4-H’s Awesome Events and Activities!

Enrollment for Phillips County 4-H closed Jan. 15 for the 2013 4-H year. While 4-H members are busy considering what they would like to do for their project, or maybe they are preparing for a livestock project, there are many events and activities that 4-H members have the opportunity to take advantage of, outside of their projects for county fair. Some of these events relate directly to their project areas, while others are separate from projects.

4-H projects teach specific skills relating directly to a certain project area. Members have the opportunity to expand upon these skills by participating in additional contests, events and activities. Many of these events and opportunities are offered on a county, regional, state and national level.

A majority of the state 4-H contests take place either at the Colorado State Fair in August/September or at the State 4-H Conference in June.

The following are contests held during either State Fair or State Conference: cake decorating, creative cooks, fashion revue, consumer decision making, consumer bowl, horse bowl, horse demonstration and public speaking, horse judging, livestock judging, meat judging, poultry judging, rabbit judging, rocket fly day, state shooting sports, speech and demonstration.

4-H members have the opportunity to compete in these contests either on a team or sometimes as an individual. Participating on a team instills teamwork and cooperation skills while participating in individual contests encourages a high level of responsibility and self confidence.

One of 4-H’s main goals is to provide opportunities for youth to learn and practice leadership skills in a comfortable, safe environment. In order to achieve this goal, 4-H members of all ages have the opportunity to participate in leadership conferences and camps.

A few of the most popular leadership conferences/camps for Colorado 4-H members are: the Leadership Development Conference held in January, 4-H Day at the Colorado State Capitol also held in January, Youth Fest in February, State 4-H Conference in June, Citizenship Washington Focus (in Washington, D.C.) in June and the Colorado Leadership Camp in November.

Even after more than 100 years of existence, 4-H continues to promote positive youth development through county and state projects, local club activities and state and national contests and conferences. Not only are members learning invaluable life skills while participating in these events and activities, they are having a great time and making lifelong friends.

For more information on joining 4-H in Phillips County or becoming a valued 4-H volunteer or mentor, please contact the Phillips County Extension Office at 970-854-3616. Extension programs are available to all without discrimination.

Holyoke Enterprise January 31, 2013