

New Jersey 4-H Shooting Sports



In the wake of the terrible incidents of youth perpetrated violence, people may question the appropriateness of the 4-H shooting sports program.

The 4-H Youth Development Shooting Sports Program involves kids who have an interest in firearms/guns/archery and welcomes them into an accepting, caring group. The first thing they learn is safety. Next they learn discipline, followed by respect (respect for firearms as well as respect for people). They are not permitted to use the firearm until they prove they can handle those three prerequisites.

4-H Shooting Sports Members learn what it means to be a good citizen, to help others, and to respect others. They develop the skills necessary for success in the workplace as well as interpersonal relationships (life skills). 4-H Adult Volunteer Leaders are positive role models and mentors for kids. They model and teach the kids character while they teach the kids the proper use of and respect for firearms and respect for other people.

4-H Shooting Sports programs offer youth who have an interest in shooting sports and firearms the develop into competent, caring and concerned citizens!

Youth development is the primary goal of the 4-H Shooting Sports Program. 4-H shooting sports provide an outstanding way of providing human growth and development in the life skills identified by the National 4-H Program.

We strive to teach safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment at home, on the shooting range, or in the field, including sound decision making, self discipline, and concentration.



Program Accomplishments

New Jersey 4-H Shooting Sports continued to experience growth in the past year. Instructors reported on their activities for the 2009-2010 program year, which runs from September to August. To summarize the state program...

- 16 clubs were providing training and programs to youth by the end of 2010. The clubs are located in Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Morris, Ocean, Salem, Somerset (2), Sussex (2) and Union Counties (2 clubs and 1 living history club). Every club has at least one state certified 4-H Instructor.
- 251 children were registered 4-H shooting club members. 150 of them were trained in Archery, 213 received instruction in Rifle, 25 received Shotgun instruction, and 23 teens went through the muzzle loading curriculum. 51 club members also participated in Living History programs. Many children are in multi-disciplinary clubs.
- 766 youth and adult were involved in shooting programs offered at day camp / weekend camp programs throughout the state, including the Becoming an Outdoor Family weekend offered at Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp.
- 171 campers received training in archery and 144 campers were instructed in rifle at Lindley G. Cook 4-H Camp last summer. Each class consisted of 5 one hour sessions. The camp also offered classes in 3-D Archery, Muzzle loading and Pioneer living curriculums for teens. (Many of the campers participate in multiple disciplines)
- Across the state over 6600 people took part in archery and rifle demonstrations at county fairs. Members and instructors provided over 194 hours of demonstrations. Clubs are using the Sponsored air rifle range that was purchased using money from the 2009 NRA foundation grant
- 25 Clinics were offered to a total of 1007 participants. 72 hours of instructor time was used in these programs.
- Club members conducted 165 club level, 55 county level and 8 state level presentations.
- New Jersey has 65 active state certified club instructors who have volunteered over 1579 hours to train youth in clubs, and 555 hours in other training opportunities.
- **On average, each state certified instructor provides 26 hours of teaching to each club member.** This does not include the time instructors spend in regular club meetings, prepping/working on projects and presentations, state events or free recreational events.

Events

Adult Instructor Training

The Annual April training provided 22 adults, 4 assistant instructors and 4 junior instructors with the opportunity to become instructors in archery, rifle, shotgun and the muzzle loading curriculums. Instructors from NJ also attended trainings in New York, Vermont and other states.

The New Jersey 4-H Shooting Sports Program is thankful to all of contributors that made the training such a success. Federal Cartridge was one of those contributors that donated \$400 and ammunition for the trainings. As a result of the training, the State of New Jersey has over 65 trained instructors, of which 60 participate directly with clubs. New Jersey has four people certified on a national level to train adult to become shooting sports instructors.



Shooting Sports Invitational and Annual Recognition Banquet

On May 7th, 2011 over 84 4-Her's participated in the annual Jersey 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational held at Lindley G Cook 4-H Camp in Branchville, NJ. Twenty one teams represented six clubs and participated in activities such as 3-D Archery, Air Rifle and Field Archery contests. Trophies were given for the highest scoring team in each challenge. Individual Rifle and Archery match events were offered in addition to give members an opportunity to experience matches in a formal setting. A shotgun program was also offered during the day.

