4-H Leisure / Shooting Sports Education

The following are guidelines for providing learning experiences in shooting sport projects. The shooting sports project is oriented to the individual and is an activity that can be practiced throughout life. It is also a project where the entire 4-H family can participate.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ALL MEMBERS:

- Develop an appreciation of nature through outdoor recreation activities.
- Develop safe and effective shooting sport habits and favorable conservation attitudes.
- Learn a lifetime skill.
- Learn to keep good records as to what is learned, how it was learned, leadership roles, expenses, property inventory and other essential facts.
- Learn shooting safety.
- Learn laws applying to shooting sports.
- Learn the parts of the equipment and what equipment is needed.
- Learn how to select and buy equipment.
- Learn proper shooting techniques and fundamentals.
- Learn proper way to aim, shoot and follow through.
- Learn how to keep scores.
- Learn to build a target.
- Learn to identify various kinds of firearms and ammunition.
- New skills should be learned each year.
- To participate in the BB gun shooting project, 4-Hers must be 9 years of age.
- To participate in the rifle, shotgun, or muzzle loading shooting project, 4-Hers must reach their 12th birthday during the present calendar year.
- To participate in the archery project, 4-Hers should have reached their 9th birthday during the present calendar year.
- Obtain written permission from parents or guardian to participate in the project.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES FOR LEISURE AREAS

Hunter Safety

- Complete DNR Hunter Safety Certification Program.
- Become familiar with various firearms and ammunition.
- Learn proper handling of sporting equipment, including care, transportation, and storage of firearms and ammunition.
- Practice rules of good gunmanship.

Rifle-Target Shooting

- Learn how to aim and fire on the target range.
- Develop a clear understanding of the principles of proper sight alignment, sight picture, the integrated act of shooting, proper positions and zeroing.
Learn to score tournament targets and assist on the firing line.

**Shotgun-Target Shooting**
- Learn to aim and shoot on the trap range.
- Develop a clear understanding of the techniques of pointing and wing-shooting techniques.
- Learn how to score trap and assist on the trap line.

**Shotgun-Field Shooting**
- Develop attributes of hunter sportsmanship.

**Archery-Target Shooting**
- Learn how to aim and shoot on the archery range.
- Develop a clear understanding of the principles of shooting.
- Learn to score tournament targets and assist on the shooting line.

**Archery – Field Shooting**
- Develop attributes of hunter sportsmanship.

**Resources:**
- Take the Bait- Fishing for Adventure www.4-hmall.org
- Outdoor Adventures www.4-hmall.org

**4-H Shooting Sports Project – Educational Guidelines**

Shooting Sports offers a lifelong outdoor recreational activity for you and your family. The 4-H Shooting Sports project area involves more than just shooting at targets. There are many different learning activities that go along with shooting. The following pages offer some suggestions for possible educational projects for you to display at fair.

**Specific objectives for the 4-H Shooting Sports program are:**
- To encourage participation in environmental and outdoor education programs by exposing youth to shooting, hunting and other related activities.
- To support youth in developing valuable conservation and natural resources related knowledge, skills and stewardship.
- To enhance development of self-concept, character and personal growth through safe, educational and socially acceptable involvement in shooting.
- To teach safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment.
- To promote the highest standards of safety, sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and conservation.
- To strengthen families through participation in lifelong recreational activities.
- To provide hands-on learning experiences.

**Posters:**
All posters should be 22” x 28”.
Posters should be on poster board or foam board.
A poster should be a combination of pictures or drawings, and words.
   The subject should be easy to understand with a quick look.
   Words should be large enough to be read easily.
   Pictures should be clear and large enough to see easily
The judge will ask questions and you must be able to explain the topic of your poster.
The bulk of the judging award is on your knowledge of the poster topic.

Projects:
Start your projects early, they usually take longer than expected to finish. Many of these projects are good winter activities to do when you may not be able to practice on the range.
Details are very important in a project, little things can make a difference in your award.
Be able to explain how you made this project. The judge will want to know.

