

2011 Kimble County 4-H Shooting Sports

FAQs

What is Shooting Sports?

The focus of all 4-H programs is the development of youth as individuals and as responsible and productive citizens. The 4-H Shooting Sports Program stands out as an example. Youth learn marksmanship, the safe and responsible use of firearms and much more. The activities of the program and the support of caring adult leaders provide young people with opportunities to develop life skills, self-worth, and conservation ethics.

What will the program consist of?

The Program will involve students learning the disciplines of precision shooting, using the small bore .22 single shot rifles. We will learn firearm safety, proper stances for the different positions, sight alignment, breathing techniques, sight adjustments, etc. We will be teaching students how to shoot in the categories of 50ft small bore and 3P (3 Position) NRA 4P (4 Position). 50ft small bore involves shooting at a target 50ft away with .22 rifles, open sights and in the standing position. 3P and 4P consist of shooting in each of the 4 Positions, standing, sitting, kneeling and Prone. 3P excludes the sitting position

Who will coach, what are qualifications?

The Instructor and Coach will be Derrick Ard; He has attended the 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor program in October of 2008 and is now a 4-H Certified Shooting Instructor-Rifle. He is also a certified NRA Rifle Instructor and NRA Certified Range Safety Officer. He has been an avid hunter and shooter since childhood, and understands firsthand the importance of Safety. As a veteran of the US Navy, He went through extensive firearm training in the use of all small arms weapons while serving as a member of Ships Special Security Force. He has been involved in the Community of Junction, serving on the JISD School Board, Rotary Club, Fire Department, and Hospital Foundation Board. He has been an employee of Texas Tech University at Junction for more than 9 years.

Will you be the only one coaching?

No, we also have an Assistant Coach, Curt Kneese who is certified through 4-H as well. Pursuant to 4-H regulations there must be a certified Instructor present during shooting practice, but there can be assistants helping under certified instructor's supervision. Any assistance will be greatly appreciated and go a long way in establishing our program. If you are interested in helping please contact the instructor. Assistants will need to be cleared and approved by 4-H and have a background check run before they can assist.

Is there a fee?

Yes. There is a \$25.00 per year club fee for each returning individual participating. This helps cover the cost of ammunition, targets and year end awards. There is a \$35 fee for new students, which will also help offset the additional cost of Orientation materials and NRA Rifle Certifications

There will also be fees for each competition entered by participants. They usually run between \$5 and \$20 per event per shooter. Some events may include lodging and meal costs. As we prepare for each event, information will be passed out to students.

Where will shooting be?

Currently we have access to Will Roe Property located on 1674 W.

What Day and time will Shooting take place?

Shooting Sports requires a great deal of practice. Given that the Instructor is volunteering his time, the schedule for shooting times were considered with that in mind as well as student activities. There will be two options for students to attend. Shooting practice for the 2011 year will begin in February. Days of the week and times will be posted by February.

First time shooters will be required to attend a class session to go over safety, rules, equipment and techniques. This class will be mandatory. Upon completion of Orientation Students will earn their "NRA First Steps Rifle Certifications"

We will also be holding some Saturday shoots as the year progresses. These Saturday sessions will involve local competition and team placements for contest entries.

Do we have to provide our own guns?

No. The Club will provide .22 caliber target rifles, targets and ammo for students to use

What guns will be used?

Small Bore .22 caliber rifles are the only rifles that will be used. We will be Using Anschutze and Savage Rifles. Their weights range between 5 and 11 pounds each.

Can we bring our own Gun?

As the program moves along, there will be the option of allowing students to bring their own .22 rifles, at the discretion of the Instructor and as time allows. Rule and regulations regarding this will be passed out later in the year. For now we will use only the rifles in inventory.

Is there any other equipment that my child needs to bring?

Students must provide their own safety glasses and hearing protection. Ear plugs can be purchased at wal-mart and are reasonably cheap (under \$5 for 4 to 6 pairs). I will have a limited supply of ear plugs and glasses available in the event students loose or forget to bring theirs. Safety glasses need to be either clear or yellow tint. Any glasses that are shatter proof will suffice. I have seen cost as low as \$5. If students have prescriptions glasses, as long as they are shatter proof they will work. Students must also closed toe shoes.

Will there refreshment available during practice?

Water will be provided during practice. Any donations toward drinks will be appreciated.

Can parents attend at the Shooting Range?

Parents can attend the practice session at the discretion of instructor but must stay off the firing line

unless permission has been given by the instructor. When on the Range, all rules must be followed (shoes, long sleeve shirt, safety glasses, ear protections, etc.)

How safe is this Activity?

The 4-H shooting program has been in existence since 1975. Since its inception, there has not been a single injury to a participant while participating in the Shooting sports program. The 4-H program adheres to a very strict discipline when it comes to firearm safety and this is preached daily to the students. Safety is our number one concern. There have been more injuries to students involved with football, baseball, track, basketball, and tennis than there have been in the Shooting Sports program.

Will there be safety protocols in place?

We have a very strict policy in regards to following the safety protocols. They are included in the Student code of conduct and Range Rules.

What Age can 4-H members join?

In Shooting Sports, Students are separated by age and are slightly different that the Standard 4-H age groups, as far as the name is concerned. In shooting sports the age groups are as follows:

Junior – Age 8 and in the 3rd Grade, 9 & 10 as of August 31 of 4-H year.

Junior Intermediate – Age 11-12

Intermediate – 13 as of August 31 of 4-H year.

Senior – 14-18 as of August 31 of 4-H year.

In some competitions, seniors may be divided into senior 1 (age 14-16) and senior 2 (age 17-18).

For the purpose of the Kimble County 4-H Shooting Sports, we will only be working students age 10 and over, based on availability. At some time in the future we hope to certify another instructor to work with the younger kids and with BB guns.

How often does the student need to attend practice?

In order for students to benefit from shooting sports, they need to attend as many practices as possible. Depending on number of students participating, I am willing to work with each student on practice schedule. In order to receive year end awards and credit, students will need to attend at least 60% of practice sessions.

Will there be competitions?

Through out the spring and summer there will be opportunities for our Students to compete with other clubs. The District Contest will be held in Spring. As the schedules for matches are released I will inform students and parents.

Where will the competitions be held?

Competitions are held throughout the state, with the State Games usually held in San Antonio

Can my child get scholarship from this program?

Scholarships are awarded by various institutions. NRA, National 4-H Shooting Sports, National Shooting Sports Foundation, USA Shooting (Olympic Shooting Sports), Friends of NRA, Daisy, Federal, as well as others. Some universities also recruit top young shooters from programs like the 4-H program into their collegiate programs

Where does the money come from to fund this Activity?

Shooting Sports can get expensive in regards to equipment. We have been very fortunate to get support from local business, banks and the Sheriff Departments. We have also applied and received two grants from the NRA Foundation in excess of \$13,000 over the past two years. We currently have another grant pending. Any and all donations should be made out to the Kimble County 4-H and marked for Shooting Sports, and will be greatly appreciated. The \$25 dues will also be used to purchase additional ammunition and targets throughout the year as the need arises.