



AZ 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS: PROGRAM OVERVIEW



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Cooperative Extension



The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension AZ 4-H Shooting Sports: Program Overview

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Shooting sports programs are a wonderful way to connect youth with safely trained caring adult mentors. Certified volunteers teach safe and appropriate firearms/archery etiquette and provide youth with leadership and competition opportunities. Shooting sports certifications are also a great avenue for volunteer professional development, with opportunities to become certified to teach youth, adult level 1 instructors, and nationally certified level 2 instructors. Young people can also take on leadership roles in clubs as Youth Instructors. Like any project, there are opportunities for members and volunteers to participate at county, state, and national levels. In addition, there are a few key requirements found in shooting sports that other 4-H projects do not have. Read through the information below to learn how to grow a shooting sports program in your county!

LEADER REQUIREMENTS

- 4-H Volunteer Certification - All 4-H volunteers must do the following to become a certified leader:
 - Interview with their county staff.
 - Undergo a Department of Public Safety background check.
 - Complete required 4-H and University of Arizona training.
 - Work with county staff to ensure that they are in good standing and well supported.
- Level 1 Shooting Sports Instructor Training - All 4-H Shooting Sports Instructors are required to complete a Level 1 Shooting Sports Instructor Training before starting a shooting sports program. Shooting sports is the only 4-H project where the curriculum and training is nationally controlled. This oversight allows 4-H youth to experience safe and quality 4-H programming. These trainings are managed at the state level, and official trainings will be shared via the state office and county staff.

AVAILABLE PROJECT DISCIPLINES

- **Rifle - Air/Small Bore.** Project meetings and competitions include use of .17 or .22 caliber air actions, and .22 caliber rimfire actions.
- **Shotgun.** This discipline participates in three events: Sporting Clays, Skeet, and Trap. Youth participate using 12- and 20-gauge shotguns: however, 4-10 and other actions can be utilized to make practice more appropriate for younger shooters.
- **Pistol - Air/Small Bore.** Project meetings and competitions include use of .17 or .22 caliber air actions, and .22 caliber rimfire actions.
- **Hunting.** Youth in this project will learn responsible use of firearms and archery safety techniques, the history of hunting, wildlife identification and management, orienteering, and outdoor skills. Competitive events will include wildlife identification and management, map reading, and decision making.

- **Archery- Recurve/Compound.** 4-H supports youth in recurve and compound archery projects. Both disciplines generally participate in same set three event formats: FITA, Field, and 3-D.
- **Muzzleloading.** Youth participating in this discipline use a muzzle loading rifle with open sights and participate in bullseye, novelty, and muzzleloading rifle silhouette courses of fire.

4-H SHOOTING SPORTS BEST PRACTICES

- **Contracts with ranges:** All shooting ranges used for 4-H events need to have a contract created with the University of Arizona. Contact your county 4-H office (<https://extension.arizona.edu/locations>) and submit a copy of the facility's range use agreement or user form. The county 4-H professional will submit the form to contracting@fso.arizona.edu. This process can take a while, so be sure to follow up frequently to ensure these contracts are completed in a timely manner.
- **Event Special Risk Insurance -** all shooting sports events and projects should be covered by American Income Life supplemental insurance purchased by the event coordinator. AIL provides very affordable policies - 25 cents per day, or one dollar per year by the day or year that supplement range, home, and University of Arizona liability coverage for adults and youth at a 4-H event. They are very quick and simple to request here: <https://www.aillife.com/specialriskdivision>. County staff often have funds to cover these expenses, so be sure to ask your county agent to help when planning an event!
- **Safe instruction:** It is the responsibility of any 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor to determine and facilitate a safe program. It is important for each volunteer to consider the abilities of each shooter, group dynamics, parent involvement, and other factors to ensure that there is proper oversight, and a safe, successful event. Many volunteers and staff in AZ 4-H have experience facilitating these programs, contact the State Shooting Sports Coordinator (eriktschroeder@arizona.edu) or your county staff to make these connections.

SHOOTING SPORTS AVAILABLE RESOURCES

- **AZ 4-H Staff**
 - County Agents - Find your county staff under county links on this web page: <https://extension.arizona.edu/>
 - State Shooting Sports Program Coordinator: Erik Schroeder (eriktschroeder@arizona.edu)
 - AZ Shooting Sports Committee
- **Operations Plan (Available Soon)**

- Firearms & Equipment Resources
 - Equipment Inventory Log (<https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/data/7.1%20Arizona%204-H%20Shooting%20Sports%20Equipment%20Inventory%20Log%20-%20Sheet1.pdf>)
 - Maintenance and Inspection Log (<https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/attachment/9.0%20Arizona%204-H%20Shooting%20Sports%20Maintenance%20%26%20Inspection%20Log%20-%20Firearm%201.pdf>)
 - Transfer of Custody Form (<https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/attachment/AZ4-HSSTransferofCustodyForm.pdf>)
 - Club equipment sign out sheet (<https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/attachment/check%20out%20log%20sheet%20fill%20in.pdf>)

- Meeting & Event Resources
 - Sign in sheet (https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/attachment/SS_sign_in.pdf)
 - Risk Management Plan (https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/attachment/4h-risk-management-packet_0.pdf)
 - Range Checklist (<https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/attachment/RangeChecklist.pdf>)
 - Permission to Fire a Handgun Form (<https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/attachment/Handgun%20Permission%20Form.pdf>)

- Webpages
 - National 4-H Shooting Sports webpage (<https://4-hshootingsports.org>)
 - National 4-H Shooting Sports Championships webpage (<https://4h.unl.edu/shooting-sports/national>)
 - Arizona 4-H Shooting Sports webpage (<https://extension.arizona.edu/4hshootingsports>)
 - Arizona 4-H State Shooting Sports Rulebook (<https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/documents/2022%20Arizona%204-H%20Shooting%20Sports%20Competition%20Rules.pdf>)



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Delivered by University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Arizona 4-H empowers young people across the state with the skills they need to lead for a lifetime. Youth collaborate with caring adult mentors to lead hands-on projects in areas like science, health, agriculture and citizenship. Mentors provide a positive environment where youth learn by doing.

Arizona 4-H serves more than 100,000 youth and is delivered in every county—through in-school and after-school programs, school and community clubs and 4-H camps.

Learn more at extension.arizona.edu/4H

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