



2026 NM 4-H Adult Retreat Workshop Descriptions

WORKSHOPS- SESSION 1

Aggie Next Step: Broadening Youth's Futures- Newt McCarty, State 4-H Youth Development Agent, College and Career Readiness, Aggie Next Step

Help youth imagine what is possible after high school. This workshop will introduce Aggie Next Step and provide practical ways for volunteers to encourage exploration of college, career, and technical education, and workforce opportunities. Participants will learn how 4-H experiences, including leadership, project work, public speaking, and community service, prepare youth for future success and how caring adults can help members connect their interests and strengths to meaningful educational and career pathways.

Livestock 101: Building Skills from the Ground Up, Teresa Dean, State 4-H Youth Development Agent, Volunteer Management

Build a strong foundation to help youth succeed in their livestock projects. This workshop will introduce the essentials of animal selection, nutrition, daily care, health, facilities, handling, showmanship, and show preparation. Participants will gain practical knowledge and teaching ideas to guide beginners and their families. Whether you are new to livestock or looking to strengthen your skills as a volunteer leader, you will leave better prepared to help youth raise healthy animals, make responsible management decisions, and enjoy a successful 4-H livestock experience.

Project Record Sheet Road Map: Guiding Youth to Success- Cindy Grooms, Doña Ana County 4-H Leader

Help youth turn their 4-H experiences into meaningful, well-organized record books. This workshop will provide practical strategies for guiding members through goal setting, project documentation, financial records, photographs, and personal reflections. Participants will learn how to break the process into manageable steps, encourage youth ownership, and make record-keeping a positive experience that develops organizational, communication, and personal responsibility skills.

Starting and Building a New 4-H Club- Felicia Johnson, Doña Ana County 4-H Leader

Learn the essential steps to start and grow a successful 4-H club. This workshop will cover establishing the club's purpose, recruiting youth and volunteers, organizing effective meetings, developing youth officers, communicating with families, and planning engaging activities. Participants will leave with practical ideas for sharing responsibilities, building traditions, maintaining member involvement, and creating a welcoming, youth-centered club that is positioned for long-term success.

Stringing Up Some Fun: Jewelry-Making Basics- Eva Madrid- Doña Ana County 4-H Agent

Explore the creative world of jewelry making in this hands-on beginner workshop. Participants will learn about basic tools and materials and practice simple techniques for planning a design, stringing beads, attaching closures, and securely finishing a piece. No prior experience is required, and participants will complete a project to take home while gaining ideas for using jewelry making to encourage creativity, patience, decision-making, and personal expression among 4-H members.

WORKSHOPS- SESSION 2

From Idea to Innovation: 3D Printing at the Aggie Innovation Center (Offsite)

Explore the exciting world of 3D printing at the Aggie Innovation Center! Participants will learn how digital designs are transformed into three-dimensional objects and discover the many ways this technology is used in education, agriculture, engineering, business, and everyday life. This hands-on workshop will introduce the basic 3D-printing process, from creating or selecting a design to preparing and printing a finished product. Leave inspired with ideas for using 3D printing to encourage creativity, problem-solving, innovation, and career exploration among 4-H youth.

Building Champions: Coaching Livestock Skill-a-thon- Kandy Hutchins, Curry County 4-H Agent

Help youth build livestock knowledge, confidence, and competitive skills through Livestock Skill-a-thon. This workshop will introduce participants to the contest format and provide practical strategies for organizing a team, planning effective practices, and preparing youth for competition. Leaders will explore activities covering breeds, equipment, feeds, meats, animal health, quality assurance, and livestock management. Whether you are starting a team or strengthening an existing program, you will leave with creative ideas and practical resources to make practices engaging, educational, and fun.

Ready, Set, Grow: Engaging Cloverbuds- Sandra Graves, Doña Ana County 4-H Leader

Discover how to create fun, age-appropriate experiences for 4-H's youngest members. This interactive workshop will provide practical ideas for short, hands-on activities that balance movement, creativity, teamwork, and discovery. Participants will learn strategies for giving clear instructions, managing transitions, supporting different abilities and attention spans, and creating a welcoming environment where Cloverbuds can build confidence, friendships, curiosity, and a strong foundation for continued 4-H involvement.

Facilitation Fundamentals: Lead with Confidence- Katy Wright, Curry County 4-H Leader

Strengthen your ability to lead engaging, supportive 4-H experiences with confidence. In this interactive workshop, volunteers will practice using call backs, setting and revisiting goals, guiding questions and answers, encouraging youth participation, managing group flow, and fostering meaningful discussion. Participants will leave with practical facilitation strategies to keep groups focused, elevate youth voices, and create positive learning environments where every young person feels comfortable participating, contributing, and growing.

