The Greater Sandhill Crane is the only species of crane found in Northwest Colorado. The large birds, 4-5 ft tall, with grey feathers and a bright red skin patch on their forehead, return in the spring from wintering grounds in New Mexico and Arizona, to nest and raise their young in wetland areas throughout the Yampa Valley. In both the spring and fall, sandhills gather in large flocks in long-established sites called “staging areas”. Two main staging areas in Colorado are found along the Yampa River near Hayden and the Elk River west of Steamboat Springs. The Yampa Valley Crane Festival takes place each year over Labor Day Weekend and celebrates the presence of these birds in Northwest Colorado.

Join us this year by participating in the annual Crane Coloring Contest. Learn more about the cranes by attending the festival Aug.29 - Sept. 1, 2024 and by visiting our website: ColoradoCranes.org

**Coloring Contest Rules:**

1. Decorate the crane coloring contest picture using crayons, paint, markers, glitter, stickers, etc. Be creative.
2. Write your Name and Age in the lower right-hand corner on the front of drawing.
3. Clearly write your Name, Age, School and an Email address where we can contact you in the space provided below. Incomplete entries will not be eligible for judging. One entry per person allowed.
4. Submit your entry in drop off boxes at Bud Werner Children’s Library, Hayden Public Library, Craig Public Library, or Oak Creek Public Library before August 9, 2024. You may also mail in your entry to:
   Colorado Crane Conservation Coalition  
   40625 County Road 69A  
   Hayden, CO 81639

5. Winners will be notified late August by email. Prizes will be awarded at Bud Werner Memorial Library in Steamboat Springs during the Crane Festival.

6. All artwork submitted will be displayed throughout the festival. Winners will also receive recognition on Colorado Crane Conservation Coalition’s Facebook and Instagram page and the Colorado Cranes website: ColoradoCranes.org. By submitting your entry, you give permission to Colorado Crane Conservation Coalition to use your artwork for publicity purposes.

Name (First, Last)  
School Name  
Email Address