The Elbert County Historical Society & Museum sponsorship program encompasses the entire museum season. By becoming a sponsor, you join the museum’s commitment to provide quality exhibits, educational activities and family events, including the annual Pioneer Fourth Celebration, to the residents of Elbert County. Your donation aligns you with an organization that works to record, maintain and promote the history of Elbert County.

Museum Season Sponsorships are collected annually and expire at the end of each calendar year. Sponsorships support the general operating fund, new and permanent exhibits, development of educational initiatives and public programs, and the historic museum building and its infrastructure. Museum staffing and hosting duties continue to be fulfilled by dedicated volunteers.

### Sponsorship Program Details

**Historical Society Activities and Outreach**

**Museum** - The Elbert County Museum is open every year from Memorial Day Sunday through Labor Day Sunday, Thursday through Sunday, 1 - 4 pm.

**Seasonal Exhibits and Programs** - Themed exhibits and displays are rotated on an annual basis, and include various programs.

**Special Tours** - Tours are available May through September upon request. Reservations for groups (including schools, scouts, 4-H, social and civic groups) are welcomed and encouraged.

**Pioneer Fourth Celebration** - A fun filled day of family activities that has become an Elbert County summer tradition and includes a museum open house, live local music, pie baking contest, silent auction, pioneer artisans, watermelon eating contest and games for all ages.

**Educational Booths** - Informational and educational displays at various countywide festivals and street fairs.

**Smoky Hill Express (newsletter)** - Elbert County Historical Society members and patrons receive this bi-annual publication.

### Sponsorship Levels

Sponsorships levels are identified by icons of early Elbert County industry.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefits</th>
<th>Locomotive</th>
<th>Ponderosa Pine</th>
<th>Windmill</th>
<th>Cultivator</th>
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<td></td>
<td>$200 cash/merchandise or more</td>
<td>$100 cash/merchandise or more</td>
<td>$25 cash/merchandise or more</td>
<td>$250 cash or more through East Central Enterprise Zone**</td>
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- Recognition on exhibit and event flyers - including Pioneer Fourth
- Recognition on our website (elbertcountymuseum.org)
- Recognition on signage inside the museum and at the Pioneer Fourth
- Recognition in the newsletter
- **Colorado State Tax Credit**

**Deadlines:** March 1st (includes inclusion in both spring and fall newsletters) or June 1st (includes inclusion in fall newsletter)

**East Central Enterprise Zone**

By making a $250 cash donation, contributors receive 25% of that amount as a credit against their state tax liability (i.e.: $250 donation = $62.50 credit). The contribution also may be itemized on their federal tax return. Contribution check must be made out to the **East Central Council of Governments**. (Details of the Colorado Enterprise Zone program on the reverse side.)
What Is The East Central Colorado Enterprise Zone? An Enterprise Zone is a state-designated area in need of economic growth and diversification. It provides various state income tax credits to encourage the private sector to invest resources to create or maintain jobs within the zone area. All of Kit Carson, Cheyenne and Lincoln Counties are located within the East Central Colorado Enterprises Zone. In general, all of Elbert County except its western residential subdivisions is within the zone but all of the area within the city limits of Simla, Kiowa and Elizabeth is within the zone.

The Contribution Credit- The Colorado State Legislature has established a number of tax credits to benefit enterprise zone investors, but the most generous allows a 25% state income tax credit for private contributions to an enterprise zone that will assist in implementing that zone’s economic development plan. The continued expansion and development of the Elbert County Historical Society & Museum has been determined by East Central Council of Governments and the State Economic Development Commission as a project that helps implement the area’s Economic Development Plan. If you choose to make a cash donation to the East Central Enterprise Zone for the Elbert County Historical Society & Museum, you will receive 25% of that amount as a credit against your state tax liability. The contribution also may be itemized on your federal tax return.

Taxpayer Benefits- As a Colorado taxpayer, the enterprise zone community contribution credit benefits you in several ways:
• It decreases the amount of taxes you owe.
• It gives you an opportunity to invest in your community.
• It lets you direct the use of your dollars in ways that have more immediate and personal meaning for you and your family.

Community Benefits- Historically, rural communities have depended on state and federal government and private foundations for assistance with community development projects. Unfortunately, as time passes, available resources cannot keep up with increasing demands, and it becomes more and more difficult for smaller communities to make needed improvements.

A contribution to the enterprise zone, however, offers several benefits for communities:
• It comes from a donor who has a personal interest in the project.
• It can be received at any time during the year.
• It represents an additional source of funds.
• It triggers other investment in the community, thus helping to stabilize the local economy.

Ready To Claim Tax Credits? To be eligible for the Community Contribution Tax Credit, your contribution check must be made out to the East Central Council of Governments.

You may designate one project for your contribution, or you may contribute to more than one project in any given year. A minimum contribution of $250 is encouraged. Smaller contributions to individual projects are always welcome, but those should be made directly to the project, rather than to the Enterprise Zone, and would not be eligible for the 25% tax credit.

The contribution should be mailed to the Enterprise Zone Administrator. The administrator will complete a certification form that will be returned to you to attach to your tax return. Any state credit not used in the current year can be carried forward for up to five years. ECCOG will pass through 100% of your enterprise zone contribution to the Elbert County Historical Society & Museum.

Want Additional Information? For more detailed information about the East Central Colorado Enterprise Zone, about the Community Contribution Tax Credit or designated enterprise zone projects, or about any of the other available enterprise zone tax credits, contact:

Enterprise Zone Administrator
East Central Council of Local Governments
128 Colorado Avenue • Stratton, Colorado 80836
(1-800-825-0208 or 719-348-5562)
cpayne@prairiedevelopment.com