COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EL PASO COUNTY EXTENSION

El Paso County 4-H

NEWSLETTER

October 2026





2026-2027 4-H Enrollment is Open!

Enrollment has officially opened for the 2026-2027 4-H year!

-Returning members, your enrollment deadline is ***December 1st at 5:00 PM!***

-New members, your enrollment deadline is ***March 1st at 5:00 PM!***

Enroll in 4-H via 4HONLINE *HERE*

2026 Achievement Awards

Join us at the 2026 El Paso County 4-H Achievement Awards!

Date: October 23rd, 2026

Time:

- 5:30PM - 6:00 PM - Appetizers/Socializing
- 6:00 PM - Awards Ceremony

Location: Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame, 105 Pro Rodeo Drive, COS, 80919

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Articles "4" All

Website Links 3
Band Links 4
New Website 5
Meat Quality Assurance 6
Policies for Success 7
Join Youth County Council 8
4-H at the Gustafson Gallery 9
Become a 4-H Volunteer! 10
2026 Officer Training 11
2026 Achievement Awards 12
2026 4-H Open House 13
2026 4-H Project Exploration Night 14
Poultry Project Fundraiser 15
EPC Jr Livestock Sale Committee 16

Horse

Gymkhana Show 17

Miniature Horse

Tiny Turkeys Show 20

General Projects

Join the Robotics Project 21
Join the Sewing Project! 22
Join the Gardening Project! 23
Carve Pumpkins with the Gardening Project! 24

Other Opportunities

Volunteer at the 2026 Fall Festival 25
Volunteer Leaders Symposium 25
American Ewe for Youth Program 26
Fall Online Volunteer Training 26
AYHC Virtual Equine College Fair 27
Veterinary Science Livestream 28
Broadmoor World Arena Shows 29

Colorado State University Extension is an equal opportunity provider: https://col/st/OWMJA
Colorado State University does not discriminate on the basis of disability and is committed to providing reasonable accommodations. https://col/st/OWMJA
CSU's Office of Engagement and Extension ensures meaningful access and equal opportunities to participate to individuals whose first language is not English. https://col/st/OWMJA

Colorado State University Extension es un proveedor que ofrece ingualdad de oportunidades. https://col/st/OWMJA
Colorado State University no discimina por motivos de discapacidad y se compromete a proporcionar adaptaciones rezonables. https://col/st/OWMJA
Office of Engagement and Extension de CSU garantiza acceso signifcativo e inguladad de oportuidades para participar a las personas quienes su primer idioma no es el inglés. https://col/st/OWMJA

Articles "4" All

Please note that all articles and flyers in the 4-H Newsletter will be run for a limited timeframe (usually 3-4 newsletters or less) then will be removed. Please be aware of this and review the 4-H Newsletters starting in October of the current program year. This will ensure you are not missing out on any important program information. Thank you!

Please click the links below to find the following documents on the El Paso County Extension Website.

LINK to What is a Community Service document

LINK to 4-H Branding document

LINK to El Paso County 4-H Policies for Success document

LINK to Accommodations Form

Articles "4" All

Band App Links

Follow the Band links below to find more project specific information!

LINK to Livestock Band Group

LINK to Dairy + Pygmy Goat Band Group

LINK to Small Animal Band Group

LINK to Mini Horse Band Group

LINK to Horse Band Group

LINK to Dog Band Group

LINK to Tabletop Band Group

LINK to Electricity Band Group

LINK to 4-H Shooting Sports Band Group

LINK to Rocketry Band Group

LINK to Robotics Band Group

LINK to Sewing Band Group

Articles "4" All

Upcoming Website Changes & Construction

Hello 4-H Families and Volunteers!

CSU and Extension have been undergoing required and necessary website accessibility changes to make Ex tension resources more accessible for folks who use screen-readers, need high-contract documents or other accessible materials. This means that each County Extension Office Website will undergo these same changes.

