

# Oregon 4-H Shooting Sports State Plan

These policy statements evolved from careful thought on the part of the State Shooting Sports Development Committee, 4-H Administrators, examination of policy guidelines from other states and the National Shooting Sports committee, and consideration of needs and questions related to the 4-H Shooting Sports Program in Oregon.

## Situation Statement

The Oregon 4-H Shooting Sports Program is a part of the 4-H Natural Science Curriculum area. It is intended to utilize 4-H Shooting Sports as a vehicle for developing important life skills in the youth and adults participating in the program. The program is based on the National 4-H Shooting Sports Program, and currently will include instructional skill disciplines in rifle, shotgun and archery.

Additional 4-H disciplines in muzzle loading, pistol, hunting, and reloading may be added in the future. 4-H training also includes a coordinator for administration of the program. Related natural science activities will be included through advancement programs. County/local 4-H programs **must** utilize leaders trained through the State 4-H Shooting Sports Development Committee. In addition, County/local 4-H programs must follow all requirements as covered in this plan in order to have a program recognized by the State 4-H Shooting Sports Program and the State 4-H Program Leader.

## Program Goals:

- To provide a safe, controlled environment for the learning of safe and responsible use and storage of firearms and archery equipment.
- Identify, develop and promote positive advocacy roles for youth to emulate as responsible stewards of our environment.
- Provide youth and adults with knowledge, skills and opportunities to participate in shooting sports.
- Develop life skills in youth and adults including: self-esteem, decision -making, communications, concern for community and inquiring minds.
- Encourage participation in natural resources and related natural science programs.
- To reach as many youth and adults as possible, such that shooting sports is recognized as a major 4-H project in Oregon through continual growth of this project.
- Promote awareness of shooting sports as an athletic sport or hobby and, provide positive competitive opportunities for those who desire to participate.
- To expose participants to the broad array of careers and life-long avocational activities related to shooting.
- To strengthen families through participation in life-long recreational activities.
- Develop responsibility, sportsmanship, ethical behavior, respect, and safety to the highest standards.

- Strengthen and implement a state approved training program for adult and teen assistant leaders.
- Provide opportunities that are accessible by all audiences.
- Create a quality youth development education program evidenced by partnerships that reflect resource development, program innovation, quality delivery of instruction, and access to research-based knowledge.

## **Administration**

The program will be administered by the 4-H Natural Science Specialist and State 4-H Program Leader with guidance from the 4-H Shooting Sports Development Committee and State 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator. (The original 4-H Shooting Sports Training Team members are members of the 4-H Shooting Sports Development Committee.)

The Shooting Sports Development Committee will assist in the following:

- Administering the program, including recommending policy.
- Developing a state approved program outline for counties to follow.
- Conducting educational activities to train leaders.
- Providing curriculum for all county programs from the National 4-H Shooting Sports Program.
- Develop informational materials to be used in publicizing the program.
- Provide orientation of county staff to the Oregon 4-H Shooting Sports Program and its policies.
- Initiate resource development in partial support of programming.

## **Policy**

- All leaders in this program will be trained to teach specific disciplines by the State 4-H Shooting Sports Committee and Training Team. Leaders will participate in an update when new materials or new instructional methods are developed.
- 4-H Shooting Sports Program will be taught as a group project activity, or in sessions such as camp, special interest clubs, etc. The 4-H Shooting Sports Program is not open for independent members.
- The program is open to all regular 4-H members grades 4-12 enrolled in a 4-H Shooting Sports club.
- Eligibility to use a firearm in the Oregon 4-H Shooting Sports Program is subject to the approval of the 4-H Shooting Sports Project Leader. The approval is based on the member's ability to follow instructions, and consistently follow all firearms safety rules. A firearm is any device that emits a projectile.
- Ear and eye protection will be used by all participants, leaders, **and** observers whenever there is live fire.
- A 4-H Shooting Sports leader has the right to refuse any participant from the shooting sports activity in the interest of safety for the participant and others in the class.
- All 4-H Shooting Sports activities will be organized and conducted with at least one trained 4-H Shooting Sports Leader on the state, county or club organizing committee.

- Variance from the Oregon 4-H Shooting Sports procedures will negate the state's tort liability for that project leader.
- Accident insurance shall be purchased for all 4-H members and leaders before youth can handle firearms.
- Parental consent forms are to be on file with the 4-H Leader for every shooting sports participant.
- Inter-agency cooperation, collaboration, and participation are strongly encouraged.

