

# ROUTE 66 SHARP SHOOTERS 4-H CLUB



**LOCATION: EDGEWOOD, NM | COUNTY: SANTA FE |**

Club leader: Cassie Stuart | 505-917-4262 | castleloo@hotmail.com | sharpshooters4h.webs.com

## Local 4-H Demystified

**What is 4-H?** In short, 4-H is a national program that centers on positive youth development, with a hands-on approach of “learn by doing.” That means your kids get to learn all sorts of fun, new stuff by actually doing it! They can become better citizens through serving, and better leaders by teaching others what they know. How cool is that?

**Who runs it?** The 4-H program is facilitated through land-grant universities and the Cooperative Extension System. The administrators are often professionals, but at the local level, it’s volunteers—regular people and parents—just like you and me, who care about our youth. Older 4-H members also lead in many capacities: helping younger members with projects, heading committees, or serving as club officers.

**Who can join?** School aged youth. Members may be any boy or girl ages 9-19. Cloverbuds are children 5-8 years old. Enrollment is open to all, regardless of race, religion, ability or ice cream preference.

**Tell me more about local clubs.** Local clubs are run by an Organizational or Club Leader under the direction of the county it serves. Each county has their own way of running things, and each club does too (within the mandates of the county and state). Some clubs may focus on one particular project, such as a Horse Club, where others may include a variety of activities and project interests. Each club will determine how often they meet, what projects will be emphasized, and what the membership requirements for their club will be. **It is suggested to “shop around” for which club best fits your family.**

**Help me understand County and State Fair.** The purpose of the fair is a means for 4-H members to showcase their project work completed throughout the 4-H year. Members may exhibit at only one County Fair: the county with which their club is affiliated. Indoor exhibits, such as photography or home arts, must qualify at the county level to proceed to the State Fair. Animals, however, may be entered into the State Fair/Eastern NM State Fair regardless of their presence at the County Fair. Participation in County, District and State competitions are also encouraged and may include shooting sports, talent, food, judging and speaking contests.

**How do I get involved?** Just ask! The 4-H program is always looking for new youth to enroll and fresh adults to volunteer. To find a club, contact the desired county’s 4-H Extension Agent and they can get you in touch with Club Leaders in your area who can walk you through all the steps you need to enroll. Visit the NM State 4-H website <http://aces.nmsu.edu/4h/> and click on “How to Join” to get a full list of county contacts.