

### 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.
- 307 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.
- 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 1800 people took part in archery and rifle demonstrations at county fairs. Members and instructors provided over 254 hours of demonstrations. Clubs are using the Sponsored air rifle range that was purchased using money from the 2009 NRA foundation grant
- 37 Clinics were offered to a total of 1883 participants. 142 hours of instructor time was used in these programs.
- Club members conducted 111 club level, 58 county level and 7 state level presentations.
- New Jersey has 74 active state certified club instructors who have volunteered over 2671 hours to train youth in clubs.
- **On average, each state certified instructor provides 36 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

New Jersey 4-H Shooting Sports provided three instructor trainings in the 2010 program year. In the fall of 2009 archery and rifle training was offered in Middlesex County to 12 participants.

The Annual April training provided 26 adults, 7 assistant instructors and 3 junior instructors with the opportunity to become instructors in archery, rifle, shotgun and the muzzle loading curriculums. A special training for summer camp counselors was offered in June of 2010. Six camp staff received training in air rifle.

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 74 trained instructors, of which 69 participate directly with clubs. New Jersey has four people certified on a national level to train adult to become shooting sports instructors. The state also has 10 certified Assistant Instructors and twelve camp counselors certified to work directly with camps.



### Shooting Sports Invitational and Annual Recognition Banquet

On May 8th, 2010 over 87 4-Hers participated in the annual Jersey 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational held at Lindley G Cook 4-H Camp in Branchville, NJ. Twenty two 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.

It was a great experience for everyone that attended, parents included. The beautiful weather (except high winds) provided members with opportunities to show off the skills they have learned throughout the year.

After the invitational was complete, 4-H members and club leaders joined together to celebrate the year. Even with the loss of power the banquet was a great success. (Thank you volunteers!) Members, Instructors, and those that support shooting sports were honored. \$923 was raised at the state auction. Rachel Demarest of the Shelton Sharpshooters received the new 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

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

The Air Rifle and Small Bore event was held on Saturday, March 13 in Hunterdon County. Twenty two shooters participated in the Air Rifle match, and twenty one competed in the Small Bore match. Teams were selected from the top scorers to participate on the national team.

The archery match was held on March 14 in Union County. Ten shooters competed in the event. After a review of the event and the scores, the match committee determined that sending a team to nationals would not benefit our members.

### National Invitational

This year New Jersey sent two teams to the National Competition held in Kerrville, Texas on June 28-July 3, 2010. The Air Rifle team included the following members Brendan Lederach and Jake Peterson from Hunterdon County and Holly Lear and Scott Wardinski of Middlesex County. There were 20 states in the Air Rifle Match and a total of 68 competitors. Three events made up the match they included: CMP 3 Position; CMP Standing and NRA Silhouette. The New Jersey Team placed 11th overall in the competition.

The Smallbore Team consisted of the following members: Mike Pamula and Mark Peterson of Hunterdon County and Scott Hitchner and Luke Negron of Salem County. Twenty three states and 78 competitors competed in the event. New Jersey Smallbore Team placed 9th overall, Scott Hitchner ranked 24th overall and Mark Peterson ranked 28th overall. Three matches consisted of NRA Silhouette, CMP Rapid Fire, and NRA 3 Position.

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. A NRA Foundation grant was received to purchase 2 Air Arms t200 air rifles, an air tank and accessories. These donations and additional fundraisers by team members helped raise over \$9800 for the trip.

### Club Highlight: Lightning Wheels Archery Club

In March 2010, members of the Lightning Wheels 4-H Archery Club met and ratified their Constitution and Bylaws. There are six registered members. They met every Monday evening from 5 to 7 p.m. at Union County's Oak Ridge Park Archery Range in Clark, from March through October. The members range from 4th grade through high school. Members Caitlin Goerlich, Lynne Ganley, Michael Harnett, and Stephen Koziel attended the National Junior Disability Championships in Chicago, Illinois, July 17-24. Although the majority of the members use a wheelchair for mobility, this club is open to all Union County youth who enjoy this Olympic sport.





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