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Arapahoe County Fair needs volunteers to join the fun

From mascots to greeters, volunteers are needed to support and energize fairgoers

Aurora, Colo. – Where can you help a child to decorate a wacky potato character, toss a real cow patty or participate in the stick horse rodeo? The Arapahoe County Fair, of course! If you're looking for a family-friendly volunteer experience this summer, then consider sharing your time and talents at the Fair, July 20-24, and enjoy free admission to the event.

Arapahoe County's Volunteer Connections is looking for volunteers to fill 600 positions to help make the Fair a success, such as fair ambassadors and greeters, contest judges, stage assistants, exhibition hall hosts, children's game and activity leaders, mascots and more. Volunteer shifts generally last four hours, with breaks provided, and start times vary. Volunteers each receive a free T-shirt, snacks, beverages and admission to the Fair on the day(s) they work (ticket excludes carnival rides, which can be purchased for \$10-15).

"The Fair would truly not be possible without the contributions of hundreds of volunteers, who help to keep costs low and ensure that all entertainment goes off without a hitch," said Arapahoe County Commissioner Frank Weddig. "Many families and companies come together to volunteer as a team-building activity, and then enjoy free time at the Fair afterwards."

Last year, employees of Sam's Club at Southlands Shopping Center in Aurora volunteered more than 100 hours of personal time at the Fair, and the company matched their time with a cash donation to the Arapahoe County 4-H Foundation.

"The Fair is such a fun atmosphere, and we are proud to take part in educating kids about our County's agriculture heritage," said Tracy Carter, the store's Membership Manager.

This year, volunteers are especially needed to manage the new Children's Stick Horse Rodeo and the Pony Express Backseat Drivers Contest sponsored by Parker Trailers, as well as to don a costume and interact with fairgoers as one of three mascots— Connie Cow, Henry Horse and Parker Pig.

Orientation for volunteers will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, July 16 at the fairgrounds, located at 25690 E. Quincy Ave., Aurora, or may be completed by appointment 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. July 12 to 16.

In advance of the Fair, volunteers also are needed to run a children's craft booth at the City of Aurora's KidSpree Outdoor Festival, July 16 and 17 at Bicentennial Park (13655 E. Alameda Ave., Aurora).

To download a volunteer application, or for a schedule of events and more information, please visit www.arapahoecountyfair.com and click the 'Volunteer' link. Applications are due July 8. Volunteers will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Val Purser at 303-738-7938 or ypurser@co.arapahoe.co.us.

Thanks to our 2011 Fair Sponsors: the City of Littleton, City of Aurora, Parker Trailers, Roper Apparel & Footwear, Royal Crest Dairy and Media Partners CBS 4 and Radio Disney.

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To download photos click on the following link: <ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CM/FAIR/2011>

SamsClubVolunteer.jpg – Sam's Club employee Bambi Schoeffler volunteered at the Children's Hay Maze at the 2010 Arapahoe County Fair. Volunteers are needed for this year's Fair, July 20-24.

VolunteerGroup.jpg - Arapahoe County Human Resources employees Angela Williams, Andi Hollingsed, Kate Eckel, Mary VanDeroef and Susan Bartholomew volunteered their personal time in the Kid Corral for the 'Dress Your Potato' activity at the 2010 County Fair.