

NORTH CAROLINA 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS

*The primary focus of the North Carolina 4-H Shooting Sports program shall be:
the total development of the young person.*

Introduction

The 4-H Shooting Sports Program is a youth development education program, which uses a prevention education model that strongly emphasizes positive youth-adult interaction and peer leadership. It uses skills and disciplines of safe shooting and conservation to assist young people and their leaders in attaining knowledge and developing essential life skills. The program can enhance family communications and quality time together. It creates an environment for a caring relationship between a young person and a significant adult, whether this is a family member, other adult, or teen volunteer. These activities provide the opportunity for immediate gratification to the youth and satisfaction and self-worth to the adult/teen leader who acts as teacher and role model for younger 4-H youth members. The program relies on 4-H certified instructors to conduct classes in the various disciplines (archery, pistol, shotgun, muzzle loading, rifle, wildlife/hunting, and coordinator).

What is a 4-H Shooting Sports Club?

A 4-H Shooting Sports Club is a 4-H Club that offers programming in the Shooting Sports as one of its main functions. It should be a 4-H Club in all aspects, including charter, youth officers, regular business meetings, and participation in regular 4-H activities including county council, presentations, project records, community service and any other regular 4-H activity.

Basic Program Objectives

The 4-H Shooting Sports Program strives to enable young people, their parents and adult volunteers to become responsible, self-directed and productive members of society. Agents, leaders, instructors and coaches must understand the goals and objectives of the program in order to manage or present it properly. These goals and objectives are consistent with the goals and objectives of the 4-H program. The program transfers knowledge, skills and attitudes to develop human capital, using the subject matter and resources of the land-grant university.

The goals and objectives of the 4-H Shooting Sports Program are:

- To encourage participation in natural resources and related natural science programs by exposing participants to the content through target shooting, hunting and related activities.
- To enhance development of self-concept, character and personal growth through safe, educational and socially acceptable involvement in target shooting programs.
- To teach safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment including sound decision making and self-discipline.

- To promote the highest standards of safety, sportsmanship and ethical behavior.
- To expose participants to the broad array of vocational and life-long shooting sports activities.
- To strengthen families through participation in life-long recreational activities.
- To complement and enhance the impact of existing safety, shooting sports and hunter education programs using experiential education methods and progressive development of skills and abilities.

Philosophy

- All instructors in the program will be certified by a national 4-H certified target sports instructor to teach specific course(s). Instructors shall participate in an update when new material or new instructional methods are developed.
- The Shooting sports program can be an individual or group 4-H project activity.
- The enrollment in the program has the potential of reaching new youth audiences as well as new volunteer leaders.
- The program is open to all youth ages 8-18. It is suggested that youth should be 10 years old before enrolling in the shotgun, muzzle-loading projects, but youth must be large enough to safely handle the firearm. Youth can shoot shotgun and muzzle loaders at the discretion of the instructor
- A 4-H Shooting Sports instructor of a discipline has the right to refuse any participant from the shooting sports activity in the interest of safety for the participant and others in the class.
- A county shall not sponsor or schedule any shooting sports activity conducted by anyone other than a National or State 4-H Shooting Sports certified instructor.
- Inter-agency cooperation/collaboration and participation is strongly encouraged.
- It is strongly suggested that all youth complete the North Carolina Hunter Safety Program.
- It is recommended that a county have a Shooting Sports coordinator to assist in administering and promoting the Shooting Sports program in the county.

Program Administration

The program is administered by the North Carolina 4-H Shooting Sports Advisory Committee and the Department of 4-H Youth Development who will:

- Administer the program.
- Develop a program outline for counties to follow.
- Conduct instructor certification activities.
- Develop informational materials to be used in publicizing the program.
- Provide orientation of field faculty to the shooting sports program.
- Initiate resource development in partial support of programming.