

Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports Hunting and Wildlife (H&W) Program Description

The Michigan Shooting Sports Program, one of many 4-H programs, offers young people a variety of entry points into safe hunting. The 4-H Hunting and Wildlife discipline is one several disciplines offered through the shooting sports program. Others includes Archery; Muzzleloading; Pistol; Rifle; and Shotgun. The H&W discipline is lead by a certified instructor and is a program to help young people develop personal confidence, discipline, responsibility, teamwork, self-esteem, and sportsmanship as they become ethical hunters.

The Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports H&W program uses the National 4-H Hunting and Wildlife curriculum to achieve the following goals:

- Teach Safe, Responsible Use of Firearms and Archery Equipment
(including sound decision-making, self-discipline and concentration)
- Learn the History of Hunting
(why we hunt; hunting ethics; hunting laws and regulations; hunter and landowner relations; wildlife management and the hunter; and careers in hunting)
- Understand Wildlife and Wildlife Management
(concepts of natural resources from the hunter's perspective)
- Develop the Participant's Character
(self-concept, sportsmanship, and personal growth through involvement in a safe and educational shooting activity)
- Strengthen Families
(through life-long outdoor shooting sports recreational activities)
- Support Existing Safety and Hunter Ed Programs

Program participants benefit from the 4-H H&W discipline through a practical, accessible curriculum that imbeds awareness, knowledge, and expertise in all young persons' thought processes and behaviors; the H&W discipline activities may include simulated hunting conditions to provide the best practical environment for reinforcing a young hunter's skills.

Special Note to Parents, Prospective Participants, and Instructors: ALL live-fire shooting activities MUST be lead by a 4-H certified shooting sports instructor, with special 4-H certification in the particular discipline. For example, if a hunting and wildlife group is learning about the shotgun discipline, with live-fire exercises on the range, a 4-H certified shooting sports instructor with a shotgun certification MUST be the individual running the range and overseeing all live-fire exercises.

Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports State Tournament

HUNTING AND WILDLIFE EVENT RULES

****NOTE: PLEASE BE SURE TO REVIEW "GENERAL INFORMATION" PAGES FOR GENERAL TOURNAMENT RULES. CONTACT YOUR COUNTY 4-H OFFICE IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A COPY OF THIS INFORMATION.**

Number of Individual Entrants Per County: Each county may enter a maximum of **9** contestants. Counties may register three (3) participants per division. For 2018 event only, individual counties will determine their own qualifying process. Maximum number of participants for 2018 is 100 participants.

For future years, state Hunting & Wildlife slots will be determined by county competitions. Guidelines will be published prior to the 2019 event as to how participants must qualify for the hunting skills event at the state tournament.

Age Division Determination: Age on January 1st the year of the tournament

Individual Hunting and Wildlife Contest Divisions:

Beg	ages 9 – 11
Jr	ages 12 – 14
Sr	ages 15 – 19

Event Description

Wildlife Identification event includes wildlife identification and management and wildlife management techniques and/or problems. Participants will be asked to identify specimens or parts of specimens including skulls, furs, wings, feathers, antlers/horns, tracks, scat or other signs.

All specimens selected for the competition can be hunted or trapped somewhere in Michigan and will compose of mounted or tanned hides; depending on availability. Animal tracks may be original or molds made from prints. Other wildlife signs may be real or reproductions.

Wildlife identification and management questions may consist of true/false, multiple choice, matching, short answer, fill-in the blank, ranking alternative choices or any other objective testing method the officials may choose.

Course

Course will include 25 specimens and/or questions pertaining to Michigan wildlife and will require identification, analysis, or interpretation.

Time Limit

Participants will move through the course expeditiously without undue delay. An appropriate time period will be determined by the officials and announced prior to the competition. The time limit will be enforced.

Resources

At the 4-H Shooting Sports Tournament, all hunting skills events will be based on the content of the following resources:

- 4-H Shooting Sports Hunting Leader Manual, Revised April 2013
- 4-H Shooting Sports Member Manual, New, April 2013
- Contact your state 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator to obtain a copy of these manuals.
- NRA Hunters Guide: <http://materials.nrahq.org/the-hunters-guide.html>
- Federal Cartridge Company wildlife guides:
 - View and download these wildlife guides posted under "Hunting Skills" from the National Championships website: [http:// 4h.unl.edu/4hssnationalchamp/rules-forms](http://4h.unl.edu/4hssnationalchamp/rules-forms).
 - Illustrated Guide to Upland Game Birds
 - Illustrated Guide to Ducks, Geese and Swans
 - Illustrated Guide to Small Game and Furbearers

- Illustrated Guide to Big Game Animals
- “Be Expert with Map And Compass” by Bjorn Kjellstrom
- “Animal Skulls” (North American) by Mark Elbroch
- “Field Guide to Eastern Birds” by R.T. Peterson
- “Field Guide to Mammals” by Burt C. Gorssenhider
 - Field Guides may be purchased through the Houghton Mifflin Company, Wayside Road, Burlington, MA 01803, or by calling 1-800-225-3362.
- Current Michigan Hunting & Trapping Digest, may be downloaded at Michigan.gov, Department of Natural Resources.
- Additional digests for special projects include: Antlerless Deer Digest, Black Bear Digest, Elk Digest, Fall Turkey Digest, Public Hunting on Private Lands Digest, Spring Turkey Digest, Waterfowl Digest. All may be downloaded at Michigan.gov, Department of Natural Resources. These digests will only be used when focusing on a special project or study.

This is a state level hunting skills evaluation. Any Michigan species covered in the listed resources may be included in the competition, including any game or furbearing animals. Competition will only include **legally harvested game** species found in the listed resources.

Prohibited

- Cell phones / electronic devices
- Reference materials – notes, handouts, cards, books, etc.
- Written, taped or transcribed information and reference materials
- Coaching at any time during the event

Tie Breaker

Timing will be used as tie breaker.

Medals

Medals will be presented to the top three participants in the individual divisions receiving the highest scores. Five participants must be registered in any given division before awards are presented.