

*El Paso County 4-H
Proudly Presents...*

COUNTY CONTEST DAY 2026!

- **Colorado 4-H State Contests**
 - Public Speaking
 - Impromptu Speech
 - Prepared Speech
 - Demonstration/Illustrated Talks
 - Interpretive Reading
 - Horse Public Speaking
 - Cake Decorating Contest
- **Bakeology Contest**
 - Youth Contest
 - ***NEW!*** - Adult Only Bakeology Contest!
- **Performing Arts Contests**
 - Dance
 - Instrumental
 - Keyboard/Piano
 - Theatrical Arts
 - Vocal



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EL PASO COUNTY EXTENSION



El Paso 4-H County Contest Day 2026

Welcome to the El Paso 4-H County Contest Day! This event is a great opportunity for 4-H members to practice essential life skills such as public speaking, critical thinking and communication; and to develop self-confidence. Cloverbud, Junior, Intermediate and Senior 4-H members are encouraged to participate!

El Paso County 4-H County Contest Day 2025 will be held on **Saturday, April 11, 2026**, beginning at **9:00 AM**. **Contest Location TBD**.

State-Level events will be offered, as well as County-Specific Contests. Please read this packet carefully for full details.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

- **Registration Opens: Monday, March 2, 2026** via [FairEntry.com](https://www.fairentry.com) (follow this link to enroll)
- **Registration Closes: Friday, March 13, 2026.** Late registrations will not be accepted.
- **Payment Deadline: Wednesday, March 18, 2026.** Late registrations will not be accepted.

Registration Payments:

All registration fees will be accepted via Eventbrite.com. **PLEASE NOTE: you will be provided a payment link from the El Paso County Extension Office AFTER your registration is received AND complete in [FairEntry.com](https://www.fairentry.com).**

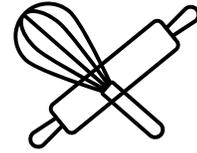
2026 Contest Fees:

- \$7.00 per individual (unlimited contests)
- \$20.00 for families with 3 or more registrants (unlimited contests)

ANY 4-H member requiring an accommodation to participate in the El Paso County Contest Day should fill out an [El Paso County 4-H Accommodation Form](#) during Registration, or at least 14 days before the 4-H Event.

Please note that all Cloverbud classes offered during the El Paso 4-H County Contest Day are designed to be activity-focused and built on cooperative learning rather than competitive activities. The overall purpose of the Cloverbuds program is to foster the development of early life skills in a fun and safe learning environment. Cloverbuds do not advance to State-Level Contests.

- Links to Cloverbud scoresheets can be found [HERE](#).



El Paso County Bakeology Contest

Calling all Bakers! The Bakeology Contest is a great opportunity to highlight your skills in baking during the 4-H County Contest! Practice and enhance your baking skills and get pointers from a judge. Bakeology is a great way to practice for the El Paso County Fair competition. Participants must be present to discuss the recipe and process of making their entry with the judge. Because entries include an interview session and a presentation of the recipe, Bakeology will be included as a contest qualifier for the STAR Award!

Bakers do NOT need to be enrolled in foods or cake decorating projects to participate. Please note that Bakeology is a County-Level Contest Only and does not advance to a State-Level contest.

Bakeology Classes	Items Required for Judging
Cookies, Bars and Brownies	4 pieces of one item
Muffins/Quickbreads	4 product or 1 loaf
Yeast Breads	1 loaf
Cakes	9 – 10 inch square or round cake (can be glazed or frosted)
Pies (fruit only)	9 inch pan
Decorated Cakes	Single/double layer, or 3 cupcakes (must be decorated, edible decorations only)

Each Class will be divided into 4 Age Divisions:

Cloverbud (members aged 5-7)

Junior (members aged 8-10)

Intermediate (members aged 11-13)

Senior (members aged 14-18)

Adult (Limited to 4-H Volunteers)***

Contest General Rules

1. Bakers do not need to be enrolled in foods or cake decorating projects to participate.
2. Participants are limited to 3 entries of different types. (Example Cookies, Quick breads, and Pies)
3. All entries must be presented on a disposable plate/pan/surface.
4. 4-H member's name, age, club, and division must be typed (or neatly handwritten) on a card and attached to the entry along with the recipe for the product. Please tape your card to the top of your product, on top of wrapping.
5. No raw egg, raw meat, or refrigerated items are allowed.
6. Each participant must be present to speak with judge on their entry.
7. Interview Schedule will be determined by judge on registration basis.
8. Interview will consider recipe, the baking process, & problems or successes.
9. Blue, Red, and White ribbons will be awarded in each class division.