What does this mean for our County Website?

Our El Paso County Website will be changing! It will become more accessible and hopefully more stream lined. This does mean that many of the documents, tabs and pages will be moving, changed, or updated to make them more accessible.

What does this mean for our County Website?

This change is scheduled to happen in the coming weeks. If you need access to a document, please email Jen Loewen or Shawna Lamothe and we will help you track down what you need. Thank you for your patience as we prepare to migrate to our new and improved website! ~ The El Paso County 4-H Team

Articles "4" All

Meat Quality Assurance (MQA) Training

Meat Quality Assurance Training teaches the youth about the quality of meat and food products that come from livestock. Quality assurance for livestock producers means making a promise to the consumers, or the people who consume the meat, eggs, milk and dairy products, from food production animals. The promise made is that products from livestock will be the highest possible quality and producers will do everything possible to make these products safe to eat.

- MQA Training will be offered twice. For 2026-2027, an interactive classroom style format will be used.
- The project areas required to complete MQA training is goats, sheep, cattle, swine, poultry, and rabbit.
- All first year 4-H members must complete Meat Quality Assurance (MQA) in the projects listed above.
- Current 4-H members advancing to intermediate (11 years old) or senior (14 years old) must complete a Meat Quality Assurance (MQA) in the projects listed above.
- MQA completion must be done at least 45 days prior to the El Paso County Fair to be eligible to exhibit at the county and/or state fair(s).
- Proof of compliance must be submitted to the El Paso County Extension Office.
- If the 4-H member is unable to attend an MQA workshop in El Paso County, the 4-H member may attend an MQA workshop in another county (information for completion must be sent to El Paso County office by the deadline from the county that the MQA training was completed in)

The first MQA will be offered Monday November 9, 2026, at 6:00 PM at the Extension Office (17 N Spruce Street).

Please park on the south side parking lot and enter through the Staff Only door on the south side of the buidling.

Please register for MQA with this link:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfvXIRPPVIl8s3O7DoJUnTCHr-uCDzIHnnVLo6C_MMLrp1BlQ/viewform

Articles "4" All

2026-2027 Policies for Success

Welcome to the New 4-H Year!

