

St Clair County 4-H Shooting Sports Handbook



You're certified 4-H Shooting Sports Volunteer Leaders in St. Clair County:

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Three Cardinals rules of Firearm Safety – M.A.T.

Muzzle – Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.

Action – Always keep the firearm unloaded and the action open until ready to fire.

Trigger – Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to fire.

And

Be sure of your target and beyond.

The St Clair County 4-H program including the Shooting Sports project is administered through the:

St Clair County University Extension Center

PO Box 523

Osceola Mo 64776

417-646-2419

<http://extension.missouri.edu/stclair>

St Clair County 4-H Shooting Sports

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St Clair County 4-H Shooting Sports

Goals

Teach and practice the safe handling of firearms and archery equipment.
Give the opportunity to enhance self – confidence, personal development, responsibility, and sportsmanship, through the fundamentals of shooting.
Develop leadership within 4-H parameters for youth and adults.
Encourage responsible and socially acceptable use of firearms and archery equipment.
Provide the opportunity to excel and compete.
Provide opportunity to enjoy a lifetime sport.
Expand 4-H membership and involve more volunteer leaders.

Requirements of members

Enrolled as a 4-H member in good standing (attendance of majority of meetings and dues paid of community club)
Provide own equipment (Limited loaner equipment may be available)
Completed Shooting Sports Safety Class (740) HUNTERS EDUCATION IS NOT ACCEPTED
An adult must attend with the youth and participate as requested.
Remain in good standing by paying dues on time, attending both your community club meetings as well as the shooting sports project meetings and attend a minimum of 10 hours of instruction.

- ***A 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor of a discipline has the right to refuse any participant and parent for the shooting sports activity in the interest of safety of the participant and others in the class.***

Other Expectations

Exhibit willingness to learn
Participate Safety at all times
Participate with a positive attitude
Exhibit at the County Achievement Day
Participate in the County Shoot

Age Divisions

Junior – Ages 8-10 years old

Intermediate – Ages 11-13 years old

Senior – Ages 14- 18 years old

Safety Training Pre-requisite

4-H members are required to complete a minimum of 6 hours of firearm and archery safety in the 740 Safety Class. This requirement cannot be waived! St Clair County 4-H volunteer instructors will conduct the 6 –hour safety course. Please give attendance your highest priority. Two years participation in safety training is recommended for younger members 8-10 year olds. First year shooting members taking the safety training should enroll in the project 740 shooting Sports Safety, as well as their shooting project. The 740 does not count against you in the number of projects taken as it is a requirement for shooting sports enrollment.

St Clair County 4-H Shooting Sports Rules

Attendance of meetings

Project members must attend a majority of meetings to complete project and competitions, with a minimum of 10 hours.

Orientation

All members must attend the orientation meeting, before starting the project. A parent or designated adult must attend all meetings with their child.

Range Meetings

Parents may not drop off members unless approved by the project leader.

Members 16 and over may come alone unless it creates a problem then the parent must attend.

Please follow project leader's instructions.

No Horseplay! If a member receives a 2nd warning then they are out of the project.

Parents are encouraged to help out and may be asked to help, though leave the instruction to the certified leaders.

Program Administration

The program is administered by the county 4-H shooting sports committee. The committee includes the county youth specialist, certified leaders, and volunteers.

The Committee will:

Administer the program

Develop a risk management outline for each project group to follow

Develop informational materials to be used in publishing the program

Provide orientation of new members and volunteers to the shooting sports program

Initiate resource development in partial support programming.

Equipment

Equipment (bows, rifles, shotguns, etc.) used in the shooting sports program are critical in the success of the youth. Nearly any kind of equipment “can” be used... as long as it is safe. However, some equipment will make the teaching/learning process easier and can help the 4-H member become successful; and some can actually make the task much more difficult. Below are some “recommendations” for equipment - not all are requirements. We will work with the individual 4-H member with whatever equipment he/she brings to the project training providing its safe. But if you are going to buy equipment please pay close attention to the recommendations below.

Project Recommendations

Archery - SS741

Open to any youth 8-18 year old. Recommended equipment for beginners is a nice recurve bow or the Genesis Bow from Matthews. Expensive “compound” bows are not recommended for the beginning archer, though older experienced youth may want to utilize compound bows. Please check with the archery instructor about the best size and draw weight. Bow cases is required with the bow. Arrows that are made of Carbon are the best for target shooting with target points. Shooters will need at least 5 arrows. It’s always good to have an extra because we have seen cases of missing or breaking of an arrow. Quivers that stand alone on the ground or attach to the side of the shooter are allowed and highly encouraged. Finger protection (Tab, glove, or release) and arm guard protection is required. The basic 4-H archery NFAA 300 contest is shooting 14 rounds of (5). Two of those rounds will be for practice and the other 12 will be for score for a total of 300 points.

