



National 4-H Shooting Sports Newsletter Volume VII – 2

Changes

By now you should know about the changes that have happened with the National 4-H Shooting Sports program in regard to the dissolving of the National 4-H Shooting Sports Foundation. The program is moving forward with National 4-H Council serving as the foundation that handles our funds. We are working to try to have as little disruption to the program at the local, state and national level as possible.

We are contacting our donors to make sure that they understand the change and that the program is moving forward.

2007 Invitational

A big thank you needs to go to Kathy Reeves and the South Dakota 4-H Shooting Sports Volunteers that help put on a great National Invitational.

2008 – 2009 National Invitational

For the next two years, the National Invitational will be hosted by the Nebraska 4-H Shooting Sports Volunteers and Steve Pritchard, State

4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator. The event will be held in Grand Island, NE. at the Heartland Shooting Park. The facility is a great location for this National event. A link to the hotel and motels in the city will soon be on the web site for those who will be attending. You can view the facility by searching on the web under Heartland Shooting Park to see what the facility looks like.

NWTF Grant Reports Due

The NWTF grant reports for the period of July 2006-June 2007 are due by November 1, 2007 to Jim Simms. State Coordinators need to make sure that you send a copy to your state NWTF Chapter president and to the NWTF Regional Director(s) in your state. This type of PR is very vital in your continued funding from NWTF. We need to constantly work at good relations with grants from any organization. When we don't do a good job with these relations we could see a drop in funding in future years if we are not careful.

Donor relations

Last year, Cabela's became a donor to the National 4-H Shooting Sports program through the National 4-H Shooting Sports Foundation. Cabela's became the first donor to make the transition over to donating to National 4-H Council for the National 4-H Shooting Sports program. Cabela's has worked with local and state 4-H groups at their new store openings and in conjunction with the Safari Club International Youth Education Seminars (YES) programs over the past two years. We appreciate the fact that Cabela's are concerned about the youth development

that takes place in the 4-H Shooting Sports Program.

State Plans and Certification

I want to encourage State Coordinators and state committees to review you state plan on a regular basis. We have had at least six new coordinators hired this year. They have had to review their state plans this year so they know the direction that their program is heading. One of the things that the National Committee is promoting and that USDA 4-H and ECOP is support is state 4-H Shooting Sports program reviews. The ideal goal would be to do two reviews per extension region each year. It would take us about six years to get to all the states. The purpose of these reviews is to help states is assessing where their state program is and how we can Make the Best Better. One of the areas that will be looked at is length of training to see if it meets the recommended minimum amount of training in the discipline and in youth development training. The reviews will review the state plans and see where states are in regard to instructor certification requirements.

One of the things that are asked regularly is, **do we accept this organization's or association's training as equivalent to the 4-H training.** In every situation I have asked the question, **how much training does the organization or association do in the area of youth development, and how would this impact your risk management plan for your state.** Most recently the question was about the Archery in the schools program. The question was is their training equivalent to the training we do at a National Workshop. After reviewing what they

have on their website, I found out that they do an 8 hour training for their Level 1 certification and there is no indication that the cover youth development. That would make it difficult to think that the training is equivalent to our 4- H training if we are following the National guidelines for length of training and content.

2008 National Workshop

As we look to 2008, the National 4-H Shooting Sports Workshop will be held in the area of Kerrville, Texas at the Lions Camp April 13 – 18. As soon as the 2008 rates are set and the contract is signed then we will be getting the registration forms out to the State 4-H Shooting Sports coordinators. This workshop will be for the southwest states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Nevada, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. Participants from any state will be welcome. The early bird registration deadline will be January 15th with the next deadline being February 15. You may want to start recruiting your participants now so they can plan for their vacation from their job.

4-H Shooting Sports Teen Ambassadors

During the National Invitational in Rapid City, the training was held for the 4-H Shooting Sports Teen Ambassador Program. 4-H youth from Arkansas, Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Louisiana, Indiana, Colorado, Oklahoma, West Virginia and Virginia. At the end of the event, four National Ambassadors were selected. The new ambassadors are Justine McQueary, Nevada; Keegan Hammond, Colorado; Trent Pribil, Oklahoma; and

Eric Pribil, Oklahoma. We want to welcome these new Teen Ambassadors who will be traveling in 2008 to trade shows to represent the 4-H Shooting Sports Program.

National Committee Applications

In May of 2008, the National Committee will have two openings for Southern Regional Representatives. Currently those positions are being filled by Rick Willey, South Carolina and Jinx Baney, Virginia. Applications are available on the website under the Instructor resources section. These positions require the recommendation of the State 4-H Program Leader and the state Director of Extension. This is a three year term and a person can be reappointed for a second term. If you have questions about the positions, you can direct them to Jim Simms. He can provide a list of responsibilities for the positions.

New State Coordinators

In August, Nevada welcomed their new state 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator. He is Dr. Stephen Schafer who has been in extension in Wyoming and in Louisiana.

In September, Louisiana is welcoming David Boldt as their new state coordinator. David has been working in extension in Louisiana.

We want to wish Michele Abington-Cooper the former state coordinator in Louisiana the best. She had retired from the state coordinator position and extension after a long and successful career.

Scholarship Contest

For those of you who are not aware, the National Wild Turkey Federation has a college scholarship program for high school seniors. There are scholarships available at the local chapter level and these winners become the applicants for the state level scholarship. The state winners are then competing for the national scholarship which is worth \$10,000. Two of the last three years the scholarship has been won by 4-H Shooting Sports youth from South Carolina and Colorado. The application can be down loaded by going to: www.nwtf.org/jakes.

American Legion Speech Contest

If your 4-H members are into public speaking then you might want to check out the American Legion Speech Contest. The local contests start in October or November depending on when the local post decides to have the event. Go on their national website to get more details. Go to www.legion.org and look under the National Oratorical Contest. The national winners are competing for college scholarships. The program is open to 9th to 12th grade students. If you are not aware, the American Legion also is involved in air gun competitions and offers an outlet for your 4-H participants to participate.