Cooper County 4-H Archery

Frequently Asked Questions for the sport you will love for a lifetime!
Why 4-H Archery?

4-H Archery teaches many of life's important lessons.

- Responsibility
- Safety
- Self-confidence
- Patience
- Focus

Archery is open to all who want to participate. Even though physically demanding, archery is accessible. It is suitable for people with all levels of physical ability. It doesn’t matter if you aren’t naturally sporty, or even if you are affected by a disability, you will still be able to enjoy archery.

Archery is a social sport and provides hours of enjoyment. It’s great for the whole family!

Archery is relatively inexpensive to get started and can be enjoyed indoors and out! Your ammunition, the arrows, can be used over and over for many years.

You only compete against yourself. You will see improvement with each practice.

What must I do to get started?

- Join a local 4-H club. Go to your local University of Missouri Extension office or go to http://extension.missouri.edu/cooper/4h.aspx for more information.

- Once you’re a member, choose Archery as a discipline. You will need two forms; a Health and Authorization form and a Parental Permission Waiver of Liability. You will also need to attend the 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS SAFETY DAY which is generally held in February of each year.
What costs are involved?

There are two fees associated with Shooting Sports and are due before the participant can begin shooting that year.

Basic fee: $20 (This covers ammo and targets for County Shoot and goes into the Shooting Sports for program expenses.)

The fee to shoot Archery is $5. This covers the targets for practice.

What about equipment and its cost?

Archery equipment, like most sports, can be very basic. It can also be overly expensive and technical. Bows and the way they are “set-up” is very personal. Since they are tailored to the individual shooter, it is a good idea to own your own equipment. Traditional bows, like longbows and recurves, are great for learning the basics. They are generally less expensive than compound bows. Learning to shoot a “traditional” bow is very simple. Learning to shoot them accurately takes great discipline and practice. Many longtime archers have returned to “traditional” bows for the challenge. Compound bow manufacturers have made great strides in the last decade to make quality bows that fit young shooters. Because they can be adjusted in draw weight and draw length, you will find that these are the most common bow young archers are shooting.

Regardless of what type of bow you want to shoot, a trip to a reputable archery shop is a great place to start. There you will find knowledgeable people to assist in your search for a bow. Cooper County 4-H has a few bows which new shooters are welcome to try. This is a great way to experience the differences in bows and could help you decide which style you like the best before you make a purchase. The most important things is to get a bow that fits you.

Other equipment needs are arrows (six) with field points, a bow case (soft or hard), a release aid (tab, glove, or mechanical release), and a hip or ground quiver.

Many young shooters start with a bow and equipment handed down from a family member. Other equipment can be found used from various places. The cost of getting started could be nothing. On the other hand, you can spend a fortune. We recommend starting simple. Once you start shooting, you will see things you like and can build your equipment over time.
How old must I be before I can shoot archery and how far will I be shooting?

Ages 8 to 18.

Archery shooters are separated by 4-H age. That is to say, you must be 8-years-old by January 1\textsuperscript{st} to start shooting and must stop when you are 19 on January 1\textsuperscript{st}.

In Cooper County, we shoot the Archery NFAA 300. Your total score possible is 300 points. There are three age groups as follows:

Junior (8-10) – will shoot 60 arrows at 10 yards.
Intermediate (11-13) – will shoot 60 arrows at 15 yards
Seniors (14-18)- will shoot 60 arrows at 20 yards

Can my parents be involved?

Yes! As a matter of fact, an adult must accompany you to every event. Since our number one goal is to be safe, the more eyes the better. They can’t be with you on the shooting line, but they are great coaches and safety officers. Many parents don’t shoot archery and have found a love for the sport while coming to practices and other shoots.

Where are the scheduled practice sessions and do I need to be at every one?

Archery practices are currently held next to the Darrin and Susan Vollrath farm located a few miles south of Pilot Grove. From Pilot Grove, take Highway 135 south for five (5) miles. At the 4-way stop, turn right and continue on 135 for one (1) mile. Turn left into the driveway of the old Air Force missile control facility.

Practices are scheduled every year and the dates will be available at the 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS SAFETY DAY. They are most often held on certain Saturday mornings and Wednesday evenings beginning around April 1 and concluding around mid June. In order to qualify to participate in the County Shoot, you must attend and complete five (5) scheduled practices.
What is the “County Shoot” and do I stop shooting once it is complete?

The County Shoot is a one time event, held prior to our County Fair. This is your opportunity to put all of your training and acquired discipline to the test. Your final score will be recorded so you will be able to see how you’ve progressed throughout the season. The County Shoot is held at the same location as practices and the date is set at the beginning of each season. Archery is fun all year long. You can even shoot indoors if you have a safe place to do so. We encourage all of our participants to shoot in the State Shoot. It’s great fun and it takes place on the east side of Columbia each year. There are also numerous 4-H sponsored shoots in counties all across the state. More information can be found here throughout the year. [http://4h.missouri.edu/shooting-sports-events/state-shoot](http://4h.missouri.edu/shooting-sports-events/state-shoot)

What if I have more questions?

As your instructors and coaches, we are always happy to answer questions to the best of our abilities. We are here to help you be safe, have fun, and enjoy the great sport of archery!

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