

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.

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.



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.

Ruth Allard
Shooting Sports Specialist
Oklahoma State University
4-H Youth Development
Phone: 580-332-4100
Email: Ruth.allard@okstate.edu

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



OSU EXTENSION
4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

OKLAHOMA 4-H Shooting Sports



Focusing on Youth Development

The focus of all 4-H programs is the development of youth as individuals and 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 enable youth to:

- Find and explore passions and interests
- Engage in an effective 4-H program setting
- Develop positive relationships with adults, youth, and peers
- Explore a vast array of 4-H educational, recreational, and competitive activities
- Thrive in multiple settings
- Enhance developmental and long term outcomes
- Practice safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment, enhancing existing shooting, conservation, and hunter education programs
- Explore the three National 4-H Mission Mandates (STEM, Healthy Living, Civic Engagement)

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.

Program Goals

1. To encourage understanding of natural resource concepts through participant's interest in shooting and hunting.
2. To enhance development of participant's self-concept, character and personal growth through safe, educational and socially acceptable involvement in shooting activities.
3. To teach safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment, including sound decision-making, self-discipline and concentration.
4. To promote the highest standards of safety, sportsmanship and ethical behavior.
5. To expose participants to the broad array of vocations and lifelong vocational activities related to shooting sports.
6. To strengthen families through life-long recreational activities.
7. To complement and enhance the impact of existing safety and hunter education programs.