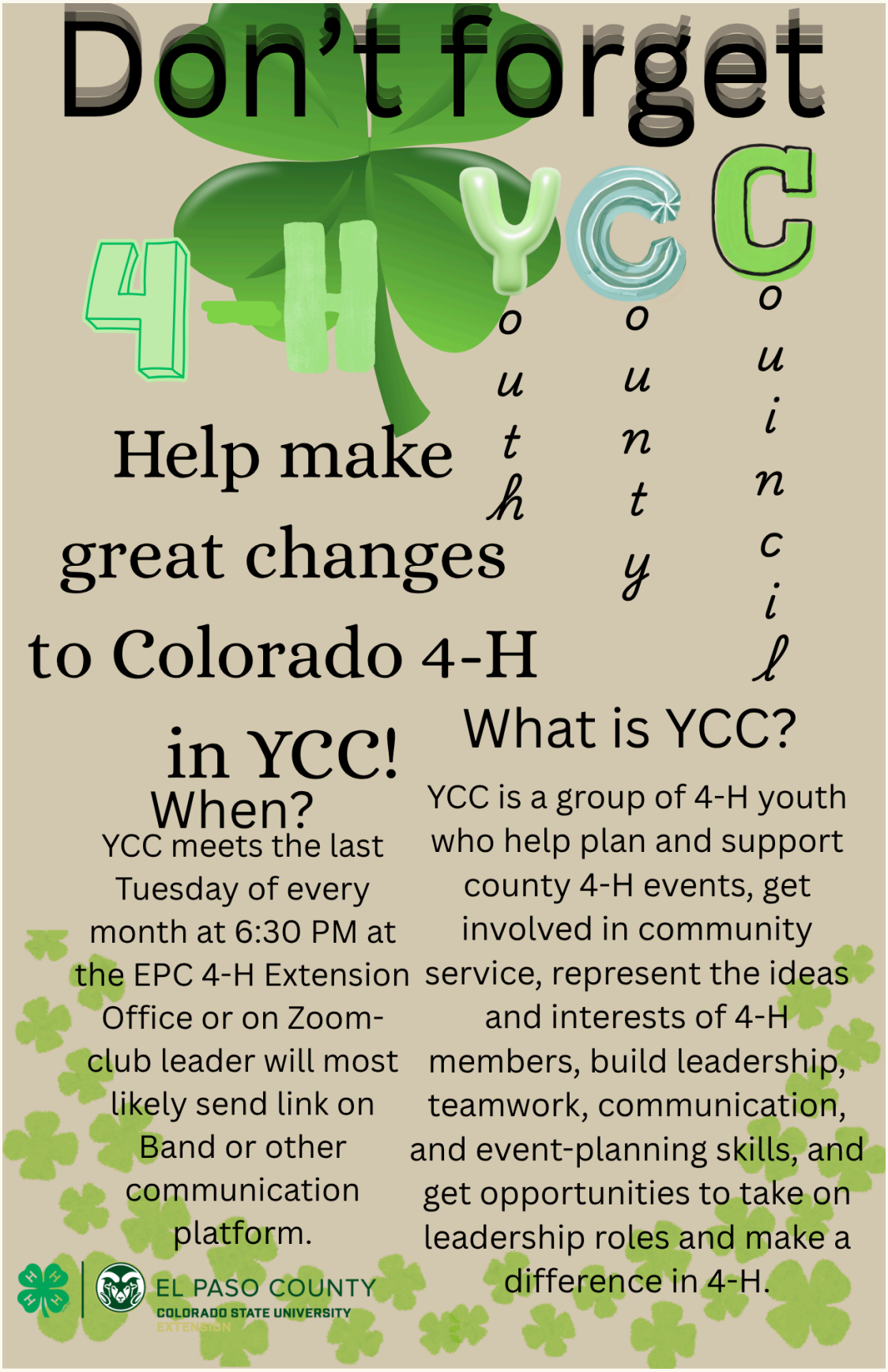
The El Paso County 4-H Team has updated the Policies for Success for the 2026-2027 4-H year. We strongly encourage all 4-H family members to carefully review the full document (found on the EPC Extension website HERE).

To help highlight what's changed, we've outlined the key revisions for the upcoming year below:

- New enrollments will be accepted after March 1 of the current 4-H year; however, participation is limited. Youth enrolled after the March 1 deadline will not be eligible to compete at the El Paso County or Colorado State Fairs and will incur a $35 late fee, due no later than March 15 at 5:00 PM.

Articles "4" All

Join the 4-H Youth County Council in person, or via Zoom! https://zoom.us/j/94664978761



Articles "4" All

Check out the entire 4-H Exhibition at the Gustafson Gallery HERE



Articles "4" All

Become a 4-H Volunteer!

RSVP to an In-Person Training HERE

BECOME A 4-H VOLUNTEER!

New Volunteer Training Dates:

November 5, 2026 (6 PM)
January 18, 2027 (6 PM)
February 2, 2027 (6 PM)

In-Person Training: El Paso County Extension Office
17 N. Spruce Street
Colorado Springs, 80905

New Volunteer Enrollment Steps:

- Enroll yourself in 4HOnline
- Submit 3 Personal References
- Attend an In-Person Training date (listed above)
- Complete CSU Background Check
- $5 Volunteer enrollment fee



Scan QR Code to RSVP for an In-Person Training!



4-H Volunteer Opportunities:

- Hands-On Experience/learning
- Supporting Positive Youth Development experiences
- Meet new "Volunteer Peers"
- Make a Positive difference in the EPC 4-H Program!

