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## *4-H Shooting Sports Program* *2020 Fact Sheet*

[www.4-hshootingsports.org](http://www.4-hshootingsports.org)

*Like Us on Facebook : National 4-H Shooting Sports*

- The 4-H Shooting Sports Program was officially started in 1980.
- Over 3.5 million youth and adults have been introduced to shooting and hunting sports through the National 4-H Shooting Sports Program.

Funding for the National 4-H Shooting Sports Program is managed through National 4-H Council, a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Contributions to the National 4-H Shooting Sports Program should be made payable to National 4-H Council and sent with a cover letter to indicate that funds are to be used for the National 4-H Shooting Sports Program. Checks should be sent to: National 4-H Council, 7100 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase, Maryland, 20815. Please direct donations to attention of Sally Miske, Director Financial Management with a copy sent to Conrad Arnold. Anyone interested in learning more about 4-H Shooting Sports sponsorship opportunities should contact:

Conrad Arnold, Program Coordinator, National 4-H Shooting Sports, phone: 410-330-5967;  
Email: [carnold@umd.edu](mailto:carnold@umd.edu)

- **Currently there are nearly 500,000 youth, 20,000 adult volunteer leaders and Professional Extension Educators through the Cooperative Extension Service participating in the National 4-H Shooting Sports Program on an annual basis.**
- **The National 4-H Shooting Sports Program is active in 47 of the 50 states throughout the United States.**
- **4-H Programs are directed through each State Land Grant University.**

### **National 4-H Shooting Sports**

#### **SKILLS FOR LIFE—ACTIVITY FOR A LIFETIME**

#### **Focusing on Youth Development**

The focus of all 4-H programs is the development of youth as individuals and as 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 and archery, the principles and ethics of hunting, 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.

**Emblem:**

The national 4-H emblem is a four-leaf clover with the letter “H” placed parallel to the midriff of each leaf. The H’s stand for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health. The four-leaf clover signifies good luck, achievement and four-fold development. The emblem symbolizes the aim and hope for results of effective learning for each individual. The 4-H Name and Emblem are protected under federal statute Title 18, U.S. Code 707.



**National 4-H Shooting Sports Program Committee:**

The National 4-H Shooting Sports Program operates under the auspices of the National Institute of Food & Agriculture and Extension System in the United States Department of Agriculture. There are active 4-H shooting sports programs in 47 states with nearly 500,000 youth participating under the direction of several thousand trained volunteers. Like all 4-H programs, shooting sports is a partnership among the land-grant institutions, federal, state and local governments and business and industry.

**Steering Committee Members:**

- Conrad Arnold, National Program Coordinator.
- David White, Oregon State University
- Todd Kesner, Montana State University
- Lisa Muzzey, University of Vermont
- Craven Hudson, University of Georgia
- Nicole Pokorney, University of Minnesota
- Nicolette Gordon, Southern University LG
- John Bowe, Cornell University
- Larry Perez, Texas A & M
- Teki Hunt, University of Arkansas Pine Bluff
- Jim Wilson, University of Idaho
- Scott Stuhr, University of Nebraska Lincoln
- Stephen Beck, New Mexico State University

**Building Life Skills**

Specific objectives for the program are 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)
- ❖ Model safety, sportsmanship, and ethical behavior
- ❖ Strengthen knowledge and life skills.

**Something for Everyone**

The Shooting Sports curriculum uses the resources of the land-grant university and the time, talent and dedication of Cooperative Extension Educators and certified 4-H volunteer leaders, instructors, and trainers who instruct 4-H members in firearms and archery safety and marksmanship. The shooting disciplines include: archery, muzzle loading, rifle, pistol, shotgun, hunting and Western Heritage. A National or State Certified Instructor teaches each discipline.

### **Instructor Training Workshops**

One or more National / Regional 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Level II Training Workshops are held annually. Volunteers and Extension educators attended the workshop to receive national 4-H shooting sports training and certification in one of several disciplines including: archery, muzzleloading, coordinator, hunting, pistol, rifle, shotgun, and Western Heritage. The National 4-H Shooting Sports Curriculum for each discipline is utilized throughout these trainings and in the conduct of local 4-H programs with youth.

Individuals receiving Level II certification are able to return to their states and work with their state 4-H shooting sports program to train & certify Level I instructors (train the trainer) to work directly and safely with youth in the 4-H shooting sports program.



### **4-H Shooting Sports National Championships:**

The 4-H Shooting Sports National Championship is hosted by a state Land Grant University through the Cooperative Extension 4-H program. The 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships is scheduled to be held in Grand Island Nebraska annually through 2023. This event has been held in Grand Island in 2008, 2009 and 2012-2019. The National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee is very appreciative of UNL to serve as the host Land Grant University for this event.

Last year, this growing event drew 1,000 participants and coaches along with their families from 37 states across the country. University of Nebraska Lincoln Extension 4-H, Fonner Park, Heartland Events Center and the Heartland Public Shooting Park have all come together as local partners to host this national event. Participants compete in one of nine discipline areas including small bore rifle, small bore pistol, muzzleloading, shotgun, air pistol, air rifle, hunting skills, recurve archery and compound archery. With parents, family, guests, dignities, volunteers, coaches, instructors and visitors the total number exceeded 2,500 event attendees daily. The 4-H National Championships began in 2000. The 2020 event is set for June 21-26 in Grand Island, Nebraska.



### **National 4-H Shooting Sports Teen Leadership Program:**

The National 4-H Shooting Sports Teen Leadership Program & Leadership Institute began in 2004 and has been a huge success. Teens selected by their state complete extensive training and hands on experience.

The 4-H Shooting Sports Leadership Program provides a venue for 4-H Teens to:

- Represent 4-H and specifically 4-H Shooting Sports for public relations purposes at special events; and with the general public, peer groups, 4-H programs, community service groups, schools and media contacts.
- Serve as spokespersons for the 4-H Shooting Sports program at their respective levels of participation—national, regional, state, county, helping to make 4-H Shooting Sports programs more visible.
- Develop their skills in leadership, public presentation, citizenship, community service, public relations and team building.
- Assist in maintaining relations with 4-H faculty and Cooperative Extension administrators.
- Expand involvement in 4-H Shooting Sports beyond the shooting skills and competitive levels.



## **2020 Western Heritage National Conference & Invitational Shoot**

**Mark your calendars for the 2020 National 4-H  
Western Heritage Conference and Invitational Shoot  
August 4 – 6, - Branson, MO.**

<http://www.4-hwesternheritageproject.org/>