Archery Games

1st Place: Sussex Team 2 (John Mathews, Chris Pierson, Christian Fragoneri)
2nd Place: Hunterdon Team 2 (James Wasitowski, Harlee Peterson, Robert Podolec, Mike Mroz)
3rd Place: Hunterdon Team 7 (Josh Beck, Chris Martin, Trevor Wene, Nick Paulter)

3D Archery Games

1st Place: Hunterdon Team 7 (Josh Beck, Chris Martin, Trevor Wene, Nick Paulter)
2nd Place: Hunterdon Team 1 (David Pinkerton, Casey Bolanowski, Alison Mroz, Bryan Lederach)
3rd Place: Middlesex 2 (Amanda Cooper, George Cooper, Jimmy Murphy, Michael Murphy)

Rifle Games

1st Place: Hunterdon 4 (Mark Peterson, Mike Pamula, Keegan Sahlin, Anthony Razzano)
2nd Place: Hunterdon 3 (Brendan Lederach, Jake Peterson, Peter Wasitowski, Justin Podolec)
3rd Place: Hunterdon 1 (David Pinkerton, Casey Bolanowski, Alison Mroz, Bryan Lederach)

It was a great experience for everyone that attended, parents included. The beautiful weather provided members with opportunities to show off the skills they have learned throughout the year. After the invitational was complete, 123 4-H members and club leaders joined together to celebrate the year. The food was excellent, and a good time was had by all. (Thank you volunteers!) After the banquet items were auctioned off and over \$800 was raised.

Members, Instructors, and those that support shooting sports were also honored. Ellen Di Iorio of Union County received the

Gordon Shelton Award. This award is for a club leader, member or any individual that has furthered the cause of 4-H Shooting Sports in their club, community, county or world. This individual exemplifies a commitment to 4-H, shooting sports and volunteerism.

State Match

Four State qualifying matches were offered to 4-H members in Archery, Air Rifle, Small Bore and Shotgun programs. The purpose of the matches was to qualify teams for the national match.

The Air Rifle and Small Bore event was held in Hunterdon County. Nineteen shooters participated in the Air Rifle match, and sixteen competed in the Small Bore match. The archery match was held in Union County with fifteen shooters. Thirteen individuals participated in the Shotgun match sponsored in Atlantic county. A full listing of members and scores can be found on the state website.

After a review of the event and the scores, the match committee elected to send teams to represent our state in the small bore and shotgun disciplines.

National Invitational

Two State 4-H Shooting Sports Teams represented New Jersey at the 2011 4-H National Invitational in San Antonio, Texas June 20th -24th 2011. The 2011 team members were as follows...

Small Bore State Team

Kayla Hill –Salem County
Jake Peterson - Hunterdon County
Scott Wardenski - Middlesex County
Jared Hill – Salem County
Chris Martin –Hunterdon (Alternate)

Shot Gun State Team

David Pinkerton –Hunterdon County
Mark Peterson - Hunterdon County
Joshua Beck – Hunterdon County
Ed Kertz – Atlantic County
Justin Malone –Sussex County (Alternate)

While participating on the state teams, members perform community service projects and learn valuable life and leadership skills. They practice throughout the year under the guidance of volunteer coaches. Many hours of hard work and preparation go into their commitment to be a team member and earning the approximately \$1500 to cover the costs of the trip. Numerous fundraisers and benefits are planned to help the team members offset their cost.

NJ4-H Shooting Sports extends many thanks and appreciation to the sponsors whom helped make this trip possible for our teams. Sponsors included local gun clubs, 4-H Associations, family members, 4-H Clubs, NJ 4-H Shooting Sports Advisory Board, NJ Pistol and Rifle Club, NJ Sportsman's Federations county and state; local Elk and American Legion Clubs. These donations and additional fundraisers by team members helped raise over \$10800 for the trip.