



SOUTH DAKOTA STATE
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION



Pennington County 4-H FAMILY HANDBOOK



2023 - 2024

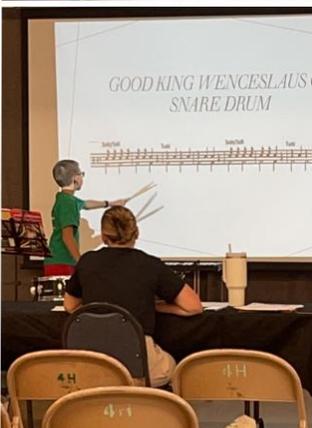




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Sources: University of Idaho Extension; Nebraska Extension-Seward County



Welcome Letter

Revised September 2023

Dear New 4-H Family,

Welcome to Pennington County 4-H! We are so excited that you have joined and hope that you enjoy exploring everything that 4-H has to offer, making new friends and having fun along the way. We currently have over 400 individuals enrolled in our 4-H youth development programs. This handbook is designed to help you have a meaningful and enjoyable 4-H experience. Reviewing this handbook with the 4-H members in your household would be an excellent opportunity for everyone to become familiar with the 4-H program in Pennington County.

The 4-H program is so large and the opportunities so vast it can sometimes seem overwhelming when you are new. Just keep in mind that your family's 4-H experience can be tailor-made to fit your goals, schedule, and interests. That is one reason why 4-H is such a great program. You can be involved as a whole family, learning, and growing together.

When describing 4-H to someone new, we often use the analogy of a super department store. 4-H is like a "store" full of wonderful, fun, positive educational programs. It has all the workshops, projects, contests, trips, conferences, camps, or activities you could possibly want or need. Your club leaders and 4-H staff are like the "greeters" at the front of the store to help you find what you need. We are here to answer your questions.

Keep in mind that the leader in your club is a volunteer. Like all of us, your leader is more than willing to do his or her part, but your leader also needs help. Your club will be able to accomplish so much more if parents and guardians share some of the responsibilities with the leader. Ask your leader what you can do to support your child's club. If we all take a small piece of the pie, it makes everyone's involvement more manageable and fun!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Pennington County 4-H Office at 605.394.2188. We are located at 601 E Centre St. Rapid City. Again, welcome to the wonderful world of 4-H!

Sincerely,

Regina Bakley
Pennington County 4-H Youth Program Advisor

Kimberly Suckow
Pennington County 4-H Support Staff



Section 1: What is 4-H?

WHAT IS THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF 4-H?

The philosophy of 4-H is to strengthen the mental, physical, moral, and social development of boys and girls, thereby helping them to develop into competent, committed, and self-assured adults. The main objective is the personal development of youth through participation in projects, events, and other wholesome activities.

4-H helps youth develop a variety of abilities they can use every day—what we refer to as “life skills.” All our educational programs are designed to ensure that youth develop the confidence, competence, and desirable personal characteristics to become:

- **Critical thinkers**
- **Adaptable to change**
- **Organized managers**
- **Self-motivated**
- **Caring human beings**
- **Socially articulate**
- **Responsible citizens**
- **Connected to others in the community**

4-H is intended to *supplement, not replace*, other learning experiences young people may have through other institutions.

4-H BELIEFS

- The 4-H member is significantly more important than his or her project.
- Project work is one of the best devices for developing young people. To “learn by doing” is fundamental in any sound educational program and is a primary characteristic of the 4-H program.
- 4-H’ers should be their own best “exhibit.” This includes their personal manners, attitudes, and courtesy as well as appropriate dress and physical appearance.
- No award is worth sacrificing the reputation of a 4-H member or volunteer.
- Competition is recognized in 4-H as a human trait, but competition requires careful planning and safeguards when used as an educational tool.
- A blue-ribbon 4-H’er with a red-ribbon exhibit is more desirable than a red-ribbon 4-H’er with a blue-ribbon exhibit.

4-H MOTTO

“To Make the Best Better”

4-H EMBLEM

The 4-H emblem is a green four-leaf clover with a white letter “H” on each leaf, standing for **Head, Heart, Hands, and Health**. The United States Congress has established specific restrictions regarding use of the 4-H emblem. Check with your local SDSU Extension office for specific regulations.

4-H COLORS

The 4-H colors are green and white. Green is nature’s most common color and represents life, springtime, and youth. White symbolizes purity.



- Every 4-H member needs to be noticed, to feel important, to achieve some degree of success, and to be praised.
- It is the responsibility of 4-H volunteers and staff to guide 4-H members in learning how to think, not what to think.

WHAT CAN YOU DO IN 4-H?

Many learning opportunities are available for members in 4-H:

- **Project Work.** Project work helps members gain knowledge and skills and learn to take responsibility for their decisions. By working on projects at home, members can develop stronger relationships with their parents. (Parents: Be supportive and help guide your child; don't do their work for them.)
- **Oral Presentations.** The process of demonstrating and explaining how to do something to an audience is called an oral presentation. Members gain personal confidence in their public speaking skills, which is one of the first steps in developing personal leadership abilities.
- **Record Keeping.** Keeping accurate records is an essential life skill. Members are required to keep records on every project in which they are enrolled to help them evaluate and learn from their 4-H experiences and develop business-oriented skills.
- **Recreation.** Members learn to enjoy life, balance work with leisure time, and develop social skills through their interactions with others. Recreation can also provide opportunities to teach leadership skills.
- **Contests.** Through their participation in contests, members can learn cooperative and competitive skills along with standards of excellence. Awards may be provided in recognition of their efforts.
- **Exhibits.** Members may choose to exhibit their project results at the county fair or some other public setting. Exhibiting 4-H projects enables the public to learn what 4-H'ers are doing, helps members learn how they can improve their work, and gives members a sense of pride and accomplishment.
- **4-H Camp.** Many counties provide 4-H camping experiences where members take part in educational activities and spend time with other campers.
- **Service Learning.** Developing a sense of compassion toward others and a willingness to participate in activities which benefit other individuals, or the community is what service learning is all about. Most Community Clubs complete at least one community service project a year.
- **4-H Ambassadors.** The 4-H Ambassador program develops leadership and public speaking skills in older 4-H members, enabling them to become more effective 4-H advocates within their communities and counties.
- **Recognition and Awards.** Youth are recognized and rewarded in a variety of ways for work they do. These may range from acceptance by peers and volunteers to ribbons,



