

## 2023-2024 4-H Shooting Sports Texas Team Application

Online Applications due by **Monday, September 18th, 2023** on 4-H Connect (<http://texas.4honline.com>)

Visit <http://4h.unl.edu/4hshootingsportsnationalchampionships> for the most current National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational information, event specific rules, and to learn more about the event.

### Basic requirements for application (all must be met):

- Must be a minimum of 14 years of age before January 1 of the year of the National Invitational, (according to National 4-H Championships Rules),
- Must not have reached 19 years of age before January 1 of the year of the National Invitational (according to National 4-H Championships Rules),
- Must be an actively enrolled member of Texas 4-H via 4-H Connect for the current 2022-2023 4-H year, AND an actively enrolled member of Texas 4-H via 4-H Connect for the 2023-2024 4-H year.
- Must be an actively enrolled member of Texas 4-H via 4-H Connect for the year of the event (2023-2024).
- Must be an active member of a county-level Texas 4-H Shooting Sports project, and be coached by a certified 4-H coach in each discipline (archery, muzzleloading, pistol, rifle, shotgun, hunting & wildlife) in which application is made,
- Must be an active member of a county-level Texas 4-H Shooting Sports project and be coached by a certified 4-H coach in each discipline applied for (archery, muzzleloading, pistol, rifle, shotgun, hunting & wildlife) during the 4-H year of the National Match,
- MUST HAVE REGISTERED FOR the 2023 Texas State 4-H Shooting Sports State Games,
- Must have proficiency with the basic firearm type used in the team(s) of choice and have participated in competitions using that firearm type,
- Proficiency in a firearm type is documented by providing information on participation in the project and in competitions within the past three years (2021-2023),
- Applicants may be selected for only one National Invitational team/discipline per year,
- Applicants may attend the National Invitational multiple years, but may not repeat a discipline,
- Selection will **require** you to participate in the **Texas Team Rendezvous on Saturday February 3, 2024**, an event designed to gather team members and coaches to begin developing as a discipline teams and as the Texas Team. There are many things that may conflict with this. Please understand that this is a **major** commitment and should be treated as such. IF you cannot make this team meeting, you may be removed from the team and replaced with the alternate.
- **SHOTGUN ONLY:** The top 10 ranked applicants following pre-selection will be required to attend an interview either in person or by zoom on a selected day that will be announced. It will be sometime in September or October, 2023. If you are selected, you will be contacted.

### **Expectations of Texas Team members following selection:**

- You will be part of the entire 36 member Texas Team competing during the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational on June 25-June 30, 2023 in Grand Island, Nebraska.
- Your name and photo will be posted on the Texas 4-H Website on the 4-H Shooting Sports webpage along with all other members and coaches of the Texas Team comprised of each of the shooting disciplines.
- You must complete a National 4-H Shooting Sports Media Waiver.
- You will be expected to conduct yourself in a manner that would honor your Texas 4-H roots and present you as a positive and friendly representative of your generation and home state.
- You will be expected to work as part of the team and put all effort into meeting together as often as possible when asked so that the team develops cohesiveness and skills.
- You will be **required** to respond to communication from your assigned Texas Team Coach in a timely manner and demonstrate the respect this volunteer deserves for their willingness to spend time and resources to mentor you. Please understand that this coach may or may not conduct their training as your local coach may. Respect this difference and work on your abilities to enhance the team's progress. Keep in mind that this coach is as much a part of the team as you.
- You will be **required** to meet as a team for either a match or practice at least once prior to the National Championships. This will be decided by your coach.
- **If it is determined by the Texas State 4-H Office that you are not meeting these requirements or progressing in your efforts to prepare for the National Match, you *may* be replaced with the alternate.**
- You will be expected to work with your discipline team in any fundraising efforts to offset travel expenses during the National Invitational.
- You will be **required** to participate in the mandatory Texas Team Rendezvous, an event where you will meet your teammates and coach and begin developing as a team.
- You will be expected to prepare yourself and your family for the expenses incurred in participating as a Texas Team member; travel to team practices and the National Invitational, lodging and meal expenses while traveling, equipment and ammunition expenses while preparing for and participating in the National Invitational, etc. Individual family and club fundraising is acceptable and encouraged.

### **Application Instructions**

If you meet the Basic Requirements as listed above and agree to Expectations as listed above, follow the instructions below to apply for the 2024 Texas Team.

Team Member Applications will be completed online via [4-H Connect](#).

Applicants will be **required to provide names and email addresses for three character references**. Reference forms will be emailed by the Texas 4-H Natural Resources Program office to the persons listed as references on the application. Please check and double check that you have the current correct email addresses for your references and that the email addresses are typed in correctly on the application.

### **Application Rules:**

1. Applications should be personally completed by the applicant and responses to questions should be the sole work of the applicant.
2. This is not a test of either written or verbal skills, however, grammar and spelling are important to how you represent yourself and your ability to represent your team.
3. Leaving any part of the application blank will result in a score of zero for that section during selection.

4. References are the responsibility of the applicant. All references should be contacted in advance by the applicant to ensure their willingness to complete the reference form. All reference contact information should be verified for correctness and entered correctly on the application. It is the applicant's responsibility to make sure their references receive an email from the Texas 4-H Natural Resources Program office and to correct any reference email address that is suspected as incorrect. This must be accomplished by the application deadline.
5. References must be over the age of 21 and must not be a relative of the applicant.
6. References must include:
  1. Your County Extension Agent OR District 4-H Specialist-If your CEA or 4-H Specialist does not know you, it is highly recommended that the applicant make arrangements to meet with this person to introduce and tell them about yourself, your background, and your qualifications in order for this extension professional to be able to provide the required reference for the applicant.
  2. Your Certified 4-H Shooting Sports Coach
  3. Other Adult over the age of 21 and not a relative of the applicant.

#### **Selection Process:**

A team of Extension professionals and shooting sports volunteers will be gathered to review all applications by team/discipline choices. The application will be evaluated and ranked using the rubric displayed within this document. The rubric will comprise 50% of the selection criteria, while the other 50% will be a subjective evaluation of the applicant by the selection committee. The top four ranking applications per team/discipline will be notified of their team placement following the selection date. A fifth application per team/discipline (if application numbers allow) will be chosen and notified to be named the team/discipline alternate. This alternate team member will fill a position if a team member is unable to attend the National Invitational for some reason. No guarantee is given to any applicant that their 1<sup>st</sup> choice of team/discipline will be granted. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choices will be used to fill teams/disciplines when necessary. The expected timeframe for applicant notification of selection results is November 2019.

#### **Selection Rubric:**

See the Selection Rubric document on the Texas 4-H Shooting Sports webpage.