10. One item will be chosen overall for each age division (Jr., Int., and Sr.) as the Best Recipe of the day and will receive a Champion Ribbon.
11. Any participant requiring any accommodation to participate should contact the El Paso County Extension Office during the registration process, or at least 14 days prior to the event date.
12. Participants will have the option to “donate” their item to the 4-H Tabletop Advisory Committee, who will sell remaining slices/items as a fundraiser. Members may opt in or out of this option during registration. If you would like to bring additional items to donate to the Tabletop Committee Fundraiser, you may do so. **All items will be sold whole, not in pieces.**

*****NEW! 4-H Adult Volunteer Category**

- A. Participating 4-H Volunteers entering the Bakeology contest will be charged (\$5.00, Cash or Check Only) to participate. **Payment must be made on the day of the contest, limit 1 entry per volunteer (Entries limited to 25 entries, overall).**
- B. Volunteers must enroll to compete in Sign-Up Genius ([CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)) with registrations due the same day as 4-H Youth entries. **(Opens Monday, March 2, Closes Friday, March 13)**
- C. Volunteers will receive ribbon recognition, but are not eligible for Baker of the Day. Volunteers will not be interviewed.
- D. All Volunteer entries will be judged together, regardless of item type.
- E. All Volunteer entries will automatically be put into the Tabletop Bake Sale to support Tabletop Award funding for youth members. Items will be sold whole, not in pieces.



BAKEOLOGY JUDGING CRITERIA

1. COOKIES, BARS, OR BROWNIES

- a. 4 PIECES
- b. UNIFORMITY
- c. APPEARANCE
- d. COLOR

2. MUFFINS/QUICKBREADS

- a. 4 PRODUCTS OR 1 LOAF
- b. UNIFORMITY
- c. MOISTURE
- d. APPEARANCE

3. YEAST BREADS

- a. 4 ROLLS OR 1 LOAF
- b. CRUST
- c. TEXTURE
- d. APPEARANCE

4. CAKES (UNDECORATED)

- a. 8" SQUARE OR ROUND OR BUNDT
- b. GLAZED OR FROSTED UNIFORMITY
- c. TEXTURE-MOISTURE
- d. LEVEL/EVENNESS

5. PIES (FRUIT ONLY)

- a. 9" ROUND
- b. CRUST TEXTURE
- c. CONSISTENCY
- d. APPEARANCE

6. DECORATED CAKES

- a. ON A BOARD OR 3 CUPCAKES
- b. LEVEL
- c. EVENLY FROSTED
- d. CONSISTENCY BETWEEN CUPCAKES
- e. DECORATIONS CLEAN AND NEAT AND EDIBLE

- [Click for Full Scoresheets & Judging Criteria.](#)

Sample Bakeology Interview Questions:

- Why did you choose this product?
- What challenges did you have making this product?
- What did you learn?
- How many times have you made this?
- Where did you get your recipe?

Please Note:

- Products will be tasted at the judges discretion.
- The Extension Office is not responsible for any containers left behind.



El Paso County Performing Arts Contest



Share your skills on the Big Stage with the Performing Arts Contest! Participants can sing, act, dance or play a musical instrument. Cloverbuds, Juniors, Intermediates and Seniors are encouraged to participate!

Members are eligible to participate and register in multiple Performing Arts Contests.

Please note that Performing Arts Contest is a County-Level Contest Only and does not advance to a State-Level contest.

Winners in the El Paso County Performing Arts Contest may be invited to perform during the Tabletop Exhibit Awards during the El Paso County Fair.

Each Class will be divided into 4 Age Divisions:

Cloverbud (members aged 5-7)

Junior (members aged 8-10)

Intermediate (members aged 11-13)

Senior (members aged 14-18)

Ribboning:

- Blue, Red and White Ribbons will be awarded in each class division.
- Champion and Reserve Champion ribbons will be awarded in each class division if merited.
- Cloverbuds will receive rainbow participation ribbons.