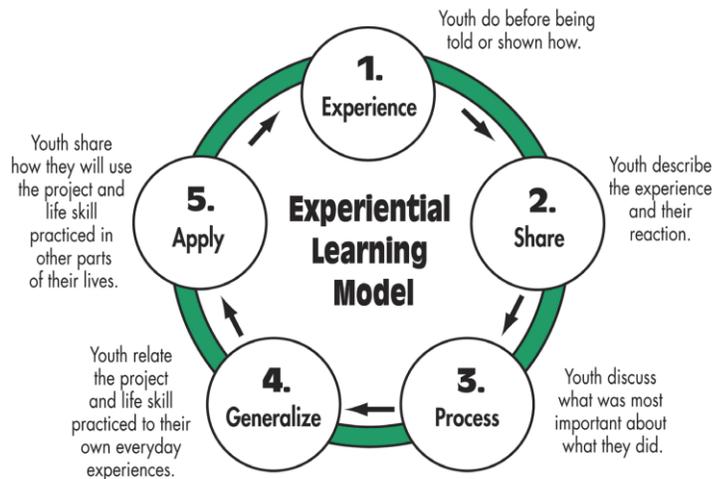
certificates, trips, and scholarships. Accomplishments in both cooperative and competitive settings are recognized.

- **Fundraising.** Members will be asked to contribute to club & County fundraising efforts. The skills learned in these fundraising activities add to the member’s leadership and organizational skills and may influence career choices. While 4-H is assisted with some public funds, private funds are essential to the operation of the 4-H program.
- **4-H Club.** In club meetings, 4-H members learn how to conduct effective meetings utilizing parliamentary procedure. They also learn about the value that committees play in accomplishing club goals and gain cooperative skills through social interaction with club members.

LEARNING BY DOING

The concept of “learning by doing” has been the core of how 4-H teaches youth since its beginning. With guidance from adult volunteers, youth gain useful skills through hands-on experiences, and they learn how to live with others and to serve their community and country by practicing these skills in real-life situations.

This concept has been put into an official model, the “experiential learning model.” The approach allows youth to experience something with minimal guidance from an adult—to discover answers versus being told the answers. Presented with a question, problem, or situation, youth are challenged to explore for the solution themselves. This process is called “experiential learning” because it is based on learning from experiences.



Pfeiffer, J.W., & Jones, J.E., "Reference Guide to Handbooks and Annuals"
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DEVELOPING LIFE SKILLS

Youth development is a process of mental, physical, and social growth during which young people prepare to live a productive and satisfying life. High-quality youth development experiences don’t just happen. The best experiences are those that are carefully and thoughtfully planned to:

1. Encourage life skill development while delivering subject-matter content
2. Achieve specific outcomes

A skill is the learned ability to do something well. Life skills help an individual become successful in living a productive and fulfilling life. The Targeting Life Skills Model (right) categorizes life skills in relationship to the four “Hs” that represent **Head, Heart, Hands, and Health**.



**Head—Knowledge/Reasoning/Creativity
Competencies**

- **Thinking**—using one’s mind to form ideas and make decisions, to imagine, to examine carefully, to consider
- **Managing**—using resources to accomplish a purpose

Heart—Personal/Social Competencies

- **Relating**—establishing a reciprocal connection between two people that is wholesome and meaningful to both
- **Caring**—showing understanding, kindness, concern, and affection for others

**Hands—Vocational/Citizenship
Competencies**

- **Giving**—providing, supplying, or causing to happen (social responsibility)
- **Working**—accomplishing something or earning pay to support oneself through physical and/or mental effort

Health—Physical Competencies

- **Living**—acting or behaving, a style of daily life
- **Being**—living one’s life, pursuing one’s basic nature, personal development



Section 2: 4-H Basics

WHO CAN JOIN 4-H?

4-H is open to any boy or girl ages 5 to 18 regardless of whether they live in the country, on a farm, in small towns, or large cities.

4-H is for everyone, regardless of race, color, creed, age, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, public-assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identify/ expression, or parental status.

4-H PROGRAM YEAR

The 4-H program year begins October 1 and runs through September 30 of the following year.

4-H ENROLLMENT

4-H members (organized club and special interest) and Cloverbuds are required to enroll through 4-H Online system. By enrolling, youth can participate in the county 4-H achievement days, county and



state contests and South Dakota State Fair. *Refer to "How to Join a Club"*

4-H Methods of Participation			
			
A 4-H Club is an organized group that meets regularly to focus on a series of educational experiences. Official enrollment is required. Commonly referred to as a Community Club	School Enrichment programs offer nonformal, hands-on educational experiences in classrooms in support of school curriculum.	Afterschool programs meet between 3-6 PM to offer youth a safe, fun, and educational experience through hands-on activities and 4-H curriculum.	Special interest programs include short-term experiences, such as workshops or clinics, as well as experiences focused on a single topic or interest over a period of time (Pennington County 4-H Shooting Sports).

AGE FOR MEMBERSHIP

Membership age is based on the individual's age as of January 1 of the current 4-H year. Youth 5 to 7 years of age are eligible to participate in the noncompetitive division called Cloverbuds. Members ages 8 to 18 may participate in all aspects of 4-H, including competitive events. Cloverbuds may **not** participate in Shooting Sports, large animal shows, or overnight camps. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Section 3: 4-H Clubs

Authorized 4-H clubs consist of a group of boys and girls, 4-H officers, and one or more certified volunteer supervisors. Clubs are frequently organized within a neighborhood, a school, a business, or other location. The club size should be suitable to the age of the members, meeting place, and leadership available. Clubs are encouraged to conduct at least one community outreach (service learning) project annually to benefit underprivileged individuals or other groups within their community. ***Please refer to the Pennington County 4-H Club Guide to learn more about our 4-H clubs. Appendix B.***

In addition to community 4-H clubs, youth may opt to participate in 4-H special interest groups/project clubs that focus on one specific topic, school enrichment activities, or after-school programs.

WHAT ARE THE PURPOSES OF 4-H CLUB MEETINGS?

Each 4-H club meeting should help youth:

- Acquire new information
- Learn to use leisure time creatively
- Develop social skills
- Acquire leadership and citizenship traits
- Learn to conduct meetings



Meetings enable 4-H members to learn and practice decision making and leadership skills in a group setting by using the knowledge and skills acquired through 4-H. Each member is expected to attend all club meetings. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend meetings with their children. Your involvement demonstrates support for 4-H members, keeps members informed on club activities, and enables you to assist volunteers as requested. Remember, 4-H is a family affair!

