

Get Involved

Members

Each year local 4-H Shooting Sports clubs teach a shooting sport to more than 500,000 boys and girls. Shooting sports can be gratifying for youngsters, especially those who are not interested in team sports. The program provides a supportive environment in which young people can experience hands-on and fun learning experiences.

Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to coordinate county programs and to work at the local level. Individuals who are interested in shooting sports and are willing to learn about them can become involved in an existing program or club. If none exist, they can work with 4-H staff to help establish a program.

All instructors are trained by state instructors certified to teach courses. Adult volunteers receive training in shooting sports at state and regional workshops to become qualified instructors. 4-H teen leaders may wish to assist with instruction. Shooting sports leaders act as role models and must impart the 4-H philosophy and positive youth development objectives to 4-H members.

Meeting Places

Clubs need meeting places and sites—such as sportsman's clubs, community ranges, and privately-owned facilities where they can meet, learn, and practice the shooting sports disciplines.

There are so many ways to become involved or to support 4-H shooting sports. For more information on the National 4-H Shooting Sports program, contact your local Cooperative Extension office by looking in the government section of the phone book or go to www.4-h.org/find



Teen Ambassador Program

One of the most exciting components of 4-H Shooting Sports is the Teen Ambassador Program. This program provides spokesperson training, leadership development, and the opportunity to travel across the U.S. representing 4-H Shooting Sports for 4-H members ages 15 through 18.

Those selected as a national 4-H shooting sports teen ambassador will represent more than 500,000 4-H members and 20,000 4-H volunteer shooting sports instructors across the United States. Teen Ambassadors are introduced to donors and supporters who are CEO's of major companies and organizations. Through this process, teen ambassadors learn the importance of appropriate attire, proper manners, and the ability of speaking on behalf of a national educational effort such as 4-H shooting sports.

For more information about this exciting opportunity, go to the National 4-H Shooting Sports website at: www.4-hshootingsports.org. At the website there is information about the program and application procedures.

More than 25 National 4-H Shooting Sports Teen Ambassadors are trained each year to support 4-H shooting sports at the state and national level.

"Don't aim for success if you want it; just do what you love and believe in, and it will come naturally."



Mission

The mission of the 4-H Shooting Sports Program is to assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills, and forming attitudes so they may become self-directing, productive, and contributing members of society.

The Cooperative Extension System's programs are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, sex, handicap, religion, age, or national origin.



www.4-hshootingsports.org



Focusing on Youth Development

The focus of all 4-H programs is the development of youth as individuals and being responsible and productive citizens. The National 4-H Shooting Sports Program stands out as an example. Youth learn marksmanship, the safe and responsible use of firearms, the principles of hunting and archery, and much more. The activities of the program and the support of caring adult leaders provide young people with opportunities to develop life skills, self-worth, and conservation ethics.

Building Life Skills

Specific objectives for the program are to:

- teach decision making, teamwork, self-discipline, self-confidence, and problem-solving;
- promote the highest standards of safety, sportsmanship, and ethical behavior;
- encourage an appreciation and understanding of natural resources;
- develop leadership skills;
- build character and willingness to assume citizenship responsibility;
- furnish enjoyable, positive relationships with peers and adult instructors;
- strengthen families through participation in lifelong recreational activities;
- build awareness of related career opportunities.

Something for Everyone

The 4-H Shooting Sports curriculum uses the resources of the land-grant university and the time, talent, and dedication of Cooperative Extension agents and certified 4-H leaders, instructors, and trainers who instruct 4-H members in firearm safety and marksmanship. The shooting disciplines include archery, muzzle loading, pistol, rifle, shotgun, western heritage and hunting skills. Each discipline is taught by a National or State Certified Instructor.

Healthy Competition

4-H members have opportunities to test their shooting, hunting, and sportsmanship skills in county, regional, state, and national competitions. In fact, they could ultimately set Olympic competition as their goal. There are seventeen Olympic shooting sports events, which continues to draw the third-greatest number of countries.



Championship

4-H Shooting Sports National Championship hosts over 700 4-H youth and 1,500 family members, coaches, and leaders from across the nation at this week-long event in Grand Island, Nebraska, each year. Here 4-H members can exhibit their skills in various shooting events. Most of the participants, who attend the Championships, had to qualify at their State competition.

More than 500,000 youth are reached each year by trained 4-H Shooting Sports Instructors. Approximately 300,000 of these youths are reached through the organized 4-H club & camp delivery methods and 200,000 are reached through short term experiences.

More than 5,000 volunteer leaders are trained and certified each year to lead 4-H shooting sports activities at the county and state level.



4-H Shooting Sports Program

The 4-H Shooting Sports program is an educational activity to teach firearm safety to 4-H youth, help them improve their marksmanship, and to enjoy outdoor activities. The program encompasses the initiative goals of volunteer leadership, capacity-building for youth and families, and environmental stewardship with commitments from the land grant universities. 4-H Shooting Sports is an active program that is attractive to both youth and adults. It uses positive learning and interaction with youth and adult role models. The disciplines are modeled after the National 4-H Shooting Sports Program and are administered by nationally certified state leaders consisting of extension personnel and volunteers.

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Current Sponsors

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