Dance Division:

- Performances to include Solos, Ensembles (2-5 people) and Groups (6+ people)

- **CLASSES**



- 00: Cloverbud Solo/Ensemble
- 01: Jr. Solo
- 02: Int. Solo
- 03: Sr. Solo
- Ensemble (2-5 people)
- Group (6+ people)

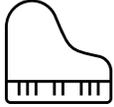
- Performances not to exceed 4 minutes.
- No sound enhancements allowed on tape/music.
- Floor routines must have at least five gymnastic tricks set to music. Modern dance may not have more than four gymnastic tricks.
- Western dances may not be clogging.
- Performers will be judged on:
 - Execution of figures/routines
 - Presentation
 - Interpretation
 - Technique
 - Stage Presence
 - Costumes
- [Click for Full Scoresheet & Judging Criteria.](#)



Musical Division: KEYBOARD/PIANO

- Performances to include Solos and Duets (2 people)

- **CLASSES**



- 1010: Cloverbud Solo/Duet
- 1011: Jr. Solo
- 1012: Jr. Duet
- 1013: Int. Solo
- 1014: Int. Duet
- 1015: Sr. Solo
- 1016: Sr. Duet

- Performances not to exceed 6 minutes.
- A copy of sheet music must be provided to judges.
- Keyboard/Piano will be its own category. All other instruments will compete in the *Instrumental, All Other Instruments* category.
- Participants may sing, but will only be judged on instrumental performance.
- **Musical accompaniment of any kind will not be permitted.**
- Performers will be judged on:
 - Technique & Musicianship
 - Interpretation
 - Presentation
 - Selection
- [Click for Full Scoresheet & Judging Criteria.](#)



Musical Division: INSTRUMENTAL (All Other Instruments)

- Performances to include Solos, Ensembles (2-5 people) and Bands (6+ people)

- **CLASSES**



- 1000: Cloverbud Solo/Ensemble
- 1001: Jr. Solo
- 1002: Int. Solo
- 1003: Sr. Solo
- 1004: Jr. Ensemble (2-5 people)
- 1005: Int. Ensemble (2-5 people)
- 1006: Sr. Ensemble (2-5 people)
- 1007: Band (6+ people)

- Performances not to exceed 6 minutes, bands not to exceed 10 minutes.
- A copy of sheet music must be provided to judges.
- All instruments (including Strings, Brass, Winds and Percussion) will compete in the same category. Keyboard/Piano will be a separate category.
- Participants may sing, but will only be judged on instrumental performance.
- **Musical accompaniment of any kind will not be permitted.**
- Performers will be judged on:
 - Tone
 - Technique & Musicianship
 - Interpretation
 - Presentation
 - Selection
- [Click for Full Scoresheet & Judging Criteria.](#)



Musical Division: VOCAL

- Performances to include Solos, Duets (2 people) Small Choir (6-15 people) and Choirs (15+ people)

- **CLASSES**



- 00: Cloverbud Solo/Duet
- 10: Jr. Solo
- 11: Int. Solo
- 12: Sr. Solo
- 13: Jr. Duet
- 14: Int. Duet
- 15: Sr. Duet
- 20: Choir
- 21: Small Choir (6-15 members)

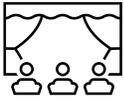
- Performances not to exceed 6 minutes.
- A copy of sheet music must be provided to judges and must include both music and lyrics.
- If using a recorded accompaniment, no additional/background voices may be used.
- Songs should be 4-H appropriate.
- Participants may play an instrument, but will only be judged on vocal performance.
- Performers will be judged on:
 - Appearance and Stage Manner
 - Interpretation
 - Musicianship
 - Appropriateness of Selection
- [Click for Full Scoresheet & Judging Criteria.](#)



Theatrical Arts:

- Performances to include Skit Ensembles, Individuals and One-Act Plays

- **CLASSES**



- Cloverbud Ensemble/Individual/One-Act Plays
- Ensemble
- Individual
- One-Act Play

