

4-H Shooting Sports Project



SNAPSHOT 4H1651

CURRICULA & RESOURCES

Michigan 4-H Resources

- » Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports: http://4h.msue.msu.edu/programs/shooting_sports

National 4-H Resources

National 4-H Shooting Sports: <http://www.4-hshootingsports.org/>

Other Resources

- » Civilian Marksmanship Program: <http://thecmp.org/>
- » Michigan Youth Hunter Education Challenge: <http://www.myhec.org/>
- » National Rifle Association: <https://home.nra.org/>
- » USA Archery: <http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Archery>

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

The 4-H shooting sports project allows you to learn how to handle firearms or bows responsibly for target practice and hunting while gaining respect for the natural environment. Learn safe shooting techniques for shotgun, rifle, air pistol, muzzleloader and archery. While taking part in the project, you'll develop decision-making, teamwork and problem-solving skills, and have fun at the same time.

- » Develop self-esteem, character and personal growth through safe, educational and socially acceptable involvement in shooting.
- » Develop valuable conservation and natural resources-related knowledge, skills and stewardship.
- » Be part of an activity that can become a lifelong recreational interest or develop into a related career.

THE BIG PICTURE

Starting Out:

- » Learn how to properly handle a gun or bow.
- » Know and practice the steps involved in gun safety.
- » Become proficient as an accurate shooter.
- » Develop the skills necessary to properly care for a firearm or bow.
- » Experience different shooting options with various firearms and bows.
- » Explore the mechanics involved in shooting.
- » Develop a sense of stewardship toward the outdoors and environmental issues.
- » Create positive, enjoyable relationships with peers and adult instructors.
- » Learn the principles of hunting and archery.

Learning More:

- » Participate in competitive shooting events.
- » Refine shooting skills to become a more accurate shot.
- » Work together on a team to accomplish a common goal.
- » Become an active participant with environmental stewardship.
- » Participate in a variety of shooting disciplines to compare differences and commonalities.
- » Gain exposure to other state and national shooting sports organizations.
- » Serve on the local county shooting sports advisory board.
- » Learn details about the manufacturing of ammunition, firearms and bows.

Expanding Horizons:

- » Provide demonstrations in shooting skills for various groups and organizations.
- » Mentor younger members to enhance leadership skills and advance growth in others.
- » Learn how to reload ammunition.
- » Build awareness of related career opportunities.
- » Become a certified shooting sports instructor and teen leader.
- » Learn gunsmith skills and improved maintenance of firearms and bows.



FOCUS ON SHOOTING SPORTS

Science

- » Explore the trajectory of a bullet or arrow.
- » Study the ballistics data of various types of firearms and ammunition.
- » Make the connection between proper mechanics of shooting and accuracy.
- » Fletch your own arrows or reload your own ammunition.
- » Compare how different firearms and bows shoot.

Citizenship & Leadership

- » Work with other young people to help the public understand the safe and proper use of firearms and bows.
- » Establish a mentor program so that other young people are exposed to firearms in a positive, safe and respectful manner.

Communication

- » Present a shooting sports demonstration for a civic group or youth organization.
- » Prepare a presentation to younger members of your 4-H club on the benefits of shooting sports.
- » Share your skills and experiences with others interested in shooting sports.

Life Skills

- » Use critical-thinking, problem-solving and decision-making skills to help you make good decisions about project management.
- » Keep records on your project expenses and income.
- » Practice personal resiliency through successes and challenges in your project.
- » Keep track of your accomplishments and experiences with a journal or record book.



HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- » Contact your local Michigan State University (MSU) Extension office for local shooting sports clubs, workshops, activities and events.
- » Contact the MSU Extension 4-H state shooting sports coordinator at http://4h.msue.msu.edu/programs/shooting_sports.
- » Contact local 4-H clubs and inquire about incorporating shooting sports into their club activities.
- » Participate in the Michigan 4-H State Shooting Sports Tournament.
- » Volunteer to serve on the Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports Advisory Board of Directors.
- » If you are interested in taking part in shooting sports while in college or interested in applying for a shooting sports-related scholarship, visit MSU's Demmer Center website at http://demmercenter.msu.edu/about_us/msu_archery_team to explore your options.

Adapted with permission from "Shooting Sports," by Iowa State University Extension, 2015, *Iowa 4-H Project Hot Sheet*. Retrieved from <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/>

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