

Colorado 4-H Curriculum Guidelines



**Beyond
Ready**

In Colorado, we adopt 4-H curriculum from a variety of sources:

- Nationally peer reviewed 4-H curriculum from Shop 4-H or the CLOVER by 4-H platform.
- 4-H curriculum developed by other Land Grant Universities
- Curriculum developed in Colorado and approved by the Curriculum and/or Animal Science Work Teams.

State 4-H Projects

The purpose of 4-H projects is to provide the opportunity for members to acquire life skills suitable for their age and experience and to give members meaningful “learn by doing” opportunities. For information on projects offered go to [Programs & Projects | Colorado 4-H](#).

Criteria for Establishing Statewide Projects

For a statewide 4-H project to be established, it must:

- Fill a well-established need to teach youth in the subject-matter area
- Coloradans are interested in the subject matter
- Colorado Extension and/or the University has information, resources, and a commitment to the subject-matter area. Where on-campus resources are not available, qualified off-campus resources and leadership are readily available.
- Sufficient research has been done to provide a strong base from which to work. Research-based literature is available in the subject-matter area.

Adding a Project to the State Project List

Counties may pilot a project for consideration of becoming a state-level project for two to five years. A project may be added to the state project list if:

- **At least 50 members** in a minimum of five Colorado counties are participating.
- An emerging youth issue warrants the addition of a project available to counties state-wide. Project materials will be pilot tested prior to finalizing curriculum and acceptance.
- An out-of-state curriculum is introduced which addresses the needs of youth or replaces an out-of-date curriculum.

Dropping a Project from the State Project List

Projects' participation will be tracked over five years. If enrollment in a particular project drops **below 50 members** and remains below that number for five consecutive years, the project will be dropped from the state project list. The exception to the policy will be for newly developed projects where time is needed to provide adequate training and information to volunteers and Extension staff to build a membership base. Dropped projects may remain available to youth as a county project.

County Projects

County projects are used when not offered at the state level. They must meet these criteria:

- The project manual or materials are current and research-based with activities and experiences that help youth learn and develop life skills.
- The project has an e-record and an exhibit item that demonstrates knowledge and/or skills learned.
- At least four youth want to take the project. If there are less than four, the project will fall under a Self-Determined project, and the 4-H leader may need to provide support.

General Timeline

All curriculum changes must be in place by the beginning of the 4-H year, October 1. If curriculum is not ready by then, it will be released the following 4-H year.



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