



# WISCONSIN 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS STARTING A SHOOTING SPORTS PROGRAM FAQs

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4-H Youth Development

Revised January 2015

## ***General***

- 1. What is the best way to get a county 4-H Shooting Sports program started?**
  - Identify one or two volunteers who have an interest in working with youth as a way to teach life skills through shooting sports.
  - Coordinate a shooting sports committee to develop a plan and present to the county 4-H Agent
  - Become familiar with 4-H Shooting Sports certification requirements for adults teaching 4-H Shooting Sports.
  - Attend a state 4-H Shooting Sports certification training
  
- 2. What are some examples of organizational methods for a SS program?**

Two methods:

  - Volunteers introduce 4-H SS in their traditional 4-H club
  - Offer a county- wide shooting sports educational program. This model generally requires two or three well organized leaders developing six to eight educational training programs over several weeks/months. 4-H members enrolled in SS projects in their respective clubs attend the SS activities. In some cases this model evolves into a county SS club.
  
- 3. Who should serve on a county SS committee?**
  - This committee should consist of both 4-H Shooting Sports certified and non-certified adults with youth representation.
  
- 4. What is the recommended organizational structure to provide leadership for 4-H Shooting Sports in a county?**
  - Leadership should come from one committee organized to direct the educational program. Youth, adult volunteers, 4-H Shooting Sports certified leaders with oversight from the county 4-H agent shall determine the scope of the program.
  - The county committee may have a chair with members in the following positions: Coordinator, SS Leader Recruitment, Program Planning, Equipment, Fundraising and Facilities with some combined.

5. **Our county wants to purchase a trailer for storage of shooting sports equipment. What are some special considerations?**
  - Has a funding source been identified and approved?
  - Where will the trailer be stored and who will have access to it?
  - How will the trailer and contents be insured?
  - Moisture is a problem with trailers-what can safely be stored inside?
  
6. **Where should shooting sports equipment be safely stored?**
  - The ideal location is at a shooting club in a gun room with fire protection.
  - Gun safes are suggested for the valuable equipment.
  - Fire arms are not to be stored in the county extension office.
  - Local sheriff's office or other county buildings have been used.
  - Recommend not storing at SS leader's homes.
  
7. **Why do we have a 4-H Shooting Sports certification requirement and what is involved?**
  - 4-H SS is a National 4-H project requiring an adult to attend at least a 12 hour certification workshop offered through their state 4-H program.
  - Those attending a 12 hour certification receive a certification in only **one** 4-H project discipline; Archery, Muzzleloader, Pistol, Rifle or Shotgun. Coordinator is another area for certification and is recommended for each county as it offers much more detail on managing a county shooting sports program.
  - It is more than training. This is a certification; a conformation that the volunteer has received the state 4-H guidelines on risk management, youth development, resources and 4-H policies and the importance of upholding state policies.
  - When an adult leader becomes certified it is your assurances they have demonstrated a basic understanding of firearms or archery equipment. They have met the requirements for leading basic shooting sports youth training **only** in the discipline in which they are certified.
  
8. **If a volunteer attends a certification workshop do they need to attend Adult Volunteer Training/Youth Protection in their home county?**
  - Yes. A certification does not take the place of the county Adult Volunteer Training.
  - A volunteer may attend their county training either before or after they attend a certification workshop but shall not work directly with youth until completing their county training.
  
9. **May a 4-H leader assist with the 4-H SS program?**
  - A county approved 4-H leader not certified in a SS discipline may assist a 4-H SS leader providing they are not the one leading the shooting sports activity or the official on the firing line. State policy requires the one leading the SS

activity be certified in the discipline they are teaching and providing direct supervision to participants.

**10. What is the level of involvement of the 4-H agent in the county SS program?**

- It is no different than any other project area. Volunteers should know that a successful SS program depends on their leadership ability. The 4-H agent may have to provide direction in the beginning but should only need to be kept informed as to committee plans.

**11. Where should a county 4-H Shooting Sports program look for funding support?**

- Whether it is for starting a new program, funding an existing program or for helping a 4-H member attend the national 4-H Shooting Spots Championships, look to your local sporting groups and organizations. Some examples include: Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Wild Turkey Federation, Quail Unlimited, Whitetails Unlimited, local NRA, archery and sportsmen's clubs and chapters of the Izzak Walton League. Some counties will have special interest groups in grouse, bear, fishing, conservation and trapping.
- Also look to your local civic groups such as Lions, Optimist and Kiwanis. For a list of community clubs a visit to your local Chamber of Commerce is recommended. Clubs are always looking for new programs for their weekly or monthly meetings. 4-H Shooting Sports members offering a five to ten minute program on their local 4-H Shooting Sports activities will find this approach financially beneficial. Write a letter to the president of the club outlining why the funds are needed and suggest an amount.

