

Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Handbook

Stay Up to date

The following resources are available to you anytime for detailed event information and updates:

- Website: <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/natural>
 - Includes a general Shooting Sports page and a Shooting Sports Events & Event Results page.
 - Calendar: Share your 4-H Natural Resources related events and see State 4-H Natural Resources Program events and other invitational events. Follow the links from the Natural Resources Program home page to the [calendar](#) and the [calendar sharing instructions](#) (how to post your own events). **Note: to see the calendar in a list view rather than by week or month, click “Agenda” in the upper right corner of the calendar screen.**
- Blog: <http://tx4hnaturalresources.blogspot.com/> Sign up here to receive an email anytime an update is posted on the blog!
- Text Message: see the blog for subscription instructions!
- Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/tx4hnaturalresources> Like us on Facebook for updates!
- Download the “4-H News & Events” App on your iPhone or android device. Look for shooting sports updates under the “State” news tab.

Important Rules & Procedures

Registration Process: Registration for all Texas 4-H Natural Resources Program events is completed via [4-H Connect](#) by the individual. Registration open and close dates and detailed instructions can be found with the detailed event information, and on the Natural Resources Program [calendar](#). For most events (excepting large events such as Texas 4-H Shooting Sports State Games and Shooting Sports Extravaganza) [4-H Connect](#) event registrations are **not** approved until after the registration close date.

Late Registration: Requests to register after the registration close date for any event will be considered on a case by case basis. Note that some events will **not** allow late registration, regardless of circumstance. Any late registrations granted may be subject to additional fees (late fees).

Refund Procedure: 4-H Connect has a general NO REFUND POLICY. However, for Texas 4-H Natural Resources events, written/email refund requests received prior to two weeks from the event start date will be granted minus a 15% processing fee. Written/email requests received later than two weeks prior to event start date will be granted minus a 50% processing fee.

All refund requests should include whom the refund check should be written to (County/Club/Individual) and a mailing address. Requests must be emailed to: tx4hnaturalresources@tamu.edu Please note: Refund requests may take up to 6-8 weeks for processing and delivery of check.

Requirements for a County Shooting Sports Project:

- 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 & wildlife) offered within that local project. This includes home based projects.
 - Non-certified volunteers may assist at the coach’s discretion but cannot act without the certified coach present and in control. Assistant coaches are also able to assist the coach but also cannot act without the certified coach present and in control.
- All participants in the project work (adults and youth) must be enrolled 4-H members via 4-H Connect.
- A 4-H Shooting Sports Project may be organized through a dedicated Shooting Sports or discipline specific club (archery, rifle, pistol, shotgun, muzzleloading, or hunting & wildlife) or a county or club project group.

Coach & Assistant Coach Training, Information, and Rules:

Coach Certification

- 4-H Shooting Sports Coach Certifications offered include: 4-H Certified Coach (minimum 21 years of age) and Assistant Coach (14-20 years of age).
- 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.

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- A 4-H Certified Coach must be 4-H certified in the specific discipline (shotgun, rifle, pistol, archery, muzzleloading, hunting & wildlife) in which a shooting sports project is being conducted. A 4-H Certified Coach may be trained and certified in multiple disciplines.
- Certification is only available at this time 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.) are not allowed to replace 4-H Coach Training at this time.
- 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.

Coach Training

- Only one discipline certification (archery, pistol, rifle, shotgun) is obtainable per participant per regular training.
- Separate specific trainings are offered for the hunting & wildlife and muzzleloading disciplines.
- Trainings occur around the state in various locations and throughout the year.
- "Region" trainings are conducted by the State 4-H Natural Resources Program Office and are open state-wide. Registration and fees collection is conducted through the State Office. Region trainings offer archery, pistol, rifle, and shotgun.
- "District" trainings are conducted by the District 4-H Offices and are open state-wide. Registration and fees collection is conducted through District Office. District trainings may offer only specified disciplines.
- Trainings are 12 hours long or longer and typically run through a weekend.

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. 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 & wildlife) offered within that local project. This includes home based projects.

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.

