Media Information Sheet For 4-H Shooting Sports Events
Updated March 2015

As each county program hosts 4-H Shooting Sports tournament, workshops, or other events the media may be interested in covering the program. Below is some important information for talking with the media: the goals, focus, and reasons for having a shooting sports program for youth.

When talking with the media:

- Stick to the core message of 4-H Shooting Sports- it is a program that helps youth develop life skills. Simple as that.
- NEVER assume you are off the record when talking with the media.
- Never use negative terms; always focus on the positive.
- Never loose your temper when dealing with a media representative.

IF THERE IS A SHOOTING SPORTS INCIDENT THAT ATTRACTS MEDIA ATTENTION, DO NOT ADDRESS OR RESPOND TO THE MEDIA YOURSELF. CONTACT NICK BAUMGART 715-889-4791 (CELL- EMERGENCY USE ONLY) IMMEDIATELY. MSU WILL PROVIDE A MEDIA RELATIONS SPECIALIST AS A MEDIA CONTACT.

Program information

The 4-H Shooting Sports program has been in Michigan for over 25 years and we are just one of 50 states that have a 4-H Shooting Sports Program. 500,000 youth participate nationally in the program, mentored by 30,000 certified adult volunteer instructors.

- Shooting Sports is just one of many programs offered by Michigan 4-H Youth Development to help youth develop important life skills such as responsibility, decision making, and respect.

- This Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports Program provides education to youth and their families on the safe and appropriate use of shooting sports for recreation and outdoor enjoyment.

FAQs

1. Why do we offer the 4-H Shooting Sports Program?
   - To encourage participation in natural resource based recreation by exposing participants to shooting, hunting and related activities.
   - To enhance development of self-concept, character, and personal growth through safe, education and socially acceptable involvement in shooting activities.
   - To teach safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment including sound decision making, self-discipline and concentration.
   - To promote the highest standards of safety, sportsmanship and ethical behavior.
   - To expose participants to the broad array of vocational and lifelong activities related to shooting sports.
   - To strengthen families through participation in life long recreational activities.
   - To compliment and enhance the impact of existing safety, shooting, and hunter education programs using experiential education methods and progressive development of skills and abilities.

2. Why teach Shooting Sports to youth?

The goal of the 4-H Shooting Sports Program is youth development. The program strives to enable young people, their parents and adult volunteers to become responsible, self-directed and productive members of society. Through participation in firearm safety training and shooting sports activities young men and women are given the opportunity to learn responsibility, sportsmanship, self-discipline and other qualities critical to the development of productive young citizens.

Participants develop life skills such as:

- Social development skills
- Confidence and self concept
- Goal setting, orientation and achievement
- Personal growth and maturity
- Leadership and decision making
- Respect
- Educational and career activities
- Citizenship

Learning activities in which 4-H Shooting Sports Youth participate:

- Safety
- Skills and equipment
- Outdoor and hunting skills
- Conservation and environmental stewardship
- Leadership and community service
- Citizenship
- Communications

Parents and volunteers report that 4-H Shooting Sports participants also demonstrate:

- Strengthened family relationships and quality family time
- Pursuit of a lifetime recreation activity
- Value for family traditions and values.

3. How many youth and volunteers participate in Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports?

Shooting Sports is one of Michigan's largest 4-H program areas, with close to 9000 members. The program has grown steadily, particularly in the last five years. The passion and dedication of our 600+ adult volunteers is one of the reasons for the programs success.

4. What disciplines are included in the Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports programs?

BB Gun	Air Rifle
.22 Rifle	Shotgun- skeet and trap
Archery	3-D Archery
Muzzle loading	Wildlife and Hunting

Who are the 4-H Shooting Sports Instructors?

4-H Shooting Sports Instructors are parents, sportsmen and other volunteers from the local area who are interested in youth development related to outdoor activities. The Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports provides certification to instructors who work with youth in their home counties.

For more information about Michigan 4-H Youth development Shooting Sports Program, contact:

- Your county MSU Extension Office or
- Michigan 4-H Youth Development – 4-H Shooting Sports Educator
  Nick Baumgart at 906.774.0363 or baumga75@anr.msu.edu