

What support is provided?

Leader training materials are available only through participating in the statewide leader training workshop. A general information booklet for leaders is available from the county Extension office. County committees plan special events for members. There are district, state and national contests in most disciplines annually.

What 4-H disciplines are available?

The Shooting Sports program is open to all 4-H members. 4-H membership is open to all youth in the state who are between the ages of 9 and 19. Membership in any other youth organization does not limit your ability to participate in 4-H. However, the following minimum ages for participation in various disciplines will apply. Age is based on January 1 of the current year.

- Air rifle 9 years
- Archery 9 years
- Hunting & Wildlife 9 years
- Living History 9 years
- Shotgun 10 years
- Air pistol 12 years
- .22 rifle* 12 years
- .22 pistol** 14 years
- Black powder/muzzle loading 14 years

*Youth must successfully have completed the Air Rifle project training prior to participation in .22 rifle.

**Youth must have successfully completed the Air Pistol project training prior to participation in .22 pistol.

Additional opportunities include:

- Wild Game Cookery
- Hunter Ethics
- Outdoor Clothing Tips
- Game & Gun Laws
- Giving demonstrations
- Opportunity to exhibit at fairs
- Participating in competitive matches
- Classes at Discovery Days



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YOUNG PEOPLE and SHOOTING SPORTS

How to Start Your Own 4-H PROJECT CLUB



A Leader's Idea Starter and Planning Guide

The what, why, who and how of a 4-H Project Club.

Start one today!

What is a 4-H Shooting Sports Club?

A 4-H shooting sports club is made up of five or more young people and two to four trained adults who usually get together at least six times for each shooting discipline during the 4-H year. Because of the nature of this activity, we recommend that youngsters be 9 years old before they start, in some disciplines they need to be even older.

How do you start a Shooting Sports Project Club?

- Visit with the County Cooperative Extension Service Staff in the county where you live. There may already be a program in place.
- Find a team of adults (a county coordinator and at least one instructor per discipline) who will attend the statewide leader training workshop.
- Find other adults who will be trained by the state-certified instructors and serve as assistant instructors in the designated shooting disciplines.
- Find five or more boys and girls interested in shooting.
- Enroll the club with the Extension office.
- Meet with the club and plan a year's program.
- Have fun learning together.

When will the project club meet?

Clubs may meet whenever it is convenient for everyone and wherever there is a safe shooting range available. Often meetings are held at established ranges in armories, in ranges which the group sets up in fair buildings, or at adapted outdoor ranges set up by the club. Meetings may consist of an hour of shooting and a short program. Some clubs meet throughout the year, while others combine several experiences in a one- to two-month period.

What happens at club meetings?

- Practice safety techniques and responses to range commands
- Learn basic shooting fundamentals
- Clean and maintain firearms
- Reload ammunition
- Learn about eye and ear protection
- Take field trips
- Develop shooting skills
- Explore wildlife conservation

Who leads the club?

Shooting sports club's volunteer leaders may be parents or other adults in the community who is interested in working with young people on basic

shooting skills. Interested adults don't have to be expert marksmen to become involved in the program. ***An average shooter who cares about kids is a better instructor than an expert shooter who isn't interested in seeing youngsters develop.***

The main requirement is a willingness to spend one weekend learning about youth development and the techniques necessary to teach youngsters the basic fundamentals of shooting. (This training is different from the content of the Oklahoma Hunter Safety Instructor course.) Statewide leader training workshops are conducted at least once a year. Leaders certified at these workshops are authorized to train assistant instructors in the county.

What is the cost?

The Oklahoma Extension 4-H Youth Program has no membership dues. Cost of all supplies is the responsibility of the members. Through the generous support of private grants and donors, some county programs may have some equipment available.

Can parents be involved?

YES! 4-H is a family program. Parents often come to the meetings and act as range safety officers or assistant instructors. Volunteers are vital to the 4-H Program.