

OHIO 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS PROGRAM

General Information, Definitions and Policies

Revised April 10, 2017

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Ohio 4-H Shooting Sports program will utilize the National 4-H Shooting Sports curriculum to achieve the following goals:

- A.) To teach safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment including sound decision-making, self-discipline and concentration.
- B.) To enhance development of participant's self-concept, character and personal growth through safe, educational and socially acceptable involvement in a shooting activity.
- C.) To promote the highest standards of safety, sportsmanship, and ethical behavior.
- D.) To encourage understanding of natural resources concepts through participant's interests in shooting and hunting.
- E.) To expose participant's to a broad array of vocational and life-long avocational activities related to shooting sports.
- F.) To strengthen families through life-long recreational activities.
- G.) To complement and enhance the impact of existing safety and hunter education programs.

4-H Shooting Sports is a Science and Technology 4-H program delivered through a 4-H leader directed group setting, conducted and taught by specially trained and certified 4-H Shooting Sports instructors. A 4-H member may not enroll in shooting sports projects without direct supervision of a certified instructor in the project area. Project record books are available for members to establish goals and objectives and keep necessary records. Participation in any shooting sports project requires a member with the physical size to handle the shooting equipment and the attention span and maturity to follow directions and abide by all safety protocols. The program is designed for 4-H members ages 9 to 18.

Ohio 4-H will continue to offer member directed individual 4-H projects in (630) basic gun safety, (631) basic archery, and (622) trapping muskrats in Ohio. These projects are not designed to be used in a group setting, but should be supervised by the 4-H member's parent/guardian or another adult approved by the parent/guardian.

4-H Shooting disciplines currently available include (750) rifle, (751) archery, (752) shotgun, (753) pistol, (754) hunting & wildlife, (755) muzzleloading, (756) living history, **Crossbow** is a self determined project for 2017 or until further notice. Reloading is an advanced area of study within (753) pistol, (750) rifle and (752) shotgun disciplines. Coordinator is an adult discipline not a member project. A 4-H shooting sports coordinator is considered a middle manager that leads people, manages meetings and events, provides communications and holds a multi-disciplinary team together. The firearms, archery and hunting discipline instructors are key leaders who teach the specific knowledge and skills related to their discipline. **Note: some disciplines have prerequisites, please see Policy Statements section discipline prerequisites item 12.**

POLICY STATEMENTS:

The overall goal of the Ohio 4-H Shooting Sports Program is to provide a safe and educational experience to 4-H members through volunteer leaders. Two of the important components of safety are instruction and supervision. We feel that the certification of 4-H Shooting Sports instructors at state-sponsored workshops is an important means to provide a standard of instruction and supervision in the program. State sponsored workshops teach volunteers about shooting sports and the developmental abilities and maturity of 4-H youth.

In order to achieve our goal of providing a safe and educational experience, the following policies have been established:

1. All applicants attending a State 4-H Shooting Sports Leader (Instructor) Training Weekend Workshop will need to have completed their county approval process as a 4-H volunteer before attending the training workshops.
2. All Ohio 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Courses in Archery, Rifle, Pistol Shotgun, Muzzle Loading, Reloading, Hunting and Living History will have at least one State Instructor Trainer on the teaching team.
3. All 4-H Shooting Sports activities will be directly supervised by an Ohio 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Instructor. If a program divides the members into groups for concurrent shooting sessions, groups will be under the on-site supervision of an Ohio 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Instructor.
4. Adult volunteers who are primarily responsible for a concurrent session which involves the use of firearms and/or archery equipment will be Ohio 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Instructors in the discipline which is being taught.
5. Instructor Assistants and all remaining volunteers will be under the direct physical supervision of an Ohio 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Instructor while engaged in an activity which involves the use of firearms and/or archery equipment. Assistant Instructors may be recruited from a variety of sources.
6. All Ohio 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Instructors will be certified by the State 4-H Shooting Sports Advisory Committee before being permitted to use the curriculum materials.
7. All adult volunteers and youth engaged in the use of firearms and/or archery equipment will be advised of the basic range safety rules before shooting starts.
8. All participants will wear tempered eye glasses, safety glasses or shooting glasses *ANSI – 87 Eyewear Standard* and ear plugs, or muffs as eye and ear protection while on or near the shooting line.
9. Ohio 4-H Shooting Sports programs will use club/4-H owned equipment, equipment loaned by industry or a support organizations, or equipment inspected and approved by a qualified person. All club/4-H owned firearms will be stored in a locked secure (Gun safe preferred) box or storage area, from all unauthorized persons.
10. Only reloaded (hand-loaded) ammunition that has been reloaded under the direct supervision of an Ohio 4-H Certified Reloading Instructor will be used in the Ohio 4-H Shooting Sports program. **Only factory or factory remanufactured ammunition is used at 4-H shooting sports competitive events.**