WHAT IS A CLUB MEETING LIKE?

Each 4-H meeting normally lasts 1 to 1½ hours and includes business, educational programs, and recreation (see the meeting planning diagram on the right). Clubs may meet monthly or at any time determined by the club members. Meetings may include a variety of the following items:

- **Business Sessions.** The business portion of the meeting should be short and snappy. It is a small democracy in action with members learning how to conduct meetings effectively, work with others through committee assignments, and cooperate with others in making decisions.

Educational Programs. This part of the meeting helps members learn more about subjects of general interest to the membership. 4-H teaching is unique—it is “learning by doing.” Generally, the educational program includes talks and demonstrations by the members. Outside speakers may also present programs.

- **Demonstrations.** Demonstrations allow members to show other members some of the things they have learned using the actual articles to “show and tell” the steps they took to complete the finished product.
- **Illustrated Talks.** Illustrated talks differ from demonstrations in that the member uses charts or other visual aids to tell about the given subject rather than physically demonstrating steps.
- **Project Talks/Speeches.** Through talks, members share information, or an experience related to one of

4-H Pledge

I PLEDGE

*My head to clearer thinking,
My heart to greater loyalty,
My hands to larger service, and
My health to better living,
For my club, my community, my country,
and my world.*

The 4-H Creed

I believe in 4-H club work for the opportunity it will give me to become a useful citizen.

I believe in the training of my HEAD for the power it will give me to think, plan, and to reason.

I believe in the training of my HEART for the nobleness it will give me to be kind, sympathetic, and true.

I believe in the training of my HANDS for the ability it will give me to be helpful, useful, and skillful.

I believe in the training of my HEALTH for the strength it will give me to enjoy life, resist disease, and work efficiently.

I believe in my country, my state, and in my community, and in my responsibility for their development.

In all these things I believe, and I am willing to dedicate my efforts to their fulfillment.





their projects and may use props/visual aids. In speeches, members speak about a topic without using any visual aids.

- **Recreation.** The recreation portion of the meeting distinguishes the 4-H meeting from other educational activities. Recreation may include challenges, group singing, relays, guessing games, singing games, active games, and quiet games.
- **Refreshments.** Some clubs serve refreshments at meetings, although this is not essential. Usually different families serve as hosts each month, providing members experience in selecting, preparing, and serving the refreshments. Emphasis should be placed on selecting simple, inexpensive, nutritious refreshments and how to serve them. Parents should help by giving suggestions and guidance

DO MEETINGS JUST HAPPEN?

Effective meetings require advance planning. Successful clubs get ideas from the members, and then they utilize creative thinking and initiative early in the club year to develop an annual club plan for meeting schedules and educational programs.

Usually, the initial program planning is done by the club officers with guidance from volunteers and club parents. This plan is then presented back to the entire club for review, modification, and approval. The specific content will vary from club to club.

WHO CONDUCTS MEETINGS?

The officers elected at the beginning of the 4-H year are responsible for conducting meetings. Organizational volunteers or the club officer advisor should work with the officers to help them develop leadership skills and assist them in developing agendas. Most clubs normally elect a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and reporter/historian. Other officers may be elected depending on the individual club (such as recreation leader, song leader, etc.).

WHO PROVIDES CLUB LEADERSHIP?

Adults and teens provide guidance and serve as coaches for club and project work. Parents are usually the best source of adult volunteers—but not the only source. Parents of former 4-H'ers, retired people, and other young adults are often willing to help the 4-H'ers. Teens may take on key leadership roles with younger members under the supervision of authorized volunteers.

Occasionally, members and parents become so focused on the project and subject matter that they forget the importance that club meetings play in the overall personal development of the member. Leaders play an integral role in helping families focus on the importance of well-rounded youth involvement within 4-H.



Is there a cost to join 4-H?

Yes, in Pennington County, there is a \$5 membership fee to join 4-H. This fee goes to insurance to cover active 4-Hers. There are also fees that certain project-specific clubs may charge.

Breakdown of dues:

\$5.00 – Pennington County membership fee, per member.

This is a yearly fee and is capped at \$20 for larger families.

Note: This is only paid once per member per year and covers all clubs the member may have joined in Pennington County

Black Hills Shooters \$20.00 – Shooting Sports Education – Gun Safety. This is a yearly fee.

Black Hills Archery \$75.00 – Shooting Sports Education –This is a yearly fee, and is paid to Black Hills Archery.

Extra Ordinary Friends \$30.00 – Dog Project. This is a yearly fee.

Section 4: 4-H Projects

WHY PROJECTS?

Projects are one of the teaching tools that help youth develop positive life skills and knowledge about a topic. It is essential to recognize that although the focus of a project may appear to be subject-matter knowledge, the development of the individual is the most important purpose of 4-H.

WHAT ARE PROJECTS?

Projects are a series of hands-on experiences where members are actively involved in learning both subject matter and personal development skills, such as decision making, communication, problem solving, teamwork, etc. And of course, they are designed to be FUN.

Over 70 project areas provide an array of educational experiences. Most projects have several phases so that a member may advance to more difficult and challenging activities as they develop their knowledge and skills. A wide variety of interests and activities attract members regardless of their place of residence, economic status, or race.

WHAT ARE 4-H PROJECTS DESIGNED TO DO?

- Create a sense of ownership
- Give a feeling of achievement
- Strengthen family and community ties
- Provide members the opportunity to:
 - Learn project skills
 - Develop and understand project knowledge
 - Develop good attitudes
 - Assume responsibility
 - Participate in healthful competition
 - Make meaningful decisions



- Provide leisure-time activities
- Encourage members to explore career opportunities and discover what educational training they require. Through these experiences, members get a taste for the work and responsibilities involved in a field.

HOW DO YOU SELECT PROJECTS?

Projects are selected early in the 4-H year when enrollment is completed. To increase the opportunity for members to succeed and have a positive experience, it is important that families fully understand what is expected of the 4-H member before enrolling in a project.

For new or younger members, it is generally wise to limit enrollment to just one or two projects to ensure sufficient time to successfully complete them. Older, experienced members are usually able to complete several different projects, including ones that are more difficult.