4-H 101: Welcome to New Mexico 4-H, Lena Zielie, Santa Fe County 4-H Leader

New to 4-H or ready for a refresher? This interactive workshop will introduce participants to the foundations of New Mexico 4-H, including clubs, projects, events, leadership opportunities, and the roles of members, families, volunteers, and Extension professionals. Participants will also experience the 4-H "learn by doing" approach firsthand by completing a project from a 4-H curriculum book. Leave with a better understanding of how to use project materials and create fun, meaningful learning experiences for youth.

WORKSHOPS- SESSION 3

Sparkling Curiosity: NMSU STEM Outreach

Discover how NMSU STEM Outreach is bringing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to life through engaging, hands-on learning experiences. Participants will explore available programs, activities, and resources that can help 4-H volunteers introduce STEM concepts in fun and approachable ways. Learn how to connect youth with NMSU opportunities, encourage curiosity and problem-solving, and inspire interest in STEM education and careers. Leave with practical ideas for expanding STEM learning in your club, county, and community.

Building a Winning Horse Bowl & Hippology Team, Joby Priest, NMSU Horse Farm Manager & Doña Ana County 4-H Leader

Learn how Horse Bowl and Hippology can help youth develop equine knowledge, teamwork, confidence, and critical-thinking skills, even if they do not own a horse. This workshop will introduce the format and expectations of both contests and provide ideas for organizing teams, locating study resources, creating practice questions and identification stations, and preparing youth in areas such as anatomy, breeds, nutrition, health, equipment, reproduction, and horse management.

Building Success Through 4-H Projects- Part 1- Molly Hayes, Bernalillo County 4-H Leader & Brittany Johnson, Sandoval County 4-H Agent

This two-part workshop will help volunteers confidently use 4-H curriculum to create engaging, well-organized learning experiences. In Part One, participants will learn to select appropriate curriculum, identify learning objectives, gather materials, and prepare an effective lesson.

Share the Load: Building a Volunteer Team That Lasts- Teresa Dean, State 4-H Youth Development Agent, Volunteer Management

Strong 4-H programs are built by teams, not by a single volunteer trying to do everything. This workshop will offer practical strategies for recruiting, organizing, supporting, and retaining volunteers through meaningful, manageable roles. Participants will explore one-time, short-term, seasonal, and ongoing opportunities; learn to match responsibilities to volunteers' interests and availability; and develop healthier practices for delegation, communication, recognition, leadership transitions, and long-term volunteer engagement.

Making the Motion: Coaching Parliamentary Procedure- Leslie Clark-Spearman, Eddy County 4-H Agent

Help youth develop confidence, leadership, teamwork, and effective decision-making through parliamentary procedure. This workshop will introduce volunteers to the basic principles and provide practical strategies for teaching motions, conducting meetings, encouraging discussion, and preparing teams for competition. Whether you are helping club officers run stronger meetings or coaching a parliamentary procedure team, you will leave with engaging activities and useful tools for making parliamentary procedure understandable, relevant, and fun for youth.

WORKSHOPS- SESSION 4

Leathercraft 101: From Hide to Handmade- Dana Wiebe, Doña Ana County 4-H Leader

Discover the basics of leathercraft in this hands-on workshop designed for beginners. Participants will learn about essential tools, materials, and safety practices while exploring fundamental techniques, including preparing, stamping, tooling, coloring, and finishing leather. Each participant will create a simple leather project to take home and gain practical ideas for introducing leathercraft to 4-H members. No previous experience is required; just bring your creativity and be ready to turn a basic piece of leather into something uniquely your own.

From First Meeting to Final Year: Keeping Youth Engaged- Josh Wooley, Curry County 4-H Leader

Keeping youth involved in 4-H requires more than great activities; it takes strong relationships, meaningful opportunities, clear expectations, and a sense of belonging. This workshop will explore practical strategies for managing groups, maintaining youth interest, encouraging participation, and addressing common challenges. Participants will learn how to create welcoming environments, involve youth in decision-making, recognize accomplishments, and provide age-appropriate opportunities for leadership and growth. Leave with useful ideas for building a positive club experience that keeps members engaged and excited to return year after year.

Building Success Through 4-H Projects-Part 2- Molly Hayes, Bernalillo County 4-H Leader & Brittany Johnson, Sandoval County 4-H Agent

Must have attended Part 1. Part Two will focus on bringing the lesson to life through hands-on activities, youth participation, reflection, and practical evaluation. Participants will leave with practical strategies for adapting curriculum to different ages, group sizes, learning needs, and settings, and for guiding youth through the complete “learn by doing” process from preparation to completion.

4-H Food Challenge- Marissa Morgan, State 4-H Youth Development Agent, Family & Consumer Sciences

Discover how the 4-H Food Challenge combines cooking, nutrition, food safety, teamwork, creativity, and public speaking into one exciting experience. This workshop will introduce the contest format and provide practical ideas for organizing a team and leading effective practices. Participants will learn how to help youth build culinary and presentation skills, manage time and resources, solve problems together, and confidently prepare and present a dish using assigned ingredients.