

4-H Hunting Project Coach Leader Certification Training

- Certification is mandatory for all adults who will lead a 4-H Hunting project using live fire including those who will coach youth in live fire events for 4-H Shooting Sports Hunting & Wildlife, 4-H Hunting Project, and 4-H Outdoor Challenge.

The training is designed for any Adult Volunteer Leader wanting to work with their local youth on the 4-H Hunting project and 4-H Outdoor Education project to train their youth to use the three firearms (shotgun, smallbore light rifle, muzzle loading rifle) and a bow safely and responsibly in live firing related to hunting situations. During the training, participants will also become certified as Texas Hunter Education Instructors. This certification does not obligate the recipient to provide courses to the public, although it is an option. However, the certification does allow them to provide basic Hunter Education training and certification to the youth they lead. The agenda will also include information on the Texas Youth Hunter Education Challenge (a competitive event through NRA, sponsored by the Texas Hunter Education Instructor Association), the Texas Youth Hunting Program, and other related programs, activities, and opportunities for youth.

Another design of this training is to prepare an adult leader to coach youth in the Hunting & Wildlife Shooting Sports events and certify them to train their youth to use the three firearms (shotgun, smallbore light rifle, muzzle loading rifle) and a bow safely and responsibly in live firing situations. 4-H Hunting & Wildlife is a 4-H Shooting Sports set of events that include live fire of shotguns, rifles, muzzleloaders, and bows. During the 4-H Shooting Sports State Games each summer, youth can register to participate in these events offering live firing 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. 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 Project that involves further competitive use of a specific firearm (i.e., an adult attending this training cannot return to a county to become a lead coach in any particular discipline—rifle, shotgun, archery, or muzzleloading—in that county 4-H program.).

The training will be interactive with indoor and outdoor activities including live firing of all firearm types, simulated hunting scenarios, and various other wildlife information and outdoor skills and education. Participants will take home a variety of curricula, resources, and experiences that will allow them to begin or enhance a 4-H Hunting Project for their local youth. Registration for this event is completed via the Texas 4-H online registration. Any actively enrolled Adult Volunteer Leader, Extension employee, or senior age 4-H youth is eligible for this training. Actively enrolled youth who have reached age 14 by September 1 of the current 4-H year may participate in training as an Assistant Coach/Leader Candidate. **Please note:** to be eligible to become a Certified Coach/Leader in the Hunting Project, you must be minimum 21 years of age or older. Adult Volunteer Leaders under age 21 may be certified as an Assistant Coach/Leader. All Assistant Coach/Leader Certifications are eligible for upgrade to full Coach Certifications upon reaching age 21.

Current 4-H Shooting Sports Coaches who hold certifications in all four disciplines (rifle, shotgun, archery, muzzleloading) may lead youth in the Hunting Project, the Hunting & Wildlife events, and 4-H Outdoor Challenge events without this training. However, the additional hunting information, resources, curriculum, and Hunter Education Instructor certification may prove to make the additional training worthwhile.

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

Texas 4-H Natural Resources Program

1470 William D. Fitch Parkway | College Station, TX 77845 | Ph: 979/321-5293 | Fax: 979/845-6495

Web: texas4-h.tamu.edu/natural | Blog: tx4hnaturalresources.blogspot.com | Facebook: www.facebook.com/naturalresources

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