***Special Events and Activities***

**1. Should our 4-H shooting sports committee be sponsoring live shoots like a deer hunt or carp shoot?**

- No! One of the lessons in our state certification covers risk management. Hunting is one area where you transfer the risk. Some comments:
  - a. The DNR helps shooting clubs and other organizations sponsor hunting opportunities for youth. 4-H members can be informed of these local opportunities but 4-H should not sponsor them.
  - b. 4-H SS policy states that the child shall be under the direct supervision of a certified 4-H SS leader at all times. Direct supervision may not be possible in the field as it is on the firing line. This could open the leader, county and 4-H SS program up to liability exposure.

- 2. Our 4-H shooting sports committee wants to sponsor a paint ball event.**
  - National 4-H SS policy states that paint ball, laser tag or any form of pointing a simulated gun at others is contrary to developing safe gun handling practices. These types of activities are not recommended for 4-H programming or fundraising activities.
- 3. Our County would like to host a State 4-H Invitational Shoot. Where do we start?**
  - Organize a committee or have the existing SS committee provide the leadership.
  - Visit the State 4-H Shooting Sports web site at: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/wi4hshootingssports/competitive-shoots/>. Here you will find examples of registration forms, match rules, information on posting your event and contacts for additional questions.
  - Contact the State 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator or the State 4-H Office for more information.

## ***Risk Management.***

- 1. How should a county plan to provide insurance coverage for equipment?**
  - The county shooting sports committee or the leaders association should be paying for the policy which they will need to acquire. All durable equipment should be covered like bows and guns. Arrows, finger tabs, pellets and muzzleloader patches are examples of expendable items probably not necessary to cover. You may be asked if the equipment is stored in a gun safe, a location with a security system or a fire proof room which could reduce the premium. Do not expect home owners insurance to cover county equipment when stored at an individual's residence. Equipment loss at a residence has proven to be a time consuming problem with no property recovery solution.
- 2. How should equipment be stored and inventoried?**
  - The recommendation is to store equipment in a neutral location should there ever be an ownership question. This would include such examples as a law enforcement office, armory or local sportsmen's club. Storage at an individual's residence is discouraged. Inventory lists should be reviewed annually and current copies should be on file with the county 4-H Office.
- 3. What is the best way to establish an agreement with a shooting club or range for the use of their facility?**
  - A memorandum of understanding is suggested and will help you spell out the expectations between both parties.

- 4. What insurance coverage is needed for shooting sports equipment?**
  - Check with your county, some counties may be able to add a rider to an existing policy.
  - The county 4-H leaders may want to insure equipment that may have been purchased through their association.
  - Do not expect homeowners insurance to cover equipment purchased by the county.
  - An insurance representative will ask the conditions of the storage area and if it is fireproof.
  
- 5. Can non 4-H members and 4-H members not currently enrolled in a 4-H Shooting Sports project participate in 4-H shooting activities?**
  - No. If these youth participate in actual shooting activities it exposes the leaders and the county to negligence and related risk management issues should injury occur. If not enrolled, most likely they have not received an orientation to the county shooting sports program and/or received safe handling firearms or archery training required of all 4-H shooting sports members.
  
- 6. Is it necessary to take out American Income Life (accident insurance) each time our county shooting sports program meets for practice?**
  - No, providing your county 4-H program or leaders association has taken out American Income Life coverage that is customarily renewed annually for all members/leaders in the county.
  
- 7. What insurance considerations should be made for the county shooting sports program?**
  - Accident and liability coverage are two separate policies needed to be in place. Accident for most county programs is acquired through American Income Life and will cover bodily injuries. Liability coverage is generally carried through the county.
  
- 8. What forms are needed for the county shooting sports activities?**
  - A behavior/expectation form should be completed. Because SS meetings are held as training sessions at shooting facilities this form should reflect the expected behavior appropriate for the facility and shooting discipline offered.
  - A health/waiver form **may** be needed. Like camp programs where overnights are expected the health/wavier form is needed. If your SS program is a one day activity and/or shooting practice it is not necessary.