****Please note:** *Counties may have rules in place regarding requirements for projects and coaches in addition to those listed above.* **

Cross County Participation/Enrollment: These are state wide rules, applicable to all counties and projects, and affect many project areas including the Shooting Sports Project.

Some counties do not have an active Shooting Sports project or do not offer all of the shooting disciplines. The best option in this case is to recruit a willing adult or group of adults to be trained as Certified 4-H Shooting Sports Coaches in the desired shooting discipline and start a project within your resident county. Please contact your county office for information and assistance with starting up a Shooting Sports project group or club. For more information about coach training see the *Coach & Assistant Coach Training, Information, and Rules* section above or available as a pdf on the 4-H Shooting Sports website (texas4-h.tamu.edu/shootingsports).

If a project is not currently being offered and cannot be started, the 4-H Rules & Guidelines publication (http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/files/2013/07/resource_annual_membership_rules_guidelines_1314.pdf) (4-H Members section, 3. Other Membership Requirements) explains how youth in a county without a Shooting Sports Project may choose to participate in a Shooting Sports Project in another county. These rules apply to all Texas 4-H members and project areas.

These rules accommodate a variety of Shooting Sports project scenarios that include but are not limited to the following:

- A youth may enroll in their resident county that does not offer the shooting sports project and participate in shooting sports project work with a different county that offers the desired shooting sports discipline project area. However, to participate in any 4-H events/competitions, the youth must participate as a representative of their county of enrollment (the resident county).
- A youth who resides in a county that does not offer the shooting sports project may enroll in a different county (non-resident county) that offers the desired shooting sports discipline project area. To participate in any 4-H events/competitions (across all 4-H project areas), the youth must participate as a representative of their county of enrollment (the non-resident county).

All cross county participation/enrollment scenarios require approval and agreement by both County Extension Offices involved. Approval and agreement must be documented in writing and on file in both county offices.

Use of Reloaded Ammunition in the Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Program: The use of reloaded ammunition (metallic cartridge or shot shell) is permitted in the Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Program only under the following conditions:

- The shooter assumes full responsibility for the safety of his or her reloaded ammunition, including the safety of others on and around the range.
- The ammunition must be reloaded by (or under immediate supervision of) an individual who has received certification in the NRA/NRMA* Reloading Course for the type of ammunition in question (metallic cartridge or shot shell).
- The ammunition must comply in all respects to the specific loading data provided in a recognized loading manual of current date.
- The ammunition must demonstrate appropriate care and inspection by the reloader, including being boxed in appropriate ammunition boxes marked as reloaded ammunition and properly labeled with the reloader's name, NRA Reloading Training certification number and contact information, the reloading date, and cartridge or shotshell component information (case size, powder load, shot/bullet type and weight, bullet manufacturer). Ammunition should also be accompanied with information on the loading manual used to include title, publisher, date of publication, page number, and citation of the load. A photocopy of the information from the manual is sufficient.
- All reloaded ammunition is subject to random inspection at the request of any range official at any time, including disassembly (destructively if necessary) of the sample.
- Avoidance of this policy will result in removal of the ammunition from the event or activity.

*NRA/NRMA – National Rifle Association/National Reloading Manufacturers Association

Shooting Sports Event Descriptions

(See event information documents for details, registration instructions, etc.)

Postal Leagues:

Originally named "Postal Leagues" because the targets were mailed in for scoring via the U.S. Postal Service, Postal Leagues are a state-wide competitive shooting match in which participants can compete with others across the state without having to travel outside their home county. Participants complete their course of fire locally over an extended designated time frame. Thus, allowing for greater flexibility of schedules and eliminating the cost of travel to an event. Following the close of the matches, scores are submitted electronically to the State Office. Events include: 3-P Smallbore Rifle, Air Pistol, Archery, BB Gun, Light Rifle, Precision Air Rifle, Sporter Air Rifle, Smallbore Pistol, Muzzleloading Rifle, Muzzleloading Pistol, Trap, and Skeet. Participants may compete in as many events as their county/club will allow. All shooting must be supervised by a 4-H Shooting Sports Coach certified in the appropriate shooting discipline (Archery, Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun, Muzzleloading).

