

# EATON COUNTY

## 4-H

# SHOOTING SPORTS



## Why 4-H Shooting Sports?

Involvement in 4-H can help kids **EXPLORE** new ideas, **EXPERIENCE** a variety of new opportunities and friendships, and build new skills designed to help them **ACHIEVE**.

4-H is forever growing, learning, caring, and exploring...the possibilities are endless! 4-H is continually giving youth opportunities to learn, grow and apply knowledge to **“Make the Best Better.”**

## What is 4-H Shooting Sports?

The focus of the Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports Program, like the many other project areas of 4-H, is youth development. The program gives young people the opportunity to develop a variety of important life skills. Skills like concentration, decision-making, teamwork and leadership. Youth and families involved in 4-H shooting sports will learn the safe, responsible use of firearms and archery equipment, develop an increased awareness of conservation and be introduced to a source of lifelong recreation.

## Getting Involved

The Eaton County 4-H Shooting Sports Program is open to youth ages 5-19 by January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, religion, age, height, weight, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, or veteran status. Some disciplines have specific age requirements. In the interest of safety for the participant and others in the group, shooting sports instructors have the right to refuse any participant from shooting sports activities.

Adults can be involved in as well. You can be a certified leader/instructor and be able to provide instruction to a group of 4-Her's. Or, you can help as a parent volunteer and assist with scoring targets, running concessions, handling sign-ins, and any number of other tasks that support the program. Adults that volunteer may need to complete the MSU Extension Volunteer Selection Process, contact the Extension office for more information.

## Shooting Sports Projects

The Eaton County 4-H Shooting Sports program offers the following projects areas:

### Ages 5 - 19 (includes Cloverbuds):

- **Wilderness**

### Ages 8 - 19:

- **Archery:** Target and 3-D Archery
- **BB Gun**

### Ages 12 - 19:

- **Muzzleloading**
- **Air Pistol**
- **.22 cal. Field Rifle**
- **Shotgun:** Trap & Skeet

All projects are to be conducted under the direct supervision of an Eaton County 4-H Certified Shooting Sports Instructors and in compliance with all Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports Safety Policies and Procedures.



## Participant Age Policy

4-H shooting sports in Eaton County are open to youth ages 5 – 19. 4-H age is determined by the age of the youth on January 1 of the 4-H program year. See projects on prior page for ages by discipline.

### **Cloverbuds: 5 – 7 Years of age**

We will be doing Cloverbuds in the wilderness discipline only.

## How do youth join the Eaton County Shooting Sports Program?

Eaton County Shooting Sports is a County wide program.

- You can choose to just be part of the Shooting Sports Program.
- OR**
- You can join a club and do other projects in addition to shooting sports.

To enroll in Shooting Sports, you must complete the following:

- Enroll in 4-H Online. Instructions and the link to the database are located at [https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/michigan\\_4\\_h\\_enrollment](https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/michigan_4_h_enrollment).
- Sign and turn in the Eaton County 4-H Shooting Sports Participation Agreement.
- Submit payment for both the county and project fees.



## Fees

### **Eaton County Shooting Sport Project Fee:**

There is a shooting sports fee of \$5 a person/per year, to be paid to the Eaton County Shooting Sports in December at open enrollment.

### **Additional Fees:**

Trap/Skeet shooting: There is a fee of \$3.50 per round to shoot.

## Practices

Meets will run from January thru May. These meets are to ensure the safety and development of everyone involved in the shooting sports program.

## Parent Participation

A Parent Information Meeting is held in December. Parents are asked to be actively involved in volunteering to assist during practices so they are familiar with the safety procedures and equipment requirements of all 4-H shooting sports projects. Every child must have four (4) hours of parent or other adult participation per year. Depending on the type of role, some parent participation may require you to complete volunteer screening.

## Shooting Log

Each member is encouraged to keep an updated shooters log. Include date, location, time and tips you've learned. This will help you journal your developmental progress.

## Family Involvement

A 4-H club does not function without family involvement. It is essential that parents/guardians attend community meetings, remain at practice sessions, and learn about the 4-H shooting sports program to be able to provide their son/daughter(s) with proper equipment and safety protection, all the while providing them the best opportunity to develop to their full potential.

## Equipment

**CAUTION: SO NOT TO BE DISAPPOINTED, DO NOT PURCHASE NEW EQUIPMENT UNTIL YOU HAVE INVESTIGATED THE RULES & REGULATIONS FOR 4-H COUNTY AND STATE EVENTS.**

You will want to invest in equipment that you will serve you for a long time, meet 4-H regulations and not find yourself disappointed because the particular equipment you purchased does not meet the standards for 4-H events. Certified instructors will be able to give you suggestions as to equipment that will be best fit the participant's needs.

### **TRANSPORTING EQUIPMENT:**

When transporting your own equipment to and from club practices or 4-H sponsored events, **you MUST transport all equipment** (bows & firearms alike) **in a case**. Violation of this safety component may result in your son/daughter not being allowed to participate in 4-H shooting sport events.



## Eaton County Tournament:

The County Tournament is usually held in June.

In order to participate at the county shoot you must

- Participate in 3 full practices in each discipline you are participating in.
- Complete a county registration form by the due date set.
- It is the responsibility of the 4-H participant and their family to see that all requirements have been met.

## State 4-H Shooting Sports Competition:

The State Shoot is usually held in early August each year. You **MUST** sign up to participate in this shoot prior to the deadline set by MSU Extension; usually July. Notification of deadlines, fees, rules, location, etc. can be acquired through the Organizational Leader of Shooting Sports, the Eaton County MSU Extension office at 517-543-2310 or the State 4-H website [https://www.canr.msu.edu/shooting\\_sports/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/shooting_sports/)

The State Shoot is held in various locations around the state. Here participants from our county compete for individual and team awards with 4-H participants from around the state.

Participants may enter 1 (one) team/individual event.

## **National 4-H Shooting Sport Invitational:**

The 4-H National Invitational allows you to take 4-H shooting sports to the highest level. 4-H participants compete individually and as a team against participants from other states in the nation.

Applications are usually due by December 1<sup>st</sup> and selections of teams are usually made in spring.

## **Additional Programs:**

There are many programs that offer youth a chance to learn skills or obtain knowledge about shooting sports, hunting, conservation, wildlife and the great outdoors.

You just have to look or ask to find them. There is a list below with just a few places to start finding opportunities to learn and grow more in the shooting sports program.

- MYHEC: Michigan Youth Hunter Education Challenge: ([www.MYHEC.org](http://www.MYHEC.org)) Sponsored by NRA
- 4-H Exploration Days: check with the Extension office
- Conservation Clubs and Shooting Sports Clubs: Turkey Federations, Pheasant Forever Chapters, Ducks Unlimited Chapters, etc..

## **For More Information:**

Contact the Eaton County Extension office at 517-543-2310 or the Eaton County Shooting Sports organizational leaders Scott Whipple at 517-819-1984 or Missy Julson at 517-204-6475.

Connect with the Shooting Sports club on Facebook by joining the group at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/207779532694656/>

Eaton County 4-H Shooting Sports website: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/eaton/eaton\\_county\\_4\\_h/eaton\\_county\\_4\\_h\\_club\\_resources/shooting\\_sports](https://www.canr.msu.edu/eaton/eaton_county_4_h/eaton_county_4_h_club_resources/shooting_sports)