

# Hatch 4-H Camp



## SITUATION

The Village of Hatch is a rural agricultural community in northern Doña Ana County. According to the 2010 Census, the Village of Hatch has a population of 1,648. Colonias associated with the Village include Garfield, Milagro, Placitas, Rincon, Rodey and Salem, which increases the population to 8,000. The Hatch Public Schools services 1,292 students. Youth living in Hatch and the surrounding areas do not have access to many activities outside of school and there are no extra-curricular activities. The swimming pool opens during the summer months, a community park, and sports programs are offered by the Hatch Parks and Recreation during spring, summer and fall seasons. Other challenges include a high percentage of families with limited resources, no transportation or public transportation. The nearest city being 45 minutes away. Youth living in rural areas do not have the same opportunities available to them as youth who live in urban areas.

## NMSU EXTENSION RESPONSE

In 2013, the 4-H Agent collaborated with the librarian of the Hatch Public Library, who was also a 4-H club leader, to host a weeklong 4-H Camp in conjunction with their summer reading program. The camp is held annually. Youth from the rural communities have been taught on a variety of topics including Welcome to 4-H, jewelry making, dairy, nutrition, entomology, gardening, arts, and crafts, New Mexico Flavor projects, robotics, STEM, animal by-products, engineering, rocketry, food safety, germ detection, floral design, responsible pet ownership, communication, teamwork, and leadership. Youth also participate in community service through hands-on activities. 4-H members who attend camp assist younger youth in completing activities.

## IMPACT

- ✓ Increased knowledge of 4-H projects and program; 100% learned something new.
- ✓ Increased knowledge in service learning and participation in community service project.
- ✓ 4-H members gain leadership by helping younger youth.
- ✓ 16 youth and 13 adults have enrolled in the 4-H program
- ✓ 135 youth and 40 adults have experienced 4-H Camp with an average 73% Hispanic and 27% White.



## FEEDBACK

"My kids enjoy coming to 4-H camp each year and having the opportunity to learn new skills through the various lessons."

"I am excited and looking forward to when my son can become part of 4-H!"

"Thank you for bringing this experience to our small town and for including even the smallest child there!"



All About Discovery!<sup>™</sup>  
College of Agricultural, Consumer  
and Environmental Sciences  
Cooperative Extension Service  
Doña Ana County Extension Office

Doña Ana County Cooperative Extension Service  
1170 N. Solano, Suite M  
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Eva Madrid  
emadrid@nmsu.edu  
575-525-6649