

Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports

The [Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports Program](#) is a volunteer-led program that teaches life skills through shooting sports. Youth learn safety and shooting techniques in the disciplines of shotgun, rifle, archery, muzzleloader and hunting. This program is affiliated with National 4-H Shooting Sports.

The Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports Program requires the use of trained and certified 4-H instructors at the county level to operate a live-fire range or to conduct any class in which firearms or archery equipment are handled. If an individual wants to lead a group of young people in the 4-H Shooting Sports Program, that person must become certified through a Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports Training Event. A maximum ratio of 10 youth per trained adult must be maintained to operate a live-fire range or to conduct any class in which firearms or archery equipment are handled (see [Tennessee 4-H Shooting Sports Policies and Procedures](#)).

Specialist

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Eligibility for 4-H Shooting Sports

Youth should be enrolled in the County 4-H Program under either the Recreation, Wildlife, or Safety projects, depending upon their project emphasis. Members can be 4-12 grade. Members should keep records on their participation (see [website](#)).

State 4-H Shooting Sports Events

A. State Instructor Trainings

All instructors must successfully complete a 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Training session administered and/or sanctioned through the State 4-H Office. Training will consist of a minimum of 12 hours of instruction using the National 4-H Shooting Sports curriculum, which includes discipline instruction (rifle, shotgun, muzzleloader/blackpowder, archery, and hunting), safety, risk management, teaching methods, and 4-H youth program management. To maintain certification an instructor/leader must be active one out of three consecutive years. If inactive for three consecutive years, re-certification is required. Check current calendar for dates and locations of trainings. The cost is to be determined and will include meals, lodging, firearms, bows, ammunition and other expenses.

B. 4-H State Shoot & National 4-H Invitational

The 4-H State Shoot is a competition that will be held once per year in which 4-Hers will be able to compete in selected disciplines. In addition, 4-Hers in the 9-12 grades will be competing to represent Tennessee at the National 4-H Invitational usually held in June. Check current calendar for dates and locations. There will be an entry fee (TBD).

C. 4-H Target Smart Camp

State 4-H Target Smart Camp is the 4-H Shooting Sports Camp for Tennessee. It is a camping adventure located in the natural environment of a modern 4-H center. 4-H members will choose to participate in:

- Archery
- Rifle
- Shotgun (must be 12 years old)
- Muzzleloader (Black Powder)
- Hunting

Participants will choose one of the above disciplines and spend all instructional time in that area. Participants should have some shooting experience before participating in the camp. Quotas for each discipline area will be filled on a first come, first served basis. A 4-H Target Smart Camp brochure is available for marketing purposes. Check current calendar for dates and location. Transportation will be coordinated by the county, and multi-county transportation is encouraged. The cost is to be determined and will include meals, lodging, firearms, bows, ammunition and other expenses. **Campers are not to bring firearms and/or bows to camp.**