For project ideas, please reference the 4-H Project Guide at the end of the 4-H Family Handbook.

WHEN SELECTING A PROJECT:

- Does the project meet the needs and interests of your child?
- Is the project appropriate based on the age and ability (physical and mental) of your child? Will it challenge him or her educationally?
- How much time does your child have and how much time does the project require? During which season of the year will most of the project activities be accomplished?
- Is the project acceptable to you as parents and does it fit into your family's needs and situation?
- How much will the project cost?
- Is adequate space and equipment available at home?
- What are the opportunities for youth to learn about owning and managing resources related to the project?
- Does your club have a volunteer(s) to help with the project? Are you willing to become a project volunteer if necessary?

HOW IS PROJECT WORK ACCOMPLISHED?

Members complete projects in a variety of ways, including taking part in activities and events such as:

- Local club project meetings
- Demonstrations/talks at club meetings
- Tours
- Family activities or work at home
- Exhibiting at shows or fairs
- Record keeping

Project leadership is provided by authorized adult and teen volunteers.



TAKE PROJECT EXPERIENCE TO THE NEXT STEP: INTERVIEW JUDGING PROCESS

Interview judging of your 4-H projects is a process that greatly enhances your 4-H evaluation experience. The process involves a caring judge interviewing you about your project. Interview judging gives you a sense of personal involvement and helps to make project work more educational.

Evaluation of the exhibit is done by you and the judge together. Basing a decision on your project goals and the general exhibit standards, the judge decides how much progress has been made and what ribbon you will receive. You can explain your own starting point, take note of the progress you have made and explain your future goals.

Benefits of interview judging are improved communication skills, recognizing your personal success and progress, encouragement to try new ideas and learning from the experience of the judge. The benefits to the judge are to help you feel good about your project and find out what you want to achieve while providing a learning experience.

Section 5: 4-H Parents and Members

Parents make the difference in 4-H!

Parents and families play a critical role in the success of the 4-H program. Youth join 4-H to belong, to do things with their friends, to meet new friends, to have fun, to be recognized as a person, and to achieve. It is much easier for youth to succeed in 4-H and continue to grow when they have your support and understanding. **The volunteer can do only so much; children need the support of their parents.**

You are encouraged to attend both club and project meetings with your child. It is essential that parents serve as effective role models by helping youth keep commitments, assisting them to think through decisions, and seeing that they continue working toward achieving their goals.

4-H is truly a family affair. Youth need adult guidance to encourage and direct them in their character development. As a parent, you can be a project volunteer, activity volunteer, camp chaperone, or a club volunteer. All parents are encouraged to assume some responsibility within the local 4-H club because everyone has busy schedules. Your help is greatly appreciated!

WHY PARENTS NEED TO BE INVOLVED

Why parents need to be involved

Research has repeatedly shown that parental participation in 4-H has many benefits, including:

- 4-H'ers do better work when they receive more personal attention from parents and volunteers.
- Parents can encourage a "learn by doing" approach when they support their child in activities.



- Families are strengthened when parents and children participate together in areas of common interest.
- 4-H clubs become stronger and more vibrant when parents take an active role in 4-H.

HOW TO BE A 4-H MVP (MOST VALUABLE PARENT)

- Learn what 4-H is all about. Stay informed on what is happening in your club and county.
- Show a genuine interest in 4-H and your child.
- Attend 4-H meetings and activities with your child; encourage your child to participate in 4-H events.
- Make 4-H a priority in your home—read your 4-H mail promptly, and mark 4-H activities on your calendar.
- Provide encouragement and help in your child's project work with record keeping, demonstrations, judging, and completion of attempted work—without doing the work yourself.
- Provide transportation to local club meetings, activities, and county-wide events.
- Provide a meeting place for a project group. Assist volunteers by providing refreshments or other help.
- Share your special talents by volunteering to lead a project.
- Help members select, finance, and manage their projects. There are minimal costs required for project literature and materials.
- Help volunteers conduct project work.
- Help volunteers locate and secure other qualified adults to assist with project work or 4-H activities.

REMEMBER: 4-H MEMBERS ARE THE FOCUS!

The 4-H program utilizes the “learning by doing” approach as we work to develop the potential of each 4-H member. This means that 4-H members and their families must assume a high level of responsibility for their own learning and involvement in program opportunities.

To get the greatest benefit out of 4-H, members need to:

- Attend and participate in all club and project meetings
- Support and work on club-level activities and events
- Participate in county, district, state and/or national activities and events that enhance project learning
- Keep up-to-date on project-related work
- Exhibit pride in being a 4-H member



Section 6: 4-H Record Books & Recognition

What Is a Record Book and Why Do We Have Them?

4-H Record Books serve a variety of purposes in the 4-H Youth Development Program. They give members an opportunity to reflect on their yearly work, encourage members to set goals, pursue strategies to meet those goals, learn how to shift gears in the face of challenges and obstacles, and teaches members how to identify, create, classify, archive, and preserve records.

In addition to record keeping, the iconic 4-H Record Book gives members an opportunity to reflect on their year, measure their achievements and growth, set goals, and develop plans to meet those goals.

Who Should Keep a Record Book?

Every member of 4-H - excluding Cloverbuds - should keep a Record Book to learn the life skills mentioned above and to track their activities, events, profits and losses, skill development and learning experiences, and much more. **If you are a current member of the Pennington County 4-H Program a Record Book is required if you would like the opportunity to win county awards.**

What Do I Do?

1. Download your pages (Printable or Fillable) from the Pennco.org/4h website.
2. Complete your pages with information throughout the 4-H year
3. Put together your book

Member Recognition

Pennington County 4-H member recognition is used to encourage and support the efforts of youth as they increase their 4-H project area knowledge and develop life skills. There are four kinds of recognition available to Pennington County 4-H members: Participation, Achievement, Project, and Top 4-H awards. While not required, 4-H members are encouraged to achieve the standards set forth by Pennington County 4-H.

Participation Awards

- Pins are given to any 4-H members completing their first, fifth, and tenth year of 4-H. The completion requirements are the same every year.



Achievement Awards

- Basic skill awards are designed to help members gain skill and learn more about the 4-H program. Members may begin to earn them during their second year in 4-H. As the member progresses, earning the awards requires a little more work.