## **Leader Training Requirements**

The program requires the use of state 4-H trained leaders to conduct classes in the various disciplines: archery, rifle, and shotgun. No youth may be trained until the following requirements are met:

1. 18 years of age or older. Must be 18 years of age on or before January 1 of the current year.
2. **A.** Attend 15 hour state leader training sessions administered by the Oregon 4-H Shooting Sports Committee. 4-H Shooting Sports training offered in Washington, Idaho, Nevada or California will be accepted.
 

**B.** Those folks who have been trained by NRA, NAA, etc. will be allowed into the program with the requirement that 4-H training be completed **within two years**. Copies of trainings and an outline of curriculum of their discipline must be submitted to the State Committee for approval. Individuals wishing a training waiver must send a syllabus from their course to the 4-H Shooting Sports State Committee. Training waivers will be handled on an individual case-by-case basis by the Committee. **It is highly recommended that potential leaders attend the complete training.** Candidates will be notified in writing of the State Committee's decision and have the right to appeal.
3. No felony convictions.
4. Have no convictions of hunting, fishing, or gun related violations in the past five years.
5. Only **one** training per discipline may be achieved at a state sponsored workshop. A participant must attend full time at the training sessions to complete training requirements. The instructor in each class reserves the right to not pass a person if he/she feels the candidate will not be a competent leader.
6. Have on file a completed volunteer application and 4-H enrollment form as prescribed by the Oregon Extension Service.
7. Assistant leaders who are not trained, cannot provide hands-on or safety instruction without a trained leader present. Youth assistants must be in the presence of **and** under the immediate supervision of a trained leader. In all cases it is the responsibility of the trained leader to make sure their assistants are qualified to work with youth in shooting sports.
8. If the Assistant Leader is not certified, they cannot provide instruction in the case the leader is not available for a club meeting or activity. The meeting or activity in this case, should be canceled.

## **Renewals and Training**

1. After two years of inactivity, a 4-H Shooting Sports leader must repeat the 15 hour State Shooting Sports training.

2. Renewal or updates will be required of all leaders when new teaching materials become available, or when a program change is initiated by the State 4-H Shooting Sports Development Committee.
3. A leader may obtain training in additional disciplines through a certified state training in Oregon, Idaho, Washington, Nevada or California.
4. Leaders are encouraged to upgrade their skills via training with NRA, DNR, etc.
5. In order to continue with a club or program, leaders must re-enroll in the 4-H program every year. The 4-H year runs from October 1 of current year to September 30 of the next year.
6. Liability insurance is provided to every enrolled 4-H leader who is operating **within** Oregon 4-H Program Guidelines.
7. Strongly encourage 4-H Leaders to complete Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Hunter Education Program.

### **Duties & Responsibilities of Trained Leaders**

1. To provide basic instruction on proper shooting techniques. Other available 4-H natural science curricula should be incorporated into the classes.
2. Provide a positive shooting experience and help develop life skills.
3. To promote shooting safety.
4. Be familiar with 4-H objectives and philosophy.
5. To keep updated and qualified by teaching classes and attending leader retraining sessions as they become available.
6. Help secure facilities and equipment.
7. Ear and eye protection will be worn by **all** participants, leaders and by-standers whenever there is live fire.
8. Recruit and train additional assistant leaders as needed.
9. Help plan the yearly program.
10. Maintain enrollment forms and report all data to County Extension Offices.
11. Maintain communication with County Extension Agent or Program Assistant.
12. Attend competitions with interested members, or coordinate with another trained 4-H leader who is in charge or is attending a competition.
13. If a leader is operating in an unsafe manner or is in noncompliance with the 4-H leader standards, they are subject to removal.

### **Reporting**

All Shooting Sports, including camp activities, will be reported to the County Extension Agent or Program Assistant. Your local county office will provide report forms. Forms will be completed upon conclusion of a shooting sports program or end of the 4-H year (September 30). Extension Agents will sign the form and return a copy to the leader, retain a copy in the county office and forward a copy to the State 4-H Office. This reporting will be used to keep an official record of teaching activities for training purposes of leaders and assistant or teen leaders.

Plan written by Oregon 4-H Shooting Sports Development Committee, April 2001, revised June 2001