- Performances not to exceed 10 minutes
- A copy of script must be provided to judges.
- Piece must be memorized, and performer(s) must provide their own props.
- An Ensemble or One-Act Play may include Cloverbuds, but Cloverbuds will not be judged. All other members will compete in the division of the oldest participant.
- Any All-Cloverbud groups should enter the Cloverbud Ensemble/One-Act Play Class.
- Performers will be judged on:
 - Mechanics (for skits & pantomimes)
 - Characterization
 - Script
- [Click for Full Scoresheet & Judging Criteria.](#)



All Other Colorado 4-H State-Level Contests

El Paso County 4-H members have the opportunity to participate in State-Wide contests! Qualifiers from these contests have the opportunity to advance to the [Colorado State Fair](#) (Juniors, Intermediates, Seniors) or [Colorado 4-H State Conference](#) (Seniors).

Cloverbuds are eligible to participate in Demonstrations/Illustrated Talks and Interpretive Readings at the County-Level but are not eligible to participate or advance to the State-Level Contests.

GENERAL RULES

1. All 4-H members MUST qualify to be eligible to attend the State Contests by participating in the **April 11, 2026** 4-H County Contest Day in El Paso County, unless otherwise listed below.
2. Any members that qualify for a State-Level Event will attend the State Contest Events according to the dates listed in the State Rules. **PLEASE NOTE:** Please disregard all details in the State-Level Contest Rules regarding dates/entry fees/times/awards. These details are for the State-Level Contest event, and NOT for the El Paso County Contest.
3. Members may use their 4-H dogs, cats, or pocket pets that are identified in [4HOnline](#) in their Demonstration/Illustrated Talks contest. We are not able to accommodate larger animals, such as livestock or horses. All animals MUST be pre-approved by Extension Specialist PRIOR to the entry deadline. **Any animals used in a public presentation MUST be Id'ed in 4HOnline by the county contest entry deadline (3/13/2026)**

State-Level Contests Included in the El Paso 4-H County Contest:



Demonstrations/Illustrated Talks, Individual or Team (CB, Jr., Int., Sr.)

- Junior, Intermediate and Senior County-Level Qualifiers in this category advance to the State Contest @ the Colorado State Fair
- **CLASSES:**
 - Class 70 – Cloverbud Individual
 - Class 71 – Cloverbud Team
 - Class 700 – Individual Junior
 - Class 701 – Team Junior
 - Class 702 – Individual Intermediate
 - Class 703 – Team Intermediate
 - Class 704 – Individual Senior
 - Class 705 – Team Senior
- [Click for Contest Scoresheet](#)
- [Click for Rules and Requirements](#) (Page 22)



Interpretive Reading (CB, Jr., Int. Sr.)

- Junior, Intermediate and Senior County-Level Qualifiers in this category advance to the State Contest @ the Colorado State Fair
- **CLASSES:**
 - Cloverbud Interpretive Reading
 - Class 706 – Interpretive Reading Junior
 - Class 707 – Interpretive Reading Intermediate
 - Class 708 – Interpretive Reading Senior
- [Click for Contest Scoresheet](#)
- [Click for Rules and Requirements](#) (Page 22)



Impromptu Speech (Jr., Int., Sr.)

- Senior County-Level Qualifiers in this category advance to the State Contest held @ Colorado 4-H State Conference
- [Click for Contest Scoresheet](#)
- [Click for Rules and Requirements](#)



Prepared Speech (Jr., Int., Sr.)

- Senior County-Level Qualifiers in this category advance to the State Contest held @ Colorado 4-H State Conference
- [Click for Contest Scoresheet](#)
- [Click for Rules and Requirements](#)



Cake Decorating (By Unit, Jr., Int., Sr.)

- Junior, Intermediate and Senior County-Level Qualifiers in this category advance to the State Contest @ the Colorado State Fair
- Participants MUST be enrolled in the Cake Decorating Project **AND** the specific Cake Decorating Unit listed, to Participate.
- **UNITS:**
 - Units 1-6 (Junior, Intermediate, Senior)
 - Units 7-9 (Intermediate, Senior)
 - Units 10-11 (Senior only)
- [Click for Contest Scoresheets \(Listed by Unit\)](#)
- [Click for Rules and Requirements](#) (Page3)



Horse Public Speaking, (Sr. Horse Demo Individual or Team, Sr. Horse Speech)

- Senior County-Level Qualifiers in this category advance to the State Contest held @ Colorado 4-H State Conference
 - Sr Horse Demo Individual
 - Sr Horse Demo Team
 - Sr. Horse Public Speaking
- [Click for Horse Demonstration Rules](#)
- [Click for Horse Public Speaking/Speech Rules](#)



Creative Cooks (*Creative Cooks Contest to be held during the El Paso County Fair, Monday, July 13, 2026 at 2:00 PM in the Swink Building*) (Jr., Int., Sr.)

