

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each year the Weld County 4-H program teaches 900 youth ages 5 – 18 life skills through research based experiential learning projects through 27 4-H community clubs led by 275 volunteer leaders. Another 4,059 youth participated in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) activities and learn life skills through school enrichment and after school programs.

Research studies conducted by Colorado State University Extension and Tufts University have documented youth who are 4-H members are more likely than non 4-H youth to: make good grades in school, have a significant adult in their life in addition to a parent, talk more with parent(s) on a regular basis, have a positive outlook on life, be involved in community service projects, manage money wisely and hold leadership positions in their school. 4-H members are also less likely to use drugs or alcohol, smoke cigarettes, damage property, shoplift or be arrested.

Weld County's population of youth 5 – 17 year olds increased by 38% (46% increase for Latino youth) between 2000 and 2010. It costs \$161 per day to place a youth in a Juvenile correctional center compared to \$.60 per day for youth to participate in the 4-H program. Three out of each 100 youth in Weld County have been arrested for committing a crime. Youth participation in 4-H is a more effective way to reduce the cost of juvenile crime in Weld County.