve. To get this highest annual recognition, a youth needs to be engaged in each aspect of the 4-H Record Book, including keeping accurate project records, recognition, leadership, community service, and participation in 4-H activities. Induction into the Wyoming Honor's Program will also be an achievement that members will be able to put on college or scholarship applications.

Volunteer Leaders contribute to the structure of the 4-H program. There are different types of 4-H Volunteer Leaders or Leaders, as they are commonly called. A Project Leader is someone who has knowledge in certain project areas and is willing to hold meetings, classes or events to help members in those projects. All 4-H Leaders have been screened through the State of Wyoming prior to their work with members. Project Leaders generally belong to a 4-H club. A Club Leader is in charge of each 4-H Club. They will be the main contact for all club activities and will oversee the club Officer Team, meetings, and all club events. 4-H Leaders are usually the people teaching the project classes and helping with events such as County Fair. The Converse County 4-H Council is made up of leaders that have an active interest in the 4-H program. The Council is an important financial contributor to the 4-H program. Council meetings are generally held once a month to discuss 4-H business. Any leader or parent is welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings. The date and time of these meetings are posted in the calendar on Converse County's website.

Competitive Events are held at many times throughout the 4-H year. Converse County Fair is held every July at the State Fairgrounds in Douglas. If you enroll in 4-H (and meet the project enrollment deadline for your project) you can exhibit what you made and learned in your 4-H Project. There are shows and events for all 4-H projects and all members are encouraged to attend. Competing at the fair is one way every year to achieve "Completion" in a project. Your project might even qualify you to go to State Fair! There will be a Fair Book released during the summer that will give more information on the rules and requirements surrounding County Fair. In Converse County we follow many of the same rules as the Wyoming State Fair, in order to make it simpler for everyone during fair time. You can always refer to the Wyoming State Fair Premium book for answers to your questions as well. Some project competitions are held at different times than county fair, such as the Presentation Contest and State Shoot, held locally, or the Showcase Showdown which is a statewide competition. You can watch in the newsletter or website for the dates and times of these events. It is important to remember that a positive learning experience will teach members more than a blue ribbon ever will.

HOW TO ENROLL:

Complete enrollment online (<https://wy.4honline.com>) along with payment of the \$10 enrollment fee.

Enrollment Fees – These cover the cost of enrolling in the 4-H program, project literature, and liability insurance for members or leaders at any 4-H activity or event. Your club may have additional enrollment fees.

Other Fees and Costs – Be aware that some projects may have extra fees associated with running the program. Ask your club leader if you are not clear on additional fees. In addition, every project costs money to make or build or participate in. For example, if you do an animal project, you will need the animal which will incur feeding costs, supply costs and vet bills (to name a few!). Some projects, such as cake decorating or cooking, may be significantly less expensive as you will just need some food supplies and decorating equipment.

LEADERSHIP AND EXTRA PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES:

Junior Leadership Project— Members ages 13—18 can apply to join this project and have the opportunity to lead many of the 4-H events throughout Converse County including the Jr. Camp below.

Converse County Jr. 4-H Camp – This is a fun-filled camp for 4-H members age 8 to 13 years old. Campers take part in games and outdoor activities under the guidance of older 4-H youth and leaders. Camp is planned and implemented by older 4-H youth who serve as counselors.

Citizenship Washington Focus – Take your 4-H experience to another level through Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF), a six-day intensive summer citizenship program for youth age 14 to 19. CWF delegates learn about the democratic process and their role as citizens while they experience our nation's capitol. Get the inside scoop about how government really works from prominent guest speakers. College-age program fellows lead bill writing workshops, a national issues forum, mock elections and congressional sessions that prepare you for leadership now and in the future. This trip is by application only.

SPECIALTY CONTESTS:

Please note: Cloverbuds are welcome to participate in the below contests, however, they may not compete at the state level and they will only receive a Participation Ribbon at the Converse County Contest.

Make it with Wool (November) - local, state and national opportunities for members to construct an outfit or sewing project and then model it.

Demonstration (April) – Any 4-H member may enter. The demonstration should be related to a project in which they are enrolled. The demonstration should be 8-10 minutes for seniors. Juniors and intermediates are not expected to give a long or complicated presentation, just 5-7 minutes. Visual aids may be used.

Presentation Contest (June) – This contest is designed to help 4-Hers draw on personal experiences and resources. It helps them organize their thoughts and present them in a logical manner. The categories are: Prepared Speeches, Impromptu, and Interpretative Reading. Winners are eligible to compete at the state-wide Showcase Showdown at the end of June. Speeches should be related to a project the member is enrolled in.

Table Decorating (June) - This contest lets the creative juices flow as members demonstrate how to properly set a table for a guest/meal.

Measuring Contest (June) - Members show off how they measure liquids, solids and other kitchen supplies and ingredients.

Fashion Revue (July) – This is an opportunity for 4-Hers who have made an article of clothing in their clothing construction or buymanship project to model it. Judging is based on preparation and presentation. Preparation includes design and style, choice of fabric and color, overall appearance of garment, accessories and grooming. Presentation includes appropriate for garment style, movement including walking, standing and turns, posture and poise, variety of movement and use of space and creativity and attitude and enthusiasm. County winners qualify to participate at the state-level contest held at the State Fair.

COUNTY-WIDE TEAM EVENTS:

Judging Teams – The purpose of the judging program is to develop the individual's evaluation skills, ability to make decisions and their ability to articulate reasons to support those decisions. It promotes self-confidence, decision-making and speaking skills. Judging simulates the ability to think clearly and logically, and present concise reasons with confidence and poise. Judging also teaches an appreciation for the opinions of others.

Currently, Converse County 4-H has the following judging teams:

Horse • Livestock • Meats • Produce Judging • Wool

We would like to start a produce judging team. Please let us know if you are interested in any of these activities. County teams can compete locally, regionally or at the state-wide level.

Quiz Bowl Teams – Quiz Bowl competitions involve teams of four (typically with one or two alternates) competing against each other to answer trivia style questions about a specific topic.

- Counties can send dog, horse, and livestock quiz bowl teams to the state competition at the Showcase Showdown in June.

Hippology Team – This is a fun equine science contest broken up into four phases (judging, written test, stations and team problem) that test your horse knowledge and skill in practical application settings.

ANIMAL PROJECT INFORMATION:

There are special deadline dates in regards to animal ownership/identification for all animals as well as weigh-ins for market sale animals. Please check with your project leader or the 4-H Office to verify deadline dates.

Weigh-In for beef are usually in January while weigh-in for sheep, swine, goats are usually in May.

Quality Assurance (QA) Class – Perceived safety, wholesomeness and nutritional value of food products influence consumer buying decisions. If consumers are not confident that a product is the highest quality they have come to expect, they will not buy it. The QA class teaches members how to develop a comprehensive management system to address the health and welfare of animals and the proper use of animal health products to prevent illegal drug residues. This is a required class for any member planning to sell their animal at the livestock market sale at county fair and highly recommended for all livestock projects members.

Horse project members must be safety certified **BEFORE** participating in any horse-involved events.

Welcome to Converse County 4-H!

We are glad you are part of the 4-H family and look forward to seeing you at the project/club meetings, community service activities and education/competition events that are offered throughout the year.

If you have any questions, call the 4-H Office at (307)-358-2417!

Sincerely,

Stacey

Stacey Etchemendy

Converse County 4-H/Youth Educator



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