Indoor Archery Match:

A state-wide archery match held in two locations, Graham and Bay City. Participants must choose only one location. Following the close of competition at both locations, scores are compiled to determine final overall results. Courses of fire include: Standard FITA 9 meter or 18 meter indoor rounds based on experience level. Equipment classes include: Barebow, Recurve, Compound Aided, Compound Unaided, and NASP (National Archery in Schools Program). Archers may compete in up to three equipment classes if they so choose.

Shooting Sports Extravaganza:

An open match for beginner shooters requiring only basic knowledge of safety, rules and specific shooting-event format. Emphasizing fun and exploring new shooting activities, shooters are encouraged to try new events as time permits. Shooting Sports Extravaganza also includes a scoring workshop for coaches/parents and social activities for youth. This is not intended to be a match for top level shooters, but an introduction to competitive shooting for beginners. Advanced shooters are encouraged to participate as mentors for less experienced shooters. Scores and rankings for all events will be recorded and posted, however, in efforts focus this event on educating and encouraging beginning shooters, no material awards will be presented. All shots and score rankings are for educational purposes (and bragging rights) only. Shooting Sports Extravaganza will take place at the Texas 4-H Conference Center on Lake Brownwood.

4-H Junior Olympic Shotgun Camp (JOSC):

The Texas 4-H Shooting Sports – JOSC is an event for all 4-H Shooting Sports members with beginning and intermediate shotgun experience. The program aims to promote shotgun shooting skills in American Trap, American Skeet, and 5-Stand Sporting Clays, as well as develop and enhance leadership skills and shooting sportsmanship (this program provides participants intensive training in their choice of one of these 3 disciplines). The camp will develop and improve shooting skills, mental discipline, self-control, and shooting etiquette on the field. Participants will also learn how the environment affects shooting performance, how to care for and maintain a competitive firearm, and how to effectively utilize a shooting diary and personal record. Application for this event is completed online via [4-H Connect](#). Any actively enrolled 4-H member, 11-14 years of age, is eligible to apply (with county/club approval). Applications are also available via [4-H Connect](#) for Assistant Coach/Chaperone positions and Youth Coach/Chaperone positions. Youth and adults interested in applying for these positions must be actively enrolled as 4-H members or 4-H Adult Volunteer Leaders. Youth interested in the Youth Coach/Chaperone position must be 14-16 years old and must have previously attended two or more 4-H JOSCs.

Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Games:

State matches in multiple events from disciplines including: Archery, Rifle, Muzzleloading, Pistol, Hunting & Wildlife, and Shotgun. No qualification is required.

- Archery and Shotgun Events—National Shooting Complex, San Antonio, TX.
- Hunting & Wildlife, Muzzleloading, Pistol, and Rifle Events—Callahan County 4-H Range.

Texas 4-H Archery Camp:

Texas 4-H Archery Camp is open to any youth 4-H member wanting to improve their shooting knowledge and skills in recurve and compound archery. The camp is also open to certified 4-H archery coaches desiring to learn more about coaching archery, archery equipment, archery games, and improved shooting skills (Coach Certification NOT included in camp). Youth participants should have beginning or intermediate experience in shooting archery and understand the basic archery safety and range rules and whistle commands. Adult and youth participants must provide their own equipment. Registration is limited to the first 40 youth registrants and the first 10 adult coach/chaperones.

Roundup Indoor Rifle Match:

This contest allows the top senior teams and individuals from their respective district matches to compete in State Roundup. Participants fire a half course three-position smallbore rifle match (20 shots/position). The top three senior teams of three (3) or four (4) shooters in each district rifle match are eligible to represent their county and district at the 4-H Roundup Indoor Rifle Match. The top three senior individuals in each district match may compete in the match as individuals (if they are not members of one of the qualifying teams). Registration for this event is completed online via [4-H Connect](#). Actively enrolled 4-H members who qualify via their District Rifle event are eligible to participate (with county/club approval).