There's a role for everyone! Consider becoming a 4-H Volunteer Today!

Articles "4" All

2026 4-H Club Officer Training

RSVP HERE



Articles "4" All

2026 El Paso County 4-H Achievement Awards



Articles "4" All

2026 El Paso County 4-H Open House

El Paso County 4-H Open House



Want to learn more about 4-H and how it can benefit youth ages 5-18? Please come learn more at our 4-H Open House!



4-H OFFERS...

- **Public speaking, goal setting, & critical thinking skills**
- **A wide range of Clubs & Project opportunities**
- **Career-exploration, service learning, friendships & FUN!**



October 9th, 2026
5:30 PM

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EL PASO COUNTY EXTENSION

Join us at the El Paso County Extension Office located at 17 N Spruce St. Colorado Springs, CO 80905

Articles "4" All

2026 El Paso County 4-H Project Exploration Night



Articles "4" All

EPC 4-H Poultry Project Fundraiser

Order online at PandaExpress.com

FUNDRAISER FOR

El Paso County 4-H Poultry Project



When
Friday, October 30, 2026

Place your order for pickup or delivery on Friday, October 30!

Where
Available at Panda Express locations nationwide

www.pandaexpress.com

How
Online orders only

Apply code **9018012** in the Fundraiser Code box during online checkout at www.pandaexpress.com or via App

28% of sales will be donated to: El Paso County 4-H Poultry Project

Fundraising to support the project members and to purchase updated equipment for the barn at fair.

Valid for online orders only. Panda Restaurant Group, Inc. ("PRG") reserves the right to cancel any and all fundraiser events at any time, if the Virtual Community Fundraising Terms and Conditions are not followed. If the organization is not in good standing with the IRS, Franchise Tax Board, or the State of California (for California organizations only), then donations may not be made to the organization. The organization must raise a minimum of $150 in total event sales pre-tax when purchased with designated code at check-out, in order to receive 28% of all event sales (pre-tax amount). PRG does not charge the organization fees related to the event. Purchase(s) of gift cards and meals from Panda's School Lunch program do not count towards the fundraiser, but purchases made with gift cards will count. No portion of purchase is tax deductible. The donation from PRG to the organization is tax deductible. The organization receiving the donation must be a tax exempt organization. PRG will issue the donation check and provide an accounting statement to the organization within 45 days of the completion of the Event. Participants in the fundraiser may request the total dollar amount donated to the organization by emailing communityprograms@pandarg.com or by submitting the question at https://community.pandaexpress.com/faq

Articles "4" All

Serve on the EPC Jr Livestock Sale Committee



Horse

2026 EPC 4-H Horse Gymkhana Show



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EL PASO COUNTY EXTENSION



Gymkhana Qualifying Show

Kick off the 4-H year right and get qualified for the El Paso County Fair!

November 14, 2026

- 9:15 AM - Show Office Opens
- 10:00 AM - Written Test
- 10:30 AM - Show Start

Classes: ($10 per class)

- Written Test
- Showmanship
- Barrels
- Poles
- Keyhole

To Qualify for EPC County Fair:

- **Complete Written Test**
- **Exhibit in Showmaship**
- **Exhibit in One Riding Class**

18 USC 707

Event will be Held at Circle 3 Ranch: 12285 Squirrel Creek Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80928

Horse

2026 EPC 4-H Horse Gymkhana Show Showbill

2026 4-H Gymkhana Show

November 14, 2026, at Circle 3 Ranch
Office opens at 9:15 AM
Written Test at 10:00 AM
Show Start Time 10:30 AM

4-H Member Name: _____ Club: _____
Horse (s) Name: _____
4-H Age: _____ Phone Number: _____
Guardian's Name: _____
Guardian's Signature: _____
Total Amount Owed: _____

The 4-H Colorado Horse Rulebook will be followed*

Reminders:

- 4-H Proper attire required
- Decision of judge and show officials will be final
- Must enter showmanship, written test, and at least one riding class to qualify for the El Paso County Fair
- Junior (8-10 years old) Intermediate (11-13 years old) Senior (14-18 years old)

Pricing:

4-H classes are $10 per class and Open classes are $15 a class. Checks can be made to El Paso County Horse Advisory Committee (HAC).