Awards:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Bronze | • Agriculture Pin | • Fashion Revue Pin |
| • Leadership Pin | • Demonstration Pin | • Citizenship Pin |
| • Technology & Engineering Pin | • Gold | • Personal Development Pin |
| • Silver | • Consumer and Family Science Pin | • Judging Pin |

Project Area Awards

- Project areas are opportunities for members to learn about a subject of interest to them. After three years of 4-H, members are eligible to earn pins in the project areas they have completed. A youth can only receive one project area pin in each project area ONCE. Along with project area pins, incentive awards have been established for certain project areas. These are awarded on a points system and will be awarded to the top Beginner, Junior, and Senior points earners. Incentive awards consist of a cash award, certificate and recognition on the Walter Taylor 4-H Building Member Recognition Wall.

Incentive Awards:

- | | | |
|----------|--------------------|-----------|
| • Beef | • Companion Animal | • Dog |
| • Goat | • Horse | • Poultry |
| • Rabbit | • Sheep | |

Top 4-H Awards

- To recognize the most outstanding 4-H members in Pennington County, awards have been established based on a point system. These awards consist of a cash award, certificate and recognition on the Walter Taylor 4-H Building Member Recognition Wall, with the exception of the Key Award which does not receive a cash award.

Top 4-H awards:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Pennington County Top 4-H Member | • Outstanding 4-H Member Record Book | • Don Brunner Perseverance Award |
| • Kathy Bruckner Secretarial Book | • Outstanding Graduating Member | • Key Award (SD State 4-H Award) |

The Danish system uses color to signify different award levels. The 4-H Youth Development program awards ribbons in these colors.



- Purple (Superior): A purple is awarded to those entries that far exceed the average standard or meet the standards established for that particular class. This award indicates a near perfect exhibit.
- Blue (Excellent): A blue is awarded to those entries that exceed the average standard. This award indicates a certain degree of excellence that exceeds the average expectation and may be given to multiple participants.
- Red (Good): A red is awarded to those entries that meet the average standard or are slightly below the average standard established for that respective class. The general level of accomplishment meets expectations, but is less than excellent. Shortcomings are found in certain aspects to cause this ranking.
- White (Fair): A white is awarded to those entries that do not meet average standard. The level of accomplishment is less than expected. A ranking of white is deserved due to the severe shortcomings from the good standard.

Section 7: 4-H Fundraisers

Each year the Pennington County 4-H Leaders Association puts on three major fundraisers to help raise money for the following items:

- Awards: Ribbons, trophies, and plaques
- Helps youth attend trips: Citizen Washington Focus, National Shooting Sports, Performing Arts Camp, Youth/Teen Camp, Teen Leadership Conference, etc.
- Judges: Helps to provide quality judges for our Achievement Days each year
- Clubs: This money can be earned by clubs for helping out with fundraisers to be used for what the club sees as fit
- Scholarships: The Pennington County 4-H Leaders Association offers three scholarships to a graduating senior, 1st place \$750, 2nd place \$500, 3rd place \$250
- Workshops: The Leaders Association funds help to put on workshops that are free to youth throughout the county

What are the fundraisers?

- 50/50 Raffle is held during the Central States Fair in August & The Black Hills Stock Show in January/February
- Western Junior Food Booth held in October each year
- Remembrance Wreath Sales take place October – November and will be placed at the Black Hills National Cemetery at the beginning of December by 4-H Youth.

How do you help?

- Donate your time to help out the Leaders Association and earn some money for your club!
- Each of these events generally has a sign-up link sent out prior to the event in search of people to help, make sure to sign up and do your part to help Pennington County 4-H continue to Make the Best Better!



Contact & Resource Information

4-H Office Contact Information

Office Phone: 605.394.2188

Mailing Address:
601 E Centre. St
Rapid City, SD 57701

 <p>Regina Bakley regina.bakley@sdstate.edu 4-H Youth Program Advisor</p>	 <p>Kimberly Suckow pennington_county@sdstate.edu 4-H Staff Assistant</p>	 <p>Jane Amiotte jane.amiotte@sdstate.edu 4-H Youth Program Advisor</p>
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Website References:

Pennington County 4-H—www.pennco.org/4h

Pennington County 4-H Facebook Page -- <https://www.facebook.com/Pennington-County-4-H-117043038400639/>

4-H Online—v2.4honline.com

Fair Entry—<https://fairentree.com/Public/FindYourFair>

SDSU Extension—<https://extension.sdstate.edu/>

South Dakota State Fair—www.sdstatefair.com

4-H State Fair Exhibitor Resources—<https://extension.sdstate.edu/south-dakota-4-h/competitions-state-fair/state-fair>

State 4-H Office Contact Information

Mailing Address:
SD State 4-H Office
SDSU Berg Ag Hall
SAG 109, Box 2207E
Brookings, SD 57007



How do you join a club?

It's easy as 1-2-3!

1. Take a look at the current Pennington County 4-H Clubs listed. Decide which clubs you're interested in and **contact their leaders** to make sure you are joining the proper club.
2. Go to v2.4honline.com
 - a. Search for South Dakota
 - b. When you get to the Login page you will be able to select if you already have a profile or if you need to set up a profile. If your family has not been part of 4-H in South Dakota you will need to "setup a profile". If your family has been part of 4-H in South Dakota in the past please contact the 4-H office to see if your information just needs to be transferred or renewed.
 - c. Please select the "ROLE" as "Family".
 - d. If you are new to SD 4-H you will need to create a new password the first time you log-in, it will need to be eight characters long, contain a capital letter, and a number.
 - e. Follow each step as requested on the system. If you have questions or need a computer to use contact the Pennington County 4-H office. In the end you should have a family profile with a log in and within that log in a profile for each youth that is joining 4-H in your family.
 - f. Once you have completed this registration your youth should be listed under your "member list" and each youth should say "Awaiting Review". The 4-H Office will receive a notification of the registration.
3. Once you are enrolled you need to pay \$5 to the Pennington County 4-H office (601 E Centre St, Rapid City).
 - a. Cash, Check, or Credit Card, but Credit Card does cost an extra 2.75% to cover the fees the credit card service charges.
 - b. You can mail this payment to us, drop it off during 8am-12pm & 1pm – 5pm office hours or drop it in our mailbox/lock box outside our office door anytime.
 - c. The member dues must be paid before you attend your first club meeting.
 - d. Once your payment is received at the office they will change the youth's status from "Awaiting Review" to "Approved" and they are all set to attend meetings.
4. We will add your email address to our email list and about once a week we send out emails to all the members with upcoming important items. Please be sure to read these for any important information.
5. Attend your club meetings and plan your 4-H year with your leader!