Archery

**Poster Ideas**
- Keep a Shooting diary or journal
- How to score a target
- Chart / graph your target scores
- Care and maintenance of equipment
- Parts of a bow, parts of an arrow
- Range safety
- Range setup
- Range commands, range rules
- Archery terminology
- Nine Steps to the Ten Ring
- Archery Stance – proper form
- How to make a bowstring
- How to make an arrow
- How to string a bow
- Types or arrows and points
- Types of bows and their use
- History of archery
- Proper safety equipment and its use

**Project Ideas**
- Make a ground quiver
- Make a bow stand
- Make a bow string
- Make an arrow
- Make an arm guard and finger tabs
- Make a bow stringer
- Make a shooting game including rules
- Speech, Demonstration or Illustrated Talk
- Give an archery demonstration
- Give an illustrated talk on archery

Rifle

**Poster Ideas**
- Keep a Shooting diary or journal
- How to score a target
- Chart / graph your target scores
- Care and maintenance of equipment
- Parts of a rifle

**Project Ideas**
- Make a gun case
- Make a sling
- Make a gun stand or rack
- Make a target stand
- Make a shooting game including rules
Range safety
Range setup
Range commands, range rules
Different rifle action types
Different ammunition types and use
How to clean a gun
Sight Picture and sight alignment
Safe Handling and storage of guns and ammo
Different shooting positions
Proper safety equipment and its use
How to identify a cartridge
Difference between sporting and target rifles

Make a display of different ammunition
Make a kneeling roll
Make a shooting mat
Speech, Demonstration or Illustrated Talk
Give a rifle safety demonstration

**Muzzle Loading**

*Poster Ideas*
- Keep a Shooting diary or journal
- How to score a target
- Chart / graph your target scores
- Care and maintenance of equipment
- Parts of a muzzleloader
- Range safety
- Range setup
- Range commands, range rules
- Different grades of powder and their use
- Different types of projectiles and their use
- Different lock types, history and timeline
- Proper loading technique
- Proper cleaning methods
- Safe storage of powder and caps
- How to clear a barrel
- Proper safety equipment and its use

*Project Ideas*
- Make a loading stand
- Make bullets
- Make a short starter
- Make a ramrod
- Make a powder measure
- Make a possibles bag
- Make a “clear” barrel showing a proper load
- Make a shooting game including rules
- Speech, Demonstration or Illustrated Talk
- Give a muzzle loading demonstration

**Shotgun**

*Poster Ideas*
- Keep a Shooting diary or journal
- How to score a round
- Chart / graph your target scores
- Care and maintenance of equipment
- Parts of a shotgun
- Range safety
- Range setup
- Range commands, range rules

*Project Ideas*
- Make a gun case
- Make a gun stand or rack
- Make a shell pouch
- Make a display of different shells
- Make a shooting game including rules
- Speech, Demonstration or Illustrated Talk
- Give a shotgun safety demonstration
Different action types
Explain the different gauges
Uses of different shot
Different chokes and their use
Proper Stance
Proper shotgun fit
Proper safety equipment and its use
How to identify a shell
How to clean a shotgun

**Hunting**

**Poster Ideas**
- Rules and regulations for specie
- Proper hunting equipment
- A hunting trip plan
- Proper ammunition selection
- Tree stand safety and use
- Hunter orange requirements
- Animal track identification
- Animal dropping identification
- Specie identification in the field
- Why do we hunt?
- Animal population management
- Hunter ethics and responsibility
- Map and compass use
- Survival kit

**Project Ideas**
- Make a game call
- Make a game feeder
- Make plaster casts of animal tracks
- Habitat construction / improvement
- Make a survival kit
- Make a hunting game including rules
- Speech, Demonstration or Illustrated Talk

**Trapping**

**Poster Ideas**
- Tanning Hides
- Different types of traps
- Trapping equipment
- Animal identification
- How to set a trap
- How to skin an animal
- Different types of bait
- Rules and regulations for trapping

**Project Ideas**
- Most projects would be shown in Section 6- Fins, Feathers, Furs & Hides
- Speech, Demonstration or Illustrated Talk