Smallbore Rifle –SS74-3/ (.22)

This project is open to any youth 8-18 years old. Recommended equipment is a single shot (bolt or break action) rifle with an adjustable rear sight. Scopes are not permitted. If a youth has a repeater they will be required to load and fire one shell at a time. So be sure that is possible and easily done. Any rifle can be made to work but some make it a lot easier on the youth. Please before buying a .22 rifle check with the instructor. Shooter is required to have a case, Open Barrel Indicator (which we supply the first one for you), Eye protection, ear protection, and ammo (which we have for sale at \$2.00 a box only for sale for 4-H use and one box a practice). If you choose to buy ammo else where it is recommended that you use 40 grain round nose. Shooting Mats, Kneeling Rolls, and Targets have been provided for us to use by the NRA. Ammo blocks are also a good idea to have. This is will be covered and made one of the project meetings. Shooting positions are Prone, Standing, and Knelling. Jr. Shooters (8-10) shoot prone only. The basic 4-H small bore contest is shot at a distance of 50 feet. Shooters will shoot 3 rounds of (13). One round of 3 on each target will be for practice the other 10 rounds per target will be for score for a total of 100 per target/300 per contest.

Shotgun

The shotgun project is open to youth 11 years or older. It is not open to 8-10 year olds. Shooters will learn to shoot from an automatic thrower. Youth will learn the basics of trap shooting. Equipment recommendations depend on the age, size, and experience of each individual. Younger youth should give serious thought to a 20 gauge auto loader; second choice would be a 20 gauge pump. Over under shotguns are nice but not necessary. The 20 gauge is recommended because of recoil (less recoil) – and the auto is even better at absorbing recoil. Older and/or larger youth will find a 12 gauge is preferable – if they are not recoil sensitive. Again an auto 12 gauge will feel much less recoil than a pump or O/U. There are adequate (not great) auto loading shotguns available for less than \$400.00. Bolt action and single shots break open shotguns are NOT recommended - in fact they are strongly discouraged. Shotgun participants will also need a shell bag. These go around the waste and hold a box of shells and empty hulls. Cost is \$15.00 and up. Nail aprons or something similar will work if you choose not to purchase the shot shell bag. Ear and eye protection and a gun case are also needed. The basic 4-H contest is each Intermediate will shoot 50 rounds and senior will shoot 100 rounds. Shooters also have the chance to take part in a doubles round at state shoot in August. Shooters are responsible to bring their own AMMO and CLAYS to practice. Please make arrangements with the instructor if you need to have ammo and clays purchased.

Other considerations -all project areas

Personal safety equipment – Appropriate eye protection is required in all shooting project for youth and adults on the firing line. Approved shatterproof safety glasses or prescription glass lenses if poly carbonate is required. Ear protection is required for shotgun and small bore rifle.

Ammo – Ammo is the responsibility of the shooter. Failure to bring ammo to practice / contest may result in shooter not bring able to participate that day.

There are several opportunities for our St Clair County 4-H shooters to participate in other shooting events during the season. We believe there is great value in participating in these other events and encourage parents/youth to do so.

County Shoot - Held in June normally the second Saturday of the month (Entries due last week of May)

Land O Lakes Shoot - .22 normally the last Saturday of June, Shotgun and Archery 2nd week of July (Entries Due Last mid-month of June)

State Shoot – Archery and Shotgun Normally the 4th Weekend in August and Small Bore 3rd Saturday in September. (Entries due late July/Early August)

State Teams/National Tryouts – Youth in the senior age division have the opportunity to try out got the state shooting team and participate in the National 4-H Invitational Match. These are different events and more equipment requirements than in our normal county program...but man what a chance. If interested please talk to your instructor.

Any other questions or interest check out the State Shooting Sports Page

<http://4h.missouri.edu/go/projects/shootingsports/>

Practice dates and Location

Practice will be held on the 3rd Saturday of the month at the Davis Family 4-H Range. Times will vary and members will be counted hours on a sign in and sign out basis for Archery and Small Bore Rifle. Shotgun will have assigned squads and times for the day.

List of Items that are good ideas to bring to practice/shoots:

Water

Sunscreen

Chairs

Shade / Canopy

Binoculars

Fair Exhibit Ideas: Shooting Sports members are encouraged to enter an exhibit on the county achievement day. Each instructor should have ideas and show examples of possible exhibits during the project.

Education Displays are always an option but also consider projects you can make such as:

Target Holders / Stands

Rifle Mat

Shell Holder

Shooting Jacket / Vest

Ammo Block

Cleaning Stand

Bow or arrow boxes

Cleaning Supply Organizer / Kit

Archery butts

Shooting Journal

Arm guard

Recycled Shell casing projects

Belt Quiver

Shot shell display

Shooting Cuff

Poster of Gun Parts / Actions

Ground Quiver

Posters of Trips / Events Attended

Rifle Sock

Range Flag