

Elbert County Fair 2026

MAY 2026: 4-H Fair Entry online

OPENS: <https://faireentry.com/Fair/SignIn/24065>

**Every 4-H Member with All their Fair Classes
must be fully entered, submitted, and paid for
by MONDAY, JUNE 8th, 2026**

4-H Rocket Fly Rules

SUNDAY, JULY 26th

**7:00 AM 4-H Rocketry Fly Day;
Far North Yard of fairgrounds**

**Rocketry Exhibits require a separate fair entry.
Rockets entered in Fair Exhibit judging may not
be used for Rocket Fly Day competition.**



4-H Rocket Fly Day Contest

Rebecca Smith , Superintendent

Contest date: Sunday, July 26th

Time: Registration/Check-in 7:00am
Launch begins at 7:30am

Location: Far North Yard of Elbert County Fairgrounds

Registration Deadline: June 8, 2026

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Ribbon Awards will be given after the rocket fly event has ended.

**Following is a description of the events for the Rocket Fly Day contest. County organizers may design their contest differently due to weather or if a fire ban is in place at the time.

Rocket Fly Day Contest Rules:

1. Exhibitors must fly a rocket pertaining to the skill level in which they are enrolled.
2. The rocket used in the contest will have been built by the contestant during the current 4-H year.
3. Rockets in Units 1–4 **must** be checked in with color panel (picture) from kit which indicates engine size or catalog with proof of skill level and recommended first flight engine. Unit 6 must state the size of the first flight engine at check-in.
4. All rockets must use a parachute recovery system.
5. Rockets **must** be launched with FIRST FLIGHT ENGINES ONLY.
6. Rocketry members must bring their own rocket. Each contestant will be required to launch his/her rocket twice (time and weather permitting).
7. Both contest launches will be made with the same rocket. If a rocket is damaged during the first launch, time will be allowed for field repairs. If the rocket cannot be repaired, there will be no score for the second launch.

8. Launching equipment will be set up. Members are to supply rocket, engines, igniters, parachutes, and wading. A field box is advisable.
9. Each contestant will prepare their rocket for launch in the designated rocket preparation area. When a rocket enters the preparation area, it will be checked in as not launch ready. The contestant will prepare the rocket for launch in the preparation area and the rocket will remain in the area until it is transferred to the launch pad.
10. Event will be judged on construction, flight stability, range safety, chute deployment and landing. Rockets **must** be painted.
 - a. Construction is scored based on the judge's objective and subjective opinion of how the rocket meets the desired condition for launching a model rocket.
 - b. Flight stability is scored based on the judge's objective and subjective observation of the flight path when the rocket leaves the launch pad. A straight vertical flight path leaving the launch pad will score the highest.
 - c. Range safety is scored based on the judge's objective and subjective observation of the procedure used by the contestant before, during, and after the launch of the rocket. The Range Safety evaluation should include, but is not limited to:
 - i. Use of the launch pad cap
 - ii. Path of movement around the launch pad
 - iii. Safety checks of the range/ground and sky/airspace
 - iv. Seeking permission for launch
 - v. Handling any misfire occurrences correctly
 - vi. Disarming the launch system after the launch of the rocket
 - d. Chute Deployment is scored based on the judge's objective and subjective observation of the deployment of the parachute during the recovery phase. A parachute that opens fully will score the highest.
 - e. Landing is scored based on the distance between the launch pad and the landing point of the main body tube of the rocket. Scoring is earned using the following schedule:
 - i. Distance is less than 5 yards = 4 points
 - ii. Distance measured is greater than or equal to 5 yards and less than 20 yards = 3 points
 - iii. Distance measured is greater than or equal to 20 yards and less than 45 yards = 1 point
 - iv. Distance measured is greater than or equal to 45 yards = 1 point
 - v. If the rocket lands outside the designated launch range/arena, does not reach the ground, or is too far away to measure, then no points are awarded.
11. If the contestant's rocket does not meet the requirements for the entered unit, the contest superintendents and/or officers can apply a 2-point reduction in the construction score for all flights. The details of the situation will determine if the reduction is applied.
12. Parent instruction of the contestant when they are in the contest area, including but not limited to the preparation area, the launch pad and launch control table is not permitted. If any coaching is witnessed by the judge or contest superintendents/officials, the launch score will be zero.
13. **Rockets entered in Fair Exhibit judging may not be used for Rocket Fly Day competition.**
14. In case of a tie score between competitors, tied participants will launch a third time to break the tie. In the case of a tie during the third launch, the tie breaking criteria will be:
 - a. Range Safety score on third launch
 - b. Combined Range Safety scored on the first and second launch

- c. Combined Landing scores for all three launches
- d. Combined Chute Deployment scores for all three launches
- e. Combined Flight Stability scores for all three launches
- f. Combined Construction scores for all three launches
- g. Actual distance recorded for Landing score on the third launch

Juniors are 4-H ages 8-13. Seniors are 4-H ages 14-18.

UNIT 1

Class 800 UNIT 1 – Level 1 Junior
Rocket with
Balsa Wood Fins Class
801 UNIT 1 – Level 1
Senior
Rocket with Balsa Wood Fins

UNIT 2

Class 802 UNIT 2 – Level 2 Junior
Rocket with
Balsa Wood Fins Class
803 UNIT 2 – Level 2
Senior
Rocket with Balsa Wood Fins

(A member may exhibit in this unit more than one year.) For Units 3-6 — finished fins of any type.

UNIT 3

Class 804 UNIT 3 – Level 3 Junior
Class 805 UNIT 3 – Level 3 Senior

UNIT 4

Class 806 UNIT 4 – Level 4 Junior
Class 807 UNIT 4 – Level 4 Senior

UNIT 6

Class 808 UNIT 6 – Level 6 Junior
Class 809 UNIT 6 – Level 6 Senior

Awards given:

A Champion and Reserve Champion Rosette and 1st -4th placing ribbons will be awarded in each unit.