Please Circle the classes the exhibitor is entering.

10:00 AM

1. Senior Written Test
2. Intermediate Written Test
3. Junior Written Test
4. Walk Trot Written Test

10:30 AM

5. Senior Showmanship
6. Intermediate Showmanship
7. Junior Showmanship
8. Walk Trot Showmanship
9. Open Showmanship

2026 EPC 4-H Horse Gymkhana Show Showbill Cont'd

Break (30 minutes)/Exhibitor Meeting & Tack Check

10. Senior Barrels
11. Intermediate Barrels
12. Junior Barrels
13. Walk Trot Barrels
14. Open Barrels
15. Senior Poles
16. Intermediate Poles
17. Junior Poles
18. Walk Trot Poles
19. Open Poles
20. Senior Flags
21. Intermediate Flags
22. Junior Flags
23. Walk Trot Flags
24. Open Flags
25. Senior Keyhole
26. Intermediate Keyhole
27. Junior Keyhole
28. Walk Trot Keyhole
29. Open Keyhole

El Paso County
4-H Horse Program

Miniature Horse

Tiny Turkeys Mini Horse Show

Pre-Register **HERE**



General Projects

Join the Robotics Project! Band Link HERE

Join the 4-H Robotics Project!

Learn the skills you need to code, design and build your own Robotics project!



WHERE: Falcon Fire Station 4
Address: 2710 Capital Drive

WHEN: 2nd Tuesday of each month, October through June from 6:00 - 8:00 PM

WHO: Any EPC 4-H member 8-18 wanting to learn more and get support with the 4-H Robotics project!

No supplies or previous coding knowledge needed! *

*El Paso County 4-H has a series of Chromebooks and LEGO robotics kits available to borrow for members who enroll in the project! *First come, first served.*

Please connect with Project Contact Tricia Schroeder for more information!
majesticwonderacademy@gmail.com.

Robotics BAND:
https://band.us/n/aba2A4b1l2s97

General Projects

Join the Sewing Project! Band Link HERE



General Projects

Join the Gardening Project! RSVP HERE

EL PASO COUNTY 4-H

GARDEN PROJECT

Plant. Learn. Grow.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- October 14th  Pumpkin Carving Day!
- November 11th
- January 13th
- February 10th
- March 10th
- April 14th
- May 12th

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

LESSONS INCLUDE

Planting vegetables
Harvesting seeds
Planning a garden
Dealing with garden pests
& more!

MEETING LOCATION

CSU Extension Office
17 N Spruce St
Colorado Springs, CO

Grow with the Master Gardeners!

Join the El Paso County Master Gardeners for in-person gardening classes! Starting with 4-H Gardening Manuals A & B, learn the ins and outs of gardening in Colorado.

Please RSVP for Gardening Project Meetings Here!

General Projects

Come Carve Pumpkins with the 4-H Gardening Project!

RSVP HERE



Other Opportunities

Volunteer at the 2026 Fall Festival!

The 2026 Fall Festival will be held at the El Paso County Fairgrounds, in the Whittemore Building, on October 31, 2026. Hours completed by 4-H Volunteers will count towards the early camping access for the 2027 County Fair.

Sign Up HERE

Volunteer Leaders Symposium

RSVP HERE



Other Opportunities

American Ewe for Youth Program

The Ewe for Youth program will award grant money to youth to purchase a new breeding ewe from a list of participating breeders. The breeder will also serve as a mentor to the participating family. Goal of program: To help fund and accelerate new junior breeders trying to grow the quality of their breeding program and develop mentorship between the new breeder and an established breeder.

