



New Jersey 4-H Shooting Sports

An Action Packed Natural Resource
Program for Youth and Adults



January – December 2004 Annual Report

Trainings

Lindley G. Cook 4-H Youth Center for Outdoor Education sponsored the Annual New Jersey's 4-H Shooting Sports Workshop on 30th, May 1st and May 2nd, 2004. The program requires the use of National or State 4-H Trained & Certified Instructors to conduct classes / programs in the various disciplines (Air Rifle, Archery, Black Powder, Hunting & Wildlife, Shotgun, and County Coordinators). Experienced instructors from New York's 4-H Shooting Sports program were provided to train volunteers in Archery, Rifle or Muzzle Loader curriculums. The newly trained instructors will facilitate safe programs for youth through out the State of New Jersey. Seventeen people were trained at this workshop.



- The workshop had 4 nationally trained instructors.
- 14 people were trained as state instructors to work with children.
 - 4 were trained in Rifle
 - 7 were trained in Archery
 - 3 were trained in Muzzle Loading
- 6 of the trainees were women, 8 were men.
- 2 were trained to work with youth in a camp setting
- 2 trainees attended a shooting sports training before and were being trained in another curriculum.



We had fantastic weather, excellent instructors and enthusiastic participants. Elements of the training included practice teaching sessions, black powder demonstrations, a risk management seminar, instructor networking and discussions concerning the future of shooting sports in New Jersey.

The evaluations from the weekend indicate that a majority of the people trained now feel they have the background information to effectively manage risks associated with youth programs in shooting sports. They also feel well prepared to teach after attending this workshop. Here are some comments from the participants of the training.

“I feel a lot of my questions and insecurities about working with children and shooting sports are answered. There was plenty of time for archery”

“Not only learned a lot but 4-H volunteers are great people and friends!”

“Please let me know of the September date for shotgun which your friends will be hosting. Thanks.”

“I appreciate all the time and effort of all the volunteer instructors and particularly the helpers with the food.”

<http://www.nj4hcamp.rutgers.edu/shootingsports.htm>

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Another feature of the training was the annual auction. Donated items were auctioned for a total of \$540, which was used to offset the costs of the training, the purchase of the canoe and send instructors to the National Training in Pennsylvania. A number of items auctioned, ranging from earplugs and candles to plants and trainer resources. The main items in the auction was a 13' Old Town Canoe and a wall tent camp stove. The New Jersey 4-H Shooting Sports Program would like to thank Mrs. Williams, Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp and all of the individual contributors that made the auction such a success.

During the training the instructors had the opportunity to network and discuss shooting sports activities. Collaborative efforts will blossom from the conversations. It is hoped that instructors will utilize the Yahoo message board to discuss events and ideas.

We would like to thank Dick Smullen, Jack Mazur and Kenyon Simpson, certified instructors from the New York 4-H Shooting Sports Program, for their help and enthusiasm in teaching our volunteers. We would also like to express our gratitude to Sue Williams, Mildred Williams and Pam Caswell for the wonderful meals and help with the training. Without their help, our program would not be the success it has been.



Additional trainings

There were a number of opportunities for 4-H Shooting Sports volunteers attend trainings throughout 2005. NJ4-H Shooting Sports sent Ellen Di Iorio to the National 4-H Shooting Sports training offered in Pennsylvania to become certified to train volunteers in our state. In September NY4-H Shooting Sports offered an instructor training weekend. A contingency of NJ Shooting Sports volunteers went to this training in the Cornell Experimental Forest in Van Etnan, NY.

As a direct result of the trainings:



1. With the creation of the 4 new clubs this year, we hope to have a total of 8 active clubs for 2004-2005. This is a 100% increase from last year!
2. Sussex County will have shooting sports activities in their Heritage club. Peggy Johnson will instruct youth in Muzzle Loading.
3. Sussex County also will form a shooting sports club based at the 4-H Camp.
4. Somerset County's club will be revitalized with new leadership provided by Fred Whitman.
5. Hunterdon Counties club will be resurrected under the enthusiastic leadership of Sherry Peterson, Mike Peterson, Anton Tinnesz and Lisa Tinnesz.
6. Essex County will have a new shooting sports club under the watchful eye of Gary Gorski.
7. Tom Eccles and John Horning will be starting an Archery Club in Ocean County
8. Linda Kabis will be starting an Archery Club in Morris County.
9. Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp now has staff that is cross-trained in Archery and Air Rifle. And the new Muzzleloader program and 3D archery classes will provide the teens with new and exciting alternatives at camp. Some of these staff will utilize their skills in off-season programming at the facility.

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4-H Shooting Sports Enrollment

Here is a brief summary of enrollment in the shooting sports program.

- 8 clubs were functioning by the end of 2004. The clubs are located in Atlantic, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Ocean, Somerset, Sussex and Union Counties (2 clubs). This was an 100% increase!
- 86 boys and 38 girls participated in a range of activities in the clubs, including Archery, Air rifle and shotgun programs
- 428 Boys and 296 Girls were involved in 4-H shooting sports programs in summer and weekend camp programs.
- Middlesex county had 120 people visit their shooting sports booth and practice with the beam hit rifle system
- Ocean County had 30 people participate in an archery program at their fall festival.
- Three counties offered 6 hours of shooting sports clinics to 37 participants.
- L. G. Cook 4-H summer camp program offered 3-D Archery and Muzzle loading curriculums for teens. 77 teens took the advanced archery program, and 41 took the muzzle loading.
- One instructor was sent to the national training, and is certified to train adults in archery.
- New Jersey has 14 currently active instructors who have volunteered over 222 hours with clubs and contributed 465 hours of training and instruction in other activities, such as camp programs, fair demonstrations and shooting sports clinics.



Project/Activity Goals:

Our overall goal is to make available a safe, consistent 4-H Shooting Sports program throughout NJ, as well as to provide a support mechanism for our volunteers. We met the following goals...

- Offered our annual state-sponsored training program and maintaining a strong training relationship with NY and Maryland.
- Increased enrollment in Off Season shooting Sports and Archery programs at the state 4-H Camp. 11 Separate programs enjoyed the ranges this year.
- Expand involvement in all programs offered, including forming of 4 new clubs (100% increase)
- We exceeded our instructional goals for 2004 by adding 15 new shooting sports leaders/state-trained instructors, training and certifying four summer camp staff members.
- We expanded and updated our inventory of shooting sports equipment and upgraded our shooting sports ranges. The camp has purchased 5 muzzle loaders and kits, which can be lent out to different clubs for programs.

We hope to meet the following goals in the next year

- Establish a statewide 4-H Shooting Sports Committee and conduct the initial meeting at the state training meeting.
- We hope to offer a state wide event. The focus of this event will be to get the clubs together for an educational event, and awards dinner and a fundraiser. We also hope to have a BBQ or a dinner after the event to celebrate shooting sports and promote recognition for members and volunteers of the clubs. The Annual Auction will be moved from the Shooting Sports training weekend to this event. It was exciting to see the enthusiasm for NJ 4H Shooting Sports.
- Locate and pursue new streams of revenue for equipment and instruction.

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