11. **Reloaded ammunition will only be used by the 4-H member who reloaded it.**
12. (Discipline Prerequisites) ***Archery Level II*** – Must have completed the 4-H Basic Archery previously. ***Muzzleloading*** – Must have completed one the 4-H Basic Pistol, Rifle or shotgun disciplines previously. ***Hunting and Wildlife*** – If Archery and or firearms are being taught, then instructors and members must complete the level or levels of 4-H Shooting Sports disciplines being exercised. **Note: Exception with interest to photography and binoculars only, (no shooting disciplines being taught)** ***Hunting and Wildlife*** is an allowable discipline without previous prerequisites. ***Pistol Advanced*** – Must have completed 4-H Basic Pistol discipline previously. ***Rifle Advanced*** – Must have completed one of the 4-H Basic Pistol or Rifle disciplines previously. ***Shotgun Advanced*** – Must have completed the 4-H Basic Shotgun discipline previously. ***Living History*** – If Archery and or firearms are being taught, then instructors and members must complete the level or levels of 4-H Shooting Sports disciplines being exercised. ***Reloading - Metallic, Shotshell*** – Must have completed one of the 4-H Basic Pistol, Rifle or Shotgun discipline previously.
13. A statewide competition could be developed as the need and interest grows.
14. **Regarding simulated combat sports including but not limited to, paintball guns, air-soft, laser guns, archery tag.** Pointing any type of gun including paint ball guns, air-soft guns, laser guns, laser paint-ball, archery tag bows & arrows or sighting devices at any person or any humanoid shaped target is inappropriate in any 4-H program activity.

The purpose of the 4-H Shooting Sports Program is to promote youth development through the safe and responsible and ethical use of Archery equipment and firearms. Therefore the National 4-H Shooting Sports and the Ohio 4-H Shooting Sports Committee is opposed to such use in the 4-H program.

15. The Ohio 4-H shooting sports program is open to 4-H members ages 9 and above.
16. An Ohio 4-H Shooting Sports club meets at least six times during the 4-H year.

DEFINITIONS:

Ohio 4-H State Instructor Trainer (“State Instructor Trainer”) is an adult who has successfully completed a course of training conducted by the National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee and gives leadership to the training of volunteers here in Ohio.

Ohio 4-H State Shooting Sports Instructor (“State Instructor”): an adult who: a) is an Ohio 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Instructor, and b) teaches or assists in teaching a course at a state workshop in the discipline(s) for which s/he has been certified or has documented training and or experience.

Ohio 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Instructor (“Certified Instructor”): an adult who has successfully completed a course of training conducted by the Ohio 4-H Shooting Sports Committee.

Ohio 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Assistant (“Instructor Assistant”): a person who has locally recognized experience in shooting sports and/or youth development and has proper background validation and who has been trained at the local level by a “Certified Instructor” in the discipline(s) which are being taught.

Ohio 4-H Shooting Sports Junior Leader (“Junior Leader”): is a 4-H teen member who has completed training and assists with 4-H Shooting Sports Programs for youth under the supervision of a “Certified Instructor”.

INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- A.) 21 years of age or older for all disciplines ***except Archery, Hunting and Wildlife and Living History which is 18 years of age or older. Note: Living History and Hunting and Wildlife – If any firearms are to be used in either of these disciplines then the age 21 or older requirement applies.***
- B.) Successfully complete the instructor training program conducted by the State 4-H Shooting Sports Advisory Committee.
- C.) No felony convictions or any convictions for hunting or fishing law violations within the past two years.

INSTRUCTOR RENEWALS AND RECERTIFICATION:

- a.) To keep certification as a 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Instructor, you must be a current 4-H volunteer. (one can be removed as a 4-H volunteer after one year of inactivity)
- b.) To keep certification as a 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Instructor, one must teach or assist in teaching a class every three years.
- c.) Once certification lapses, one may have to repeat a state training workshop.
- d.) Renewal for expired / or Replacement of Certification Card: Contact State 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator and give Name, County and Current Discipline Certifications. New card will be sent to your County 4-H Extension Educator.
- e.) Renewal will be required of all instructors when a program change necessitates an update.