How do you join just Shooting Sports? (Guns & Archery)

1. Contact the Pennington County 4-H Office to get details about the upcoming season
 - a. Generally, the seasons starting in January of each year and runs until the state match in April.
2. Go to v2.4honline.com
 - a. Search for South Dakota
 - b. When you get to the Login page you will be able to select if you already have a profile or if you need to set up a profile. If your family has not been part of 4-H in South Dakota you will need to “setup a profile”. If your family has been part of 4-H in South Dakota in the past please contact the 4-H office to see if your information just needs to be transferred or renewed.
 - c. Please select the “ROLE” as “Family”.
 - d. If you are new to SD 4-H you will need to create a new password the first time you log-in, it will need to be eight characters long, contain a capital letter, and a number.
 - e. Follow each step as requested on the system
 - f. You will select the club you would like to be a part of (Black Hills Shooters for guns or Black Hills Archery for Archery)
 - g. It will then ask you to choose a project area, you will select “Shooting Sports”
 - h. Once you have completed this registration your youth should be listed under your “member list” and each youth should say “Awaiting Review”. The 4-H Office will receive a notification of the registration.
3. Once you are enrolled you need to pay \$5 to the Pennington County 4-H office (601 E Centre St, Rapid City).
 - a. Cash, Check, or Credit Card, but Credit Card does cost an extra 2.75% to cover the fees the credit card service charges.
 - b. You can mail this payment to us, drop it off during 8am-12pm & 1pm – 5pm office hours or drop it in our mailbox/lock box outside our office door anytime.
 - c. The member dues must be paid before you attend your first club meeting.
 - d. Once your payment is received at the office they will change the youth’s status from “Awaiting Review” to “Approved” and they are all set to attend meetings.
4. We will add your email address to our email list and about once a week we send out emails to all the members with upcoming important items. Please be sure to read these for any important information.



How do you join just Rodeo?

1. Contact the Pennington County 4-H Office to get details about the upcoming season
2. Go to v2.4honline.com
 - a. Search for South Dakota
 - b. When you get to the Login page you will be able to select if you already have a profile or if you need to set up a profile. If your family has not been part of 4-H in South Dakota you will need to “setup a profile”. If your family has been part of 4-H in South Dakota in the past please contact the 4-H office to see if your information just needs to be transferred or renewed.
 - c. Please select the “ROLE” as “Family”.
 - d. If you are new to SD 4-H you will need to create a new password the first time you log-in, it will need to be eight characters long, contain a capital letter, and a number.
 - e. Follow each step as requested on the system You will select the club you would like to be a part of (You can either select a club or Independent Member)
 - f. It will then ask you to choose a project area, you will select (Rodeo)
 - g. Once you have completed this registration your youth should be listed under your “member list” and each youth should say “Awaiting Review”. The 4-H Office will receive a notification of the registration.
3. Once you are enrolled you need to pay \$5 to the Pennington County 4-H office (601 E Centre St, Rapid City).
 - a. Cash, Check, or Credit Card, but Credit Card does cost an extra 2.75% to cover the fees the credit card service charges.
 - b. You can mail this payment to us, drop it off during 8am-12pm & 1pm – 5pm office hours or drop it in our mailbox/lock box outside our office door anytime.
 - c. The member dues must be paid before you attend your first club meeting.
 - d. Once your payment is received at the office they will change the youth’s status from “Awaiting Review” to “Approved” and they are all set to attend meetings.
4. We will add your email address to our email list and about once a week we send out emails to all the members with upcoming important items. Please be sure to read these for any important information.
5. **You will have to fill out the final’s paperwork and insurance Declaration by May 1st to be eligible to rodeo for the year: This information comes out in February/March of each year.**



Pennington County Club Guide

Community Clubs:

Black Hills Home Explorers 4-H Club – Rapid City, SD

Club Type: Community Club

General Leaders: Allie Baumgartner: 605-390-4814 allieg2317@yahoo.com Nelda Griffin: 605-209-7117 imnstitches@midco.net
Beth McCoy: 605-209-2370 bmccoy11@hotmail.com

Description: BHHE is a family involved club with volunteering requirements & expectations. Cloverbuds (5-7) may participate in our monthly project, parents are required to be present & assist. Our general meeting begins at noon, followed by our monthly project. Our monthly project will be guided by our club members and what our members choose to learn about from over 70 4-H project areas. We encourage all our members to explore any & all project areas & present what they have learned to our club members. We also encourage all members to complete a record book. The club year begins in Oct with our election of officers. And we conclude the year in August with the club's annual pie & ice cream booth at the fair. You must contact one of the club leaders before joining BHHE.

Ages Accepted: 8-18

Meeting Season: October – September

Meeting Days: 4th Friday of each month

Meeting Times: 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Walter Taylor 4-H Building (601 E Centre St, Rapid City)

Club Dues: Dues are \$10 per member with a cap of \$30 per family

Cedar Butte Challengers – Wall, SD

Club Type: Community Club

General Leaders: Bobbi Jo Williams 605.685.8768 | bjsix@yahoo.com
Lisa Moon 605.685.3661 | musket1969@yahoo.com

Description: Cedar Butte Challengers is a community club that participates in several project areas including, but not limited to: community service, photography, rodeo, and visual arts.

Ages Accepted: 5-18

Meeting Season: October 1 – September 30

Meeting Days: Various (Contact Bobbi for specific days)

Meeting Times: Various (Contact Bobbi for specific times)

Meeting Location: Various Wall locations (Contact Bobbi for specific locations)

Club Dues: None

Cougars – Rapid City, SD

Club Type: Community Club

General Leaders: Moneik Stephens: C: 605.209.4852 | moneikquilts@ymail.com

Description: Cougars is a community club that participates in several project areas including, but not limited to: citizenship, clothing and textiles, foods and nutrition, and horticulture, gardening and landscaping.

Ages Accepted: 5-18

Meeting Season: October 1 – September 30

Meeting Days: First Thursday of every month

Meeting Times: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Walter Taylor 4-H Building (601 E Centre St, Rapid City)

Club Dues: \$10.00 per member with a cap of \$20 per family

Dakota Prairie- New Underwood, SD

Club Type: Community Club

General Leaders: Hannah Uhrig: 605.431.0329 | jhuhrig13@gmail.com

Description: Dakota Prairie is a community club that participates in all project areas with a few focused projects including, but not limited to: beef, hobbies & collections, and visual arts. Dakota Prairie enjoys doing community service and hosting craft days during meetings.

