

Jefferson 4-H Shooting Sports Program

Get kids on target through the 4-H Shooting Sports Program!

BASICS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY SHOOTING SPORTS

Everyone enrolled in Shooting Sports, except for those only enrolled in the Archery Discipline, **MUST** complete the Basic Safety Course before participating in any of the shooting disciplines.

This program follows the age guidelines set by the state for participation in our various shooting sports disciplines. The more advanced the shooting discipline, (equipment, skill, and also the degree of "danger" with the equipment), the higher the age is set.

Here are the State Match participation **4-H age criteria** (these are hard and fast for the State Match participation) followed by our Jefferson County project guidelines and policies:

- **BB Gun: 4-H age 9-14** (BB Gun is the only discipline with an upper age limit short of aging out of 4-H. Participation requires successful completion of our Basic Safety Course)
- **Air Rifle: 4-H age 9-18** (Basic Safety Course required and our BB gun project for at least one year for shooters under the age of 14 in 4-H age. The degree of difficulty for Air Rifle is much harder than BB gun and shooters must also be proficient in BB gun to advance to Air Rifle. For shooters 14 and up in 4-H age, we require the Basic Safety Course for firearms and firing line safety.)
- **Air Pistol: 4-H age 12-18** (Basic Safety Course required, with most Air Pistol shooters coming in after they start shooting Air Rifle)
- **Small Bore (.22) Rifle: 4-H age 12-18** (Basic safety course required AND participation in BB and air rifle with proficiency in air rifle before going to .22 rifle)
- **Shotgun: 4-H age 12-18** (Basic Safety Course required and Hunters Education suggested)

4-H Shooting Sports

Objectives of 4-H Shooting Sports:

- Encourage participation in environmental and outdoor education programs by exposing youth to shooting, hunting and other related activities.
- Support youth in developing valuable conservation and natural resources related knowledge, skills and stewardship.
- Enhance development of self-concept, character and personal growth through safe, educational and socially acceptable involvement in shooting.
- Teach safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment.
- Promote the highest standards of safety, sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and conservation.
- Strengthen families through participation in lifelong recreational activities.
- Provide hands-on learning experiences.

For more information contact the Meadowlark Extension District Office in Oskaloosa at 785-863-2212 or jeffcountyshootingsports@gmail.com

Communication

- Share a presentation on the importance of safety and education in shooting sports.

Citizenship

- Volunteer to make a shooting sports presentation.
- Volunteer to help at local or state matches.

Leadership

- Lead and organize a club event for environmental improvement.
- Train as a junior apprentice in shooting sports.

Take Shooting Sports Further!

- * Participate in local, regional, state and national matches.
- * Consider taking a piece of your project learning to the fair for judge and to show off what you have learned this year.
- * Meet others interested in shooting sports.
- * Work with your local county conservation to improve wildlife habitat.
- * Become involved in your local shooting sports related non-profit groups.

- **Small Bore (.22) Pistol: 4-H age 13-18** (Basic Safety Course required AND participation in Air Pistol for at least a year before advancing to .22 pistol)
- **Muzzle Loading Rifle: 4-H age 12-18** (Basic Safety Course required. Participation in Air Rifle is very helpful to build shooting skills)
- **Archery: 4-H age 8-18** (We start new shooters on bare bow low poundage recurve bows to teach archery fundamentals. Our club provides the basic equipment needed)
- **Hunting Skills: 4-H age 9-18** (Note that to participate at the State Match in Hunting Skills, the Juniors (4-H age 9-12) must also participate AND qualify in at least one Shooting Sports discipline for which they are eligible, typically BB or Archery. For Seniors (4-H age 13-18 for Hunting Skills) to attend the State Match, they must also participate in Archery, Small Bore Rifle, and Shotgun projects, shoot at least one recognized qualifier match in each of these disciplines, AND qualify in at least one.)

This should help members and parents properly fill out project enrollment. **If it seems like nearly everything in our Jefferson County Shooting Sports is based on successful completion of our Basic Safety Course, followed by active participation for one year, or more, in our BB Gun program, it is.**

We teach the fundamentals of SAFE GUN HANDLING, SHOOTING ON A CONTROLLED FIRING LINE, and MARKSMANSHIP skills in the Basis Safety Course and the participants actively practice these skills to become SAFE and ACCURATE shooters. These skills HAVE to be mastered before one moves on to more advanced disciplines that are also potentially much more dangerous if something goes wrong.

Exhibit Ideas

- Present the proper outfit and accessories for hunting, shooting, etc.
- Give a presentation on proper gun handling, shooting skills, wildlife, hunting, types of firearms or archery equipment.
- Make a poster comparing the different brands of equipment.
- Make a poster comparing wildlife habitats and how humans interact with them on a daily basis.
- Make a poster with pictures of wildlife.
- Make a poster on firearm and hunter safety.
- Make a poster out of used targets or shells – sculpture, painting, etc.
- Compare and contrast different brands and types of ammunition.

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