- Junior, Intermediate and Senior County-Level Qualifiers in this category advance to the State Contest @ the Colorado State Fair
- **CLASSES:**
- **Juniors: 8-10 years of age**
 - Class 300 – Individual
 - Class 301 – Team
 - Class 302 – Colorado Specialty Individual
 - Class 303 – Colorado Specialty Team
- **Intermediates: 11-13 years of age**
 - Class 304 – Individual
 - Class 305 – Team
 - Class 306 – Colorado Specialty Individual
 - Class 307 – Colorado Specialty Team
- **Seniors: 14-18 years of age 14**
 - Class 308 – Individual
 - Class 309 – Team
 - Class 310 – Colorado Specialty Individual
 - Class 311 – Colorado Specialty Team
- [Click for Contest Scoresheet](#)
- [Click for Rules and Requirements](#) (Page 13)

Fashion Revue (*Fashion Revue Contest to be held during the El Paso County Fair, Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at 1:00 and 3:00 PM in the Swink Building*) (Jr. Int., Sr.)



- The Top 3 Senior County-Level Qualifiers in this category advance to the State Contest @ the Colorado State Fair.
- Modeling for Fun contestants DO NOT advance to the State Contest @ the Colorado State Fair
- [Click for Contest Scoresheet](#)
- [Click for Rules and Requirements](#) (Page 13)





Did You Know?

Participation in El Paso 4-H County Contest Day is a Qualifying Event for the STAR Award!

Learn more at: [El Paso County 4-H STAR Award](#).



EL PASO COUNTY 4-H TABLETOP STAR AWARD



YOU could be eligible to Compete for the Tabletop STAR Award -- Get Qualified Today!



STEP 1:
Enroll in 2 or More
Tabletop Projects!

Select Projects
by **April 1**

To qualify as a STAR Award Candidate, members must enroll in 2 Tabletop projects (or 2 units within a project) **AND receive a Blue award in BOTH** at the El Paso County Fair. You **MUST** enroll in your Tabletop projects by April 1, 2026!



STEP 3:
Fill out/return your
STAR Activity Chart!

STAR Chart Due
Friday,
September 4

Once you've qualified by participating in a County Contest and receiving 2 or more Blue awards, you will need to fill out your El Paso County STAR Activity Chart. These points will be totaled and added to your final point total!



STEP 5:
Top 5 Candidates are
Selected to Interview!

Interviews Held
3rd Week of
September

Once the Top 5 Candidates in each age division are selected based on their point totals, candidates will be invited to interview with the Tabletop Advisory Committee! Candidates will:

- Interview with the Committee
- Take a 4-H Knowledge Quiz
- Bring in a Representative E-Record from the current year

Find all Award Details at:
<https://elpaso.extension.colostate.edu/4-h-family-resources/>



County Contest
is held **Saturday**
April 11

STEP 2:
Participate in a
County Contest!

To qualify as a STAR Award Candidate, members must participate in a County Contest or a County Contest held during the El Paso County Fair. Participation in the 4-H Shooting Sports Competition & Robotics/Rocketry Contest count too!

Enrollment for the County Contest starts in **March, 2026**. El Paso County Fair Registration starts in **May, 2026**

Points Talled in
1st Week of
September

STEP 4:
Point Totals are Talled
by the Committee!

In the 1st week of September, the Tabletop Advisory Committee will tally all the points earned by Candidates in several areas:

- STAR Activity Charts
- County Fair Awards received
- State Fair Awards received
- County Competition Awards received

4-H Achievement
Awards is in
October!

STEP 6:
Attend 4-H
Achievement Awards!

Attend the 4-H Achievement Awards Ceremony--the Top 3 Candidates in each age division will be awarded Gold, Silver or Bronze STAR Awards!

