

New York State Plan



Mission:

New York State 4-H Shooting Sports is part of the Cornell University's Cooperative Extension 4-H Natural Resources & Healthy Living program that encourages human growth and development as the primary goal, with an emphasis on maximum safety and the most responsible use of firearms and archery equipment, youth participants have the opportunity to gain both vocational training knowledge and life-long recreational skills.

This plan are in place for three main reasons:

1. For the safety and protection of the 4-H Member
2. For the safety and protection of the 4-H Shooting Sports Leader/Instructor
3. To ensure a high level of teaching compatible with, and in support of, the NYS & National 4- H Program

Situation Statement

- The NYS 4-H Shooting Sports Program is part of the National 4-H Shooting Sports Program and New York State 4-H and encourages the instructional disciplines of archery, hunting and wildlife, muzzleloading, pistol, rifle, and shotgun as a tool to provide youth development.(2024).
- Instructors trained in these various disciplines are responsible for implementation of the program at the local level (Level 1) in compliance with National 4-H Shooting Sports manual: including FORM Code 1501, First Shot Fundamentals, 4-H Life Skills, STEM, and with the support of the local CCE education staff. Instructor Certification Workshops will be offered at the state level at least twice a year by the State Instructor Team (Updated 2017).

Program Objectives

The NYS 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. The program transfers knowledge, skills and attitudes to develop human capital using the subject matter and resources of the land grant university.

1. Youth development is the #1 goal of the 4-H Shooting Sports Program. 4-H Shooting Sports provides an outstanding venue for nurturing human growth and development in the life skills identified by the National 4-H Program, such as: self-esteem, decision making, communications, responsibility, self-confidence, etc.
2. To encourage participation in natural resources and related natural science programs and create an appreciation and understanding of natural resources by exposing participants to the content through shooting, hunting and conservation related activities.
3. To enhance development of self-concept, character, and personal growth through safe, educational and socially acceptable involvement in shooting activities.
4. To teach safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment including sound decision making, self-discipline and concentration.
5. To promote the highest standards of safety, sportsmanship and ethical behavior.
6. To expose participants to the broad array of vocational and life-long avocational activities related to shooting sports.
7. To strengthen families through participation in life- long recreational activities.
8. To complement and enhance the impact of existing safety, shooting and hunter education programs using experiential educational methods and progressive development of skills and abilities.

Instructor Certification

1. The NYS 4-H Shooting Sports Program requires the use of National or State Trained 4-H Certified Instructors at the county level (in the appropriate discipline) to operate a live-fire range or to conduct any class in which firearms or archery equipment are handled. To be certified as a 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor in any discipline the following requirements must be met:
2. Age Requirement–
 - a. **NYS State 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Instructor (“Certified Instructor”)** - must be 21 years old
 - b. **Assistant Instructor** - must be 18 yrs. old; must have a minimum of one (1) year as a 4-H member in a 4-H Shooting Sports discipline or have successfully completed a state training; can only instruct youth under the direct supervision of a Certified Instructor and only if the Certified Instructor is present during the instruction.
 - c. **Teen Leader** – must be 14 years old; must have a minimum of one (1) year as a 4-H member in a 4-H Shooting Sports discipline or have successfully completed a state training; can only instruct youth with the approval of a certified instructor, only under direct supervision of a Certified Instructor and only if the Certified Instructor is present during the instruction. A Teen Leader may not instruct under the supervision of an Assistant Instructor.
3. Must have been interviewed, background checked, reference checked, and appointed as a current 4-H volunteer in accordance with the volunteer requirements of Cornell University Cooperative Extension.
4. Must agree to teach or assist with at least one (1) class within a two-year time period or have a significant involvement as defined by the State Team/Committee and must be recertified and updated every five years. The State Director/Coordinator is responsible for maintaining the database.
5. Must successfully complete a NYS 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Workshop administered and sanctioned by the State 4-H Shooting Sports Committee. A minimum of 15 hours of instruction in discipline instruction, use of National 4-H Shooting Sports Curriculum, safety, risk management, teaching methods, and 4-H program management will be taught at a State 4-H Shooting Sports sanctioned Instructor Training.
6. Must be trained and certified in the discipline (air pistol, archery, coordinator, hunting and wildlife, living history, muzzleloading, pistol, rifle, and shotgun) that they are teaching for their respective levels.

NYS 4-H Shooting Sports Policy Statement:

- All 4-H Shooting Sports programs must have the approval of the local Board of Directors of CCE, including a written record of the vote in its minutes.
- All 4-H Shooting Sports programs must be in compliance with the National 4-H Shooting Sports published Best Management Practices (Revised January 2017- See Insert)
- All 4-H Shooting Sports activities must be directly supervised by a NYS State

4-H Certified Shooting Sports Instructor. If the program divides the members into groups for concurrent shooting sessions, groups must be under the on-site supervision of a NYS 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Instructor.

- For firearms-based programs (pistol, rifle, shotgun, or muzzleloader and including air guns of all types) one of the two Instructors be certified according to NYS Penal Law MUST be certified by NYS 4-H in the discipline they are teaching to meet NYS Penal Law. (2024): Be aware that NYS is considering the elimination of the NRA certification in meeting this standard (2024).
- Adult Volunteers, who are primarily responsible for a concurrent session, that involves the use of firearms or archery equipment, must be a NYS State 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Instructor in the discipline that he/she is teaching.
- Assistant Instructors, Teen Leaders, and all remaining adult Volunteers must be under the direct physical supervision of a NYS State 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Instructor while engaged in an activity which involves the use of firearms and/or archery equipment. All adults and youth engaged in the use of firearms and/or archery equipment must be advised of basic range rules before shooting starts.

NYS 4-H Shooting Sports Policy – Age Requirements:

- Archery – 8 years of age and over (National 4-H Policy),
- Air Rifle – 9 years of age and over (NYS 4-H Policy),
- Air Pistol – 10 years of age and completed an Air Rifle program (NYS 4-H Policy),
- Rifle, Shotgun, and Muzzleloader – 12 years of age or older (NYS Penal Law),
- Pistol - 14 years of age or older (NYS Penal Law)

NYS 4-H Shooting Sports Policy Statement:

- Collegiate 4-H programs may be available for youth over the age of 18 and through the age of 21 at various colleges and universities within NYS. Collegiate 4-H programs MUST be registered with the NYS 4-H office and with the CCE office in the county where the institution resides. All collegiate programs MUST be supervised by a Certified, adult (over 21 years of age) Instructor in the discipline being taught (Updated 2013).

Definitions:

- **State Instructors** – Must attend and be certified at a national workshop. The State Team, based on written application, selects attendees to the national workshops. State Instructors are those likely to teach at the state level. They may or may not work directly with a county 4-H program.
- **State Certified Instructors** - Those trained at the state level to work directly with a county 4-H program. State Certified Instructors should have a thorough understanding of 4-H youth development.
- **Administration** – The State Committee administers the NYS 4-H Shooting Sports program.

State Advisory Responsibilities

- Administer the program.
- Develop, conduct, and promote statewide activities.
- Plan, schedule, sanction, and conduct training programs for instructors and volunteers.
- Develop informational and promotional materials for use in the program.
- Identify funding sources and develop resources.
- Approve the certification and re-certification of instructors based on teaching team recommendations.
- Meet at least annually to review the program and activities. Other meetings may be scheduled by the Chairman, as needed. Subcommittees may be appointed as needed by the chair.
- These policies and guidelines are to be reviewed annually by the State 4-H Shooting Sports Committee

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