Ages Accepted: 5-18

Meeting Season: October 1 – September 30

Meeting Days/Times/Location: 2nd Thursday of each month 6:00pm. New Underwood Community Church

Club Dues: None



Elk Creek Drifters – Rapid City, SD

Club Type: Community Club

General Leaders: Denika Boomsma: 605-381-5468 | denika.boomsma@hotmail.com

Description: Elk Creek Drifters is a community club that participates in several project areas including, but not limited to: Beef, Archery, horse and pony, dog, and rodeo. We are a small club that likes to show cattle at the annual Western Junior Livestock Show.

Ages Accepted: 9-18

Meeting Season: October 1 – September 30

Meeting Days: 1st Sunday of the Month

Meeting Times: 10:00 am

Meeting Location: Various (Contact Leaders for specific locations)

Club Dues: None

Folsom Pioneers – Hermosa, SD

Club Type: Community Club

General Leaders: Melanie Rausch: 605.863.1421 & Jacob Rausch: 605.391.7270 | folsompioneers4h@gmail.com

Description: Folsom Pioneers is a community club that participates in several project areas including but not limited to, visual arts, photography, rodeo, shooting sports, community service and more. Our club also has an annual fun day for all of the hard work that our members put in throughout the year with fundraisers.

Ages Accepted: 5-18

Meeting Season: October 1 – September 30

Meeting Days/Times/Location: Various (Contact Melanie for specifics)

Club Dues: None

Paws in Motion – Rapid City, SD

Club Type: Community & Specialty Club

General Leaders: Kim McCarty: 605.484.5622 | kmccarty2@hotmail.com

Description: Paws in Motion is both a Community & Specialty Club. While we focus on the dog project and community service, all project areas are supported including dog related crafts and photography. We will work with you and your dog on Obedience, Agility, and AKC titles and awards like Canine Good Citizen, Trick Dog, and STAR Puppy. You will learn how to communicate better with your dogs as we take them on several community outings. We visit retirement homes, Reptile Gardens, go on hikes, & practice and perform drills at local parades and events. But, most of all we enjoy spending time with our dogs! This is a family friendly club and all family members are encouraged to participate in our activities! We hope you will join us!



Ages Accepted: 6-18

Meeting Season: October 1 – September 30

Meeting Days: 1st Sunday of every month at 4 pm & 3rd Thursday of the month at 6pm, (and additional Thursdays at 6pm as needed). **Meeting Location:** Walter Taylor 4-H Building (601 E Centre St., Rapid City)

Club Dues: none

Riding Ranchers – Wall, SD

Club Type: Community Club

General Leaders: Colby and Meghan Shearer: 605.685.8604 | colbyshearer@yahoo.com

Description: Riding Ranchers is a community club that participates in several project areas with a main focus in the rodeo projects, agriculture and outdoor education.

Ages Accepted: 5-18

Meeting Season: December, June, July, August

Meeting Days/Times/Location: TBA

Club Dues: None



Rushmore Riders & Explorers – Rapid City, SD

Club Type: Community Club

General Leaders: Trisha Miller: 605.209.3131 | trishamiller7@yahoo.com

Jennifer Matkins: 605.381.0728 | jennifermatkins429@yahoo.com

Description: Our club is a traditional club, members hold leadership positions such as President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer, Etc. and we conduct business meetings, teaching members to use parliamentary procedures (following Roberts Rules of Order). We encourage our members to explore any/all of the 70+ project areas available to them in 4-H, with current members exploring a wide variety of project areas including (but not limited to): Visual Arts, Robotics, Home Environment, Photography, Foods & Nutrition, Clothing & Textiles, Aerospace & Rocketry, Poultry, Food Preservation, Graphic Design, Hobbies & Collections, Geospatial, Fitness & Sports, Writing/Public Speaking, Music, Rabbits, Etc. Some of our members are members in a special interest club (e.g., Bee Club, Shooting Sports, Archery, and Dog Club) in addition to their commitment to our club to really dive into those special interests they have. We are strong believers that 4-H uniquely teaches “life skills” that youth will benefit from throughout their lives. We encourage our members to be involved in Youth-in-Action events such as Special Foods, Public Speaking, Consumer Decision Making, Fashion Revue, etc. Our members currently range in age from 5-18. We have more younger than older members currently, but all youth are welcomed and we all learn from each other, regardless of age. We take our commitment to community service quite seriously and our club members enjoy our community activities. We have made May Day bags for residents of a local assisted living center, hand out food at the local mobile food pantry (to over 350 people each time!), lay wreaths at the National Cemetery, etc. The awesome thing about 4-H is that kids can do as much or as little as they desire – they can extensively explore one project area or ten (or more!). To complete a year of 4-H, the minimum requirements include a member’s attendance at a minimum of four club meetings, a presentation (to the club or at a contest) on the member’s chosen topic, a completed record book at the end of the year, and exploration of at least one project area during the club year.

Ages Accepted: 5-18

Meeting Season: October 1 – September 30

Meeting Days: Third Sunday of every month

Meeting Times: 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Walter Taylor 4-H Building (601 E Centre St, Rapid City)

Club Dues: None

Shamrock Riders – Rapid City, SD

Club Type: Community Club (horse & pony project, rodeo project)

General Leaders: Susan Meyer: 605.390.0133 | smeyer@grsm.com |

AnneMarie Johnson: 605.430.4227 | amjohnson@rap.midco.net

Patty Brunner: 605.391.3077 | bqh@enetis.net

Description: Shamrock Riders is a community club that focuses on the horse & pony but does participate in other project areas including, but not limited to: citizenship, foods & nutrition, and rodeo. We do not have horses available for people to use, but offer many educational horse activities.

Ages Accepted: 5-18

Meeting Season: October 1 – September 30

Meeting Days: Every Third Tuesday of the month

Meeting Times: 6:00 Activity 6:30 Formal Meeting

Meeting Location: Walter Taylor 4-H Building (601 E Centre St, Rapid City)

Club Dues: \$5.00

Viewfield Wranglers – New Underwood, SD

Club Type: Community Club

General Leaders: Marsha Simmons: 605.754.6154 | tsimmons@gwtc.net

Description: Viewfield Wranglers is a community club that participates in all project areas with a few focused projects including, but not limited to: beef, hobbies and collections, poultry & eggs, and visual arts. Viewfield Wranglers enjoys doing community service and hosting craft days during meetings.