Outdoor Challenge:

A two day outdoor knowledge and skills contest for two person teams. Junior, Intermediate, and Senior age divisions each include: All Male, All Female, and Co-Ed subdivisions. Ten events from the following categories will be selected for each annual contest: Fishing, Rifle, Shotgun, Archery, Canoeing/Kayaking, Swimming, Orienteering-Compass, Outdoor Identification, Knot Tying, and Climbing. Each team will compete in the series of events and potentially accumulate points. Contestants must be prepared for each event; there will not be time for instruction or training during competition. Registration for this event is completed online via [4-H Connect](#). Any actively enrolled 4-H member is eligible to participate (with county/club approval).

Educational Presentations: A 4-H educational presentation is a demonstration of your knowledge and skills in a certain project area. This presentation is done in a way that is most comfortable to you. It can be accomplished using props, posters or media representations, or it can be you just speaking and convincing, or simply educating, with words alone. For detailed information and explanation of an educational presentation, see the [What Is An Educational Presentation](#) publication on the Texas 4-H & Youth

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development [website: http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/](http://texas4-h.tamu.edu/). Please refer to the Roundup information for Texas 4-H Natural Resources Program related educational presentation categories.

4-H Natural Resources Related Recordbooks: Recordbook categories related to 4-H Natural Resources Program project areas will include: Wildlife & Fisheries, Shooting Sports, and Open-Natural Resources. Visit the Texas 4-H & Youth Development website: <http://texas4-h.tamu.edu> for details.

Youth Leadership Opportunities:

Opportunities for senior 4-H youth to represent club, county, Texas, the Texas 4-H Natural Resources Program, and the entire Texas 4-H Youth Development Program.

Assistant Shooting Sports Coach Certification: The 4-H Natural Resources Program offers Assistant Coach training and Certification in the 4-H Shooting Sports Project (all disciplines) to any actively enrolled 4-H member who is 14 years of age or older as of September 1 of the current 4-H year **AND** any approved Adult Volunteer Leader less than 21 years of age. Assistant Coach training is for those who will assist a Certified 4-H Shooting Sports Coach with a 4-H Shooting Sports project in their county. This is a great opportunity for enthusiastic persons who are passionate about Shooting Sports and Natural Resources to gain 4-H Shooting Sports coaching experience, develop leadership skills, expand their knowledge, and share that knowledge with others. To become an Assistant Coach, a participant should register for and attend a Shooting Sports Coach training. An Assistant Coach candidate less than 18 years of age must be accompanied to training either by a previously trained adult or an adult participating in the same training. An Assistant Coach Certification can be upgraded to full 4-H Shooting Sports Coach Certification with no additional training once an Assistant has reached 21 years of age and is an approved Adult Volunteer Leader via 4-H Connect.

***Please note: An Assistant Coach may assist a Certified 4-H Shooting Sports Coach **ONLY** in the immediate presence of the Certified Coach. Should the Certified Coach be absent for any period of time, regardless how short or long the absence may be, all Shooting Sports activity must cease until the return of the Certified Coach. Assistant Coaches are **NOT** certified to coach outside the immediate supervision of a Certified 4-H Shooting Sports Coach.

4-H Shooting Sports Ambassadors: Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassadors represent the Texas 4-H & Youth Development Program and specifically Texas 4-H Shooting Sports for public relations purposes at special events such as donor/supporter functions and with the general public, peer groups, 4-H groups, community service groups, schools and media contacts. They serve as spokespersons for the 4-H Shooting Sports program, helping to make 4-H Shooting Sports programs more visible. The Ambassadors further develop their skills in leadership, public presentation, citizenship, community service, public relations and team building. Applicants must be senior 4-H members (14 or older as of September 1 of the current 4-H year) to be eligible.

National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational Match and Texas Teams: Any active 4-H member, who is 14 years of age or older as of September 1 of the current 4-H year, has not reached their 19th birthday prior to January 1 of the year of the National Match, and who meets all requirements included in the application instruction document is eligible to apply for Texas Teams to participate in the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational Match. Eligibility for membership on any Texas Team requires experience at the state level in all of the events that compose any given discipline. Team members will be selected from the pool of individual applicants for each discipline.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service | Texas 4-H & Youth Development Program

Texas 4-H Natural Resources Program

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