



SUMMIT COUNTY 4-H

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## Welcome New 4-H Leader!

Thank you for making a difference in our community by volunteering as a Summit County 4-H Leader

### HOW 4-H PROJECTS WORK !

*4-H projects are little miracles.* They teach children about animals, clothing, rocketry, leadership, STEM and dozens of other topics that are of interest to them. 4-H projects capture the attention and interest of youth and adults alike. The children's pride at achieving goals and pursuing excellence is evident as they compete in horse shows, or enter their project exhibits for judging at the Colorado State Fair. These are the obvious results of learning things through 4-H projects and the part of 4-H everyone knows.

Research points out more long-term benefits for young people participating in 4-H. 4-H members are more likely than other kids to succeed in school and become involved as leaders in their community. They're less likely to shoplift or steal, use illegal drugs, smoke cigarettes or vandalize property. 4-H'ers feel more socially competent and self-assured than other youth and are more likely to develop useful and practical skills that help them become capable, competent and contributing adults. 4-H gives kids positive ways to improve themselves and their communities.

All of this happens because of the methodology built into 4-H projects and the members' participation in their clubs. Even when 4-H members complain about record keeping, they still value and recognize the importance of the lifelong skill. They feel the fear of getting up in front of their peers for demonstrations at club meetings, but are grateful for the experience, as they grow older. 4-H'ers may procrastinate about completing projects, pursuing community service and planning activities for club meetings; but will reflect on the importance of those experiences as they enter into adulthood.

Your role as a 4-H leader is to advise, guide and support 4-H'ers through the process of completing their projects. Through this action on your part, they will be experiencing the challenge of "*learning by doing*". Your secondary role is to prod and encourage them to remain steadfast about completing demonstrations, pursuing community service and developing leadership opportunities in the face of excuses, panic and fear.

Your reward will come as 4-H youth mature and reflect on the life skills they've acquired, the competencies they've developed, the positive attitudes they possess and the ethic of civic involvement they model for others. This, in part, can be attributed to your role as a 4-H leader.

Welcome & Thank You!

Kathie M. Kralik

Summit County 4-H Program Manager

Your Extension Office is jointly funded by Summit County Government and Colorado State University.  
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