Ages Accepted: 5-18

Meeting Season: October 1 – September 30 (No Meetings in June, July or August)

Meeting Days: First Sunday of every month

Meeting Times: 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Varies – Will be contacted by leader each month.

Club Dues: Each Family needs to volunteer for one county fundraiser as a form of dues.



SPIN Clubs:

Black Hills Archery – Rapid City, SD

Club Type: SPIN Club (archery project)

General Leaders: Al Kraus: 605.394.9663 | bowguy@hotmail.com

Description: Black Hills Archery is a seasonal project club that only participates in the archery project. Members have the opportunity to compete in state-qualifying archery events, possibly advancing to the SD State Shoot.

Ages Accepted: 8-18

Meeting Season: First Saturday in January (tentatively) – End of April

Meeting Days: Every Saturday (Fridays possible)

Meeting Times: TBD by Black Hills Archery Leaders

Meeting Location: Black Hills Archery (2091 Rand Rd, Rapid City)

Club Dues: \$100.00 Lane Fees at BHA

Black Hills Shooters – Rapid City, SD

Club Type: SPIN Club (shooting sports project)

General Leaders: Dean Szymanski: 605.390.3050 | deanszymanski@gmail.com

Tom Hanson: 605.787.2989 | tm.hanson@rap.midco.net

Description: Black Hills Shooters is a seasonal project club that only participates in the gun project. Members learn shooting of BB gun, pellet rifle and pellet pistol. Members have the opportunity to compete in state-qualifying shooting sports events, possibly advancing to the SD State Shoot. Teaching & learning safety is the main purpose of this club.

Ages Accepted: 8-18

Meeting Season: First Monday in January (tentatively) – End of April

Meeting Days: Every Monday

Meeting Times: 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Walter Taylor 4-H Building (601 E Centre St, Rapid City)

Club Dues: \$20.00

Black Hills Shooters Shotgun– Rapid City, SD

Club Type: SPIN Club (shooting sports project)

General Leaders: Becky Noble: 507.271.2547 | becky_noble@yahoo.com

Description: Black Hills Shooters Shotgun is a seasonal project club that only participates in the gun project. Members learn shooting of shotguns, including trap, skeet & sporting clays. Members have the opportunity to compete in state-qualifying shooting sports events, possibly advancing to the SD State Shoot. Teaching & learning safety is the main purpose of this club.

Ages Accepted: 8-18

Meeting Season: First Monday in June (tentatively) – Beginning of September

Meeting Days: Every Monday

Meeting Times: 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Meeting Location: Rapid City Trap Club 9210 SD – 79 Rapid City, SD 57702

Club Dues: \$100.00 + Trap Club Membership

Busy as a Bee Beekeeping – Rapid City, SD

Club Type: SPIN Club (bee project)

General Leaders: Kelli Siemieniak: C: 605.490.5491 | kelli.siemieniak@gmail.com

Tom Allen: H: 605.721.8859 C: 605-381-9431 | tallen@rushmore.com

Description: The beekeeping club started in May 2017 in order to give youth interested in science and their environment the ability to become stewards of insects that are responsible for pollinating approximately 30 percent of the food we eat. Our youth need to learn more about bees and the skills needed to be good beekeepers from local mentors. Club members will learn a little bee biology and about the major stressors of the honey bee, such as disease, pests, loss of habitat and pesticides. There are also hands-on opportunities for members to work in the club's hives. Youth vigor and inquisitiveness are necessary to the future of beekeeping!

Ages Accepted: 8-18

Meeting Season: April - October

Meeting Days: Second Tuesday every month

Meeting Times: 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Walter Taylor 4-H Building (601 E Centre St, Rapid City) or At the Hives

Club Dues: None



Family Foodies: A 4-H Cooking Club – Rapid City, SD

Club Type: SPIN Club (Cooking Project)

General Leaders: Tracy Hutchens: 605.389.7531 | tracyhutchens@hotmail.com

Description: Youth will learn important life skills of how to cook for themselves or their families by focusing on the importance of following recipes, kitchen safety, prioritizing cleanliness as well as food safety. Basic skills such as cutting, cookery methods, measuring ingredients and having fun with food will be the foundation of the club. We plan to focus on local Fire Departments and Police Departments for our Community Outreach for the year.

Ages Accepted: 8 – 18

Meeting Season: October - September

Meeting Days: Last Sunday of the month

Meeting Times: 5:30pm – 8:30pm

Meeting Location: Walter Taylor 4-H Building (601 E Centre St)

Club Dues: \$45.00 per member

Extra Ordinary Friends – Rapid City, SD

Club Type: SPIN Club (dog project)

General Leaders: Tiana Shuster: 605.381.0846 | dixeedoodle101@aol.com

Description: Extra Ordinary Friends is a project club that only participates in the dog project. Members have the opportunity to train their dog in the following areas: dog obedience, rally, showmanship, and agility. Some fun activities such as tricks, freestyle, and more!

Ages Accepted: 6-18

Meeting Season: October 1 – September 30

Meeting Days/Times: Advanced Monday 6:30-7:30

Beginner Thursday 6:30-7:30

Every week in 6-8 week sessions

Meeting Location: 4223 Peaceful Pines Rd. Rapid City

Club Dues: \$30.00 per member per year

Superclovers – Rapid City, SD

Club Type: SPIN Club (Cloverbuds)

General Leaders: Pennington County 4-H Office: 605-394-2188 | regina.bakley@sdsu.edu

Description: Cloverbuds meet to learn about the 4-H program in a setting tailored to their skill level. We learn about the 4-H pledge, being good citizens, and what 4-H stands for in our lives. Meetings consist of leader lead programming, a lesson, and a craft. Meetings last 1 hour and close with a game and a snack.

Ages Accepted: 5-7, as of January 1st of the current year, if you are age 8 on January 1st of the current year you are a full member.)

Meeting Season: October - September

Meeting Days: The 4th Thursday of the Month

Meeting Times: 3:45pm

Meeting Location: Walter Taylor 4-H Building (601 E Centre St)

Club Dues: None