

4-H Hunting & Wildlife Coach Training

4-H Hunting & Wildlife is a 4-H Shooting Sports discipline and much more. During the 4-H Shooting Sports State Games each summer, youth can register to participate in this discipline that offers live firing events as well as interactive events that challenge the knowledge and skills of the contestant. The live firing events are designed to simulate as closely as possible the type of shooting one would do in a hunting field rather than on a shooting range. Youth contestants compete in a walking round of shotgun sporting clays, a walking round of 3-D archery, and a round of each smallbore and muzzle loading rifle shooting at life size game animal targets at non-specific distances. Additionally, the contestants will compete in tests of knowledge and skill in wildlife identification, hunting laws and regulations, orienteering and map reading, decision making in the hunting field and in the selection of hunting equipment, and safety in the hunting field.

One design of this training is to prepare an adult leader to coach youth in the Hunting & Wildlife Shooting Sports discipline and certify them to train their youth to safely and responsibly use the four firearms (shotgun, smallbore light rifle, muzzle loading rifle, and bow) in live firing situations. This certification will allow the coach to regularly instruct their local youth and coach them in the Hunting & Wildlife events sponsored by 4-H. This certification will not allow an adult leader to become a coach of a specific shooting discipline within the 4-H Shooting Sports Program that involves further competitive use of a specific firearm (i.e. – an adult attending this training cannot return to a county to become the lead rifle coach in that 4-H program.)

The training is also designed for any adult leader wishing to work with their local youth in a hunting or wildlife project or a combination of the two. During the training participants will become certified as Texas Hunter Education Instructors. This certification does not obligate the recipient to provide courses to the public or at a particular rate. However, the certification does allow them to provide basic Hunter Education training and certification to the youth they lead. Certification in the Leopold Education Program (LEP) will be earned by the training participants. The LEP is a land and resource stewardship and ethics educational tool based on the teaching and writing of Aldo Leopold, a respected professor, researcher, and writer of natural resources and game management from the early 1900's. The agenda will also include information on the Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge, a competitive event through NRA and sponsored by the Texas Hunter Education Instructor Association, the Texas Youth Hunting Program, and many more related programs, activities and opportunities for youth.

The training will be interactive with indoor and outdoor activities including live firing of all firearm types, simulated hunting scenarios, and various other outdoor skills and education. Participants will take home a variety of curricula, resources, and experiences that will allow them to begin or enhance a hunting & wildlife project for their local youth. Register on 4-H Connect; texas.4honline.com.