

Information on Certified Coaches in the Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Project

Questions are often asked concerning certification as a 'coach' in a local 4-H Shooting Sports project. A few of the most common questions are answered in this document and listed by topic heading.

Coach Certification

- 4-H Shooting Sports Coach Certifications offered include: 4-H Certified Coach and Assistant Coach.
- A 4-H Certified Coach must be currently enrolled as a 4-H volunteer and have an updated YPS background check on 4-H Connect. Annual enrollment is required to maintain certification.
- A 4-H Certified Coach must be 4-H certified in the specific discipline (shotgun, rifle, pistol, archery, muzzleloading, hunting) in which a shooting sports project is being conducted. A 4-H Certified Coach may be trained and certified in multiple disciplines.
- Only one discipline certification (archery, pistol, rifle, shotgun) is obtainable per participant per regular training.
- Separate specific trainings are offered for the hunting and muzzleloading disciplines.
- Trainings occur around the state in various locations and throughout the year.
- Certification is only available through a 4-H Shooting Sports Coach Training conducted either by the State 4-H Natural Resources Program Office or one of the 12 District Extension Offices.
- Equivalent certifications through other entities (NRA, USA Shooting, USA Archery, etc.) or any professional training are not allowed to replace 4-H Coach Training.
- Trainings are 12 hours long or longer and typically run through a weekend.
- 4-H Coach certification is transferrable across the state from one county to another.
- 4-H Coach certification is transferrable from other states with the approval of the State 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator.

Minimum Age

- A volunteer must be 21 years of age or older to be a 4-H Certified Coach.

Assistant Coach Certification

- Assistant Coach Certification is offered to those 14-20 years of age who attend 4-H Shooting Sports Coach Training. This certification changes to a 4-H Certified Coach certification on the date of the

holder's 21st birthday. A replacement certificate may be requested by contacting the State 4-H Natural Resources Program Office.

Presence of a 4-H Certified Coach

- A 4-H Certified Coach must be present at the time of any shooting practice and must remain on the range within control of the shooting practice. Non-certified volunteers may assist at the coach's discretion but cannot act without the certified coach present and in control. Any non-certified volunteer assisting with youth should be currently enrolled as a 4-H Volunteer. Assistant coaches are also able to assist the coach but also cannot act without the certified coach present and in control.
- Any 4-H Shooting Sports project must have at least one 4-H trained and certified coach in each of the disciplines (shotgun, rifle, pistol, archery, muzzleloading, hunting) offered within that local project. This includes home based projects.
- Volunteers acting without 4-H Shooting Sports Coach certification assume all risk and liability for personal injury and property damages incurred.

4-H Certified Coach at a Shooting Event

- 4-H Certified Coaches are not required or obligated to attend competitive events involving their discipline or local 4-H membership. Attendance at these events and chaperoning 4-Hers at these events is on a volunteer basis only.

Re-certification

- There is no recertification requirement for a 4-H Certified Coach. If a coach has been inactive for a period of several years, a county may require attendance to additional training.

