

## **NC 4-H Shooting Sports Instructors/Leaders Training**

The NC 4-H Shooting Sports program uses 4-H certified instructors to teach at all levels. Instructors are trained with a National 4-H based training system. Level One instructors are the county based club instructors trained on the state level to teach youth by Level Two instructors, who are nationally trained to teach adults. The National instructors are the Level Three Instructors.

North Carolina offers at least 2 instructor training workshops per year, one each in the spring and fall, at different locations across the state. Each program needs certified instructors in the disciplines that are offered. Clubs may have adult leaders that are not certified, they just have different job descriptions than the instructors. There are many shooting type certifications such as NRA, Hunter Ed, Archery, Law Enforcement, ect. Even with these certifications, 4-H instructors need to be 4-H certified to work with our program. Even though similar, our instruction methods focus on youth development.

### **Instructor Training**

Instructor training shall consist of at least the following phases:

- Explanation of the program.
- Methods of Instruction
- Lesson outline and use of outline
- Instruction manual
- Various methods - actual experiences, demonstrations, role playing, lecture, class involvement, simulated experience, visual aids, exhibits, and hands-on.

### **Instructor Certification Requirements**

The program requires the use of state 4-H certified instructors to conduct classes in the various disciplines (each which has its own certification): archery, hunting skills, shotgun, muzzle loading, pistol (air, .22), rifle (air, .22) and coordinator. Only one certification per discipline may be achieved at a state sponsored workshop. No person will be certified as an instructor until the following requirements are met:

- 21 years of age or older (must be 21 years of age on or before January 1 of the current year).
- Participants must attend all of the training sessions at a state sponsored workshop to become certified. The instructor in each class reserves the right not to certify a person if he/she feels the candidate will not be a competent instructor.

- Any person certified by NRA or NAA who wishes to become a 4-H Shooting Sports instructor without taking the entire state 4-H Shooting Sports training is required to submit documentation to the state coordinator
- Additional training may be required in youth development, 4-H philosophy, volunteerism, and risk management.
- Have no felony convictions.
- Have no convictions for hunting or fishing violations in the last two years.

### **Duties of Certified Instructors**

- To provide basic instruction to youth.
- To report all youth trained to the County Extension Office who will make annual reports to the State 4-H Office or another designated representative.
- To keep updated and qualified as certified instructors by teaching classes and attending instructor retraining sessions as they become available.
- It is strongly suggested that all certified instructors and youth secure additional accident insurance.
- See 4-H Volunteer Job descriptions for more specifics

### **Re-certification and Adding Disciplines**

- To keep up your certification as a Shooting Sports instructor you must teach or assist in teaching a class every two years. This requirement must be documented by completing and submitting the Youth Instruction
- Certification and Instructor Renewal Form.
- Once your certification lapses, you must repeat the training at an instructor certification workshop. Certified instructors shall attend a training workshop every 3-5 years.
- Renewal will be required of all instructors when new teaching materials become available or when a program change is initiated by the North Carolina 4-H Shooting Sports Advisory Committee which requires an update.
- Certified, active instructors may attain additional discipline certification by participating and attending a training session specific for the discipline desired. Previously certified instructors are not required to participate in the general session.

### **Instructors Code of Ethics**

All certified instructors will adhere to the National 4-H Shooting Sports Code of Ethics (below), Bill of Rights for 4-H Members (below), and all participants will follow the [4-H Code of Conduct](#).

## **NATIONAL 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS CODE OF ETHICS**

A complete 4-H shooting sports program must convey life skills development and be presented in a way that is safe, technically competent, and helps to instill 4-H values in participants through teaching and example. Certified shooting sports instructors and volunteers must be cognizant of their role as a moral and ethical mentor, as well as teacher, to youth and adults in their state and community. As a 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor or Volunteer:

- I will respect the participants, volunteers and property associated with the 4-H shooting sports program.
- I will set a good example as a mentor and role model for 4-H shooting sports youth and volunteer leaders.
- I will conduct myself and my 4-H shooting sports program in a professional and ethical manner.
- I will strive to be knowledgeable of the life skills embodied in the 4-H shooting sports program and aid positively in the development of youth through adherence to those principles.
- I will strive to be technically competent in the subject matter I teach and adhere to the national 4-H shooting sports guidelines and curriculum.
- I will respect the dignity of each participant in the 4-H shooting sports program regardless of gender, origin, ability, achievement or conviction.

## **BILL OF RIGHTS FOR 4-H MEMBERS**

The following statements are based upon a bill of rights for young athletes adopted by a team of sports psychologists as a standard for youth sports. They were adopted as foundation rights by the National 4-H Shooting Sports Development Committee many years ago, and they remain at the core of that program. Every person participating in the 4-H Program has the right to:

- Participate in the 4-H program with equal standing
- Participate at a level commensurate with their maturity and ability
- Participate with the assistance of qualified adult leadership
- Participate as a child, not as an adult
- Participate in the decision-making and leadership of their 4-H program experiences
- Participate in safe, healthy and supportive environments
- Become properly prepared for participation in their selected 4-H activities
- Enjoy equal opportunity to strive for success
- Experience the opportunity to set and strive for personally defined goals and objectives
- Be treated with dignity and respect
- Have fun in their 4-H participation

Adapted from Coaching Young Athletes by Martens, Christina, Harvey and Sharkey, Human Kinetics Publishers, Champaign, IL: after Guidelines for Children's Sports by Martens and Seefeldt, American Alliance of Health, Physical Education and Dance; Professor and Extension Specialist, 4-H Youth Development, Texas Agricultural Extension Service