Applications are due January 1. For more details and an application: New Program: Ewes for Youth - American Southdown Breeders' Association.

Colorado State 4-H Fall Online Volunteer Training

Topic: The Art of Engaging with 4-H Youth
Date: Tuesday, October 13, and/or Thursday, October 22
Time: 6:30 – 7:45 p.m.

All Active and Enrolled 4-H volunteers are invited to join us to learn and connect as we explore ideas and best practices on engaging with our 4-H members. We will hear from State 4-H Officers as they share their ideas; we'll share information and tools, and there will be time to visit in small breakout rooms.

Volunteers need only attend one of the two times the training is be ing offered.

Additional details will be shared in September as we get closer to the opportunity.

This training does not take the place of new volunteer training, required for all new 4-H volunteers in El Paso County. These dates will be shared shortly!

Other Opportunities

AYHC Virtual Equine College Fair

Love horses? Wondering what comes next?

Your passion for horses can lead to more careers—and more college opportu nities—than you might think!

Join us for the Virtual Equine College Fair on September 18, 2026, and explore colleges, universities, trade schools, and programs from across the country— all from wherever you are.

Discover programs in:
- Equine Science & Management
- Animal & Agricultural Science
- Veterinary Medicine & Pre-Vet
- Equine Dentistry & Farrier Science
- Agribusiness & Marketing
- Agricultural Communications
- And many more!

Meet college representatives. Ask questions. Explore programs. Find your next step.

Whether you already know exactly what you want to study or you're still figur ing it out, this event is designed to help you connect your interests with real ed ucational and career opportunities.

High school students in grades 9–12 are invited!

Save the date and start exploring where your passion for horses could take you.

Other Opportunities

Register HERE

View our

Veterinary Surgery Livestream

with Humane Colorado!



Get a "surgeon's eye view" of LIVE veterinary surgery narrated by a CSU Spur educator!

30-minute sessions run at 10 AM and 10:30 AM.

Free of cost!

Join us on November 4 10 AM, 10:30 AM

CSU SPUR
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Register HERE to secure your spot!

Check out our website for more about virtual programming: https://csuspur.org/virtual-programs/

Other Opportunities

UPCOMING SHOWS WITH

SPECIAL DISCOUNTS

Sept. 24	**The Fab Four** - *Beatles Tribute*	15% off
Sept. 26 - 27	**Philharmonic: Scheherazade**	20% off
Oct. 2 - 3	**Philharmonic: Music of Knights**	20% off
Oct. 9	**Rock Orchestra by Candlelight**	10% off
Oct. 10	**Killers of Kill Tony**	10% off
Oct. 11	**John Crist** - *Comedian*	15% off
Oct. 13	**Jim Henson's Labyrinth In Concert**	20% off
Oct. 15	**Kansas**	20% off
Oct. 17	**Jimmy Failla** - *Comedian*	20% off
Oct. 20	**Fourever Fab & Sixtiesmania**	10% off
Oct. 23 - 25	**Monster Jam**	$10 off
Oct. 24	**Whitney Cummings** - *Comedian*	15% off
Oct. 25	**World Ballet Company: Swan Lake**	10% off
Nov. 1	**The Billy Joel Legacy**	20% off
Nov. 5	**MercyMe**	10% off
Nov. 6	**Michael Carbonaro** - *Magician*	20% off
Nov. 8	**Straight No Chaser**	20% off
Nov. 22	**Trans-Siberian Orchestra**	10% off
Nov. 27 - 29	**The Nutcracker**	20% off
Nov. 30 - Dec. 2	**Hadestown** - *Broadway*	10% off
Dec. 15	**Cirque Musica**	15% off

With many more shows and discounts to be announced!

Visit BroadmoorWorldArena.com/SuperGroup

Promo Code: COMMUNITY26

Questions? Call 719-477-2170

(List made 9.15.26, check website for up-to-date offers.)

