

NATIONAL 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS
STATE COORDINATORS NEWS BLAST
January, 2015



NATIONAL 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Effective November 1, Conrad Arnold has accepted the part time position as National 4-H Shooting Sports Program Coordinator. Conrad retired from the University of Maryland Extension after 25 years of service. Prior to that, he was employed by West Virginia University Extension for 18 years. The Program Coordinator will work collaboratively with the National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee and serve as a key contact with State 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinators, State 4-H Program Leaders and program donors. Having served on the National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee for more than 12 years, Conrad is familiar with the many operations, activities and partners that make this such a successful Nationwide 4-H program. Contact information: Conrad Arnold, Program Coordinator National 4-H Shooting Sports, Phone: 410-330-5967; Email: carnold@umd.edu

Three National 4-H Instructor Workshops Conducted in 2014

As a key part of the plan to offer multiple National 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Workshops across the country each year, three national workshops were conducted in 2014.

Pollock, Louisiana **April 6-11, 2014**
David Bolt, Louisiana State 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator
75 Participants from 19 States

Raton, New Mexico **April 27-May 1, 2014**
Summer Eaton, New Mexico State 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator
James Hamilton, Colorado State 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator
85 Participants from 15 States

Columbia, NC **November 3-7, 2014**
Lee Scripture, North Carolina 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator
Jinx Baney, Virginia 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator
56 Participants from 16 States

Future National Instructor Workshops

Applications for other potential workshops for 2015 are welcome and being considered at this time. Workshop applications are on the website. We have not received any proposals to host a spring workshop in 2015. This may still be a possibility, but things would need to move very quickly if that were to happen. Thus far, we have some interest from Kentucky, South Dakota and California for fall 2015. Others including Alaska are already considering proposals for 2016.

Workshop Application Deadlines:

Fall Workshop – Application Deadline -April 1st - - target for committee response- May 1st

Spring Workshop - Application Deadline- October 1st - target for committee response- November 1st

State Demographics Reports

Many thanks to those states who have completed and submitted state 4-H shooting sports demographics data for 2014. There are still a number of states with missing data reports. **If you are one of those who have not done so, Please submit your state data today to be included in data shared with industry, donors and others by the National Committee. Data will be published before Jan. 16 and be shared beginning Jan. 17.**

National Invitational Name Change & Much More **4-H Shooting Sports National Championships – June 21-26, 2015**

Our National 4-H Shooting Sports program has successfully reached a level of participation where we feel the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational needed to be recognized as a true National 4-H Event as well as an appropriate name change. It has been decided to change the name of the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational to **4-H Shooting Sports National Championships**.

In addition to the event name change, the decision has been made to continue to hold the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships in Grand Island Nebraska annually through 2020. This event has been held in Grand Island in 2008, 2009 and 2012-2014. The National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee is very appreciative of UNL to serve as the host Land Grant University for this event.

Last year, this growing event drew 750 participants and coaches along with their families from 34 states across the country. University of Nebraska Lincoln Extension 4-H, Fonner Park, Heartland Events Center and the Heartland Public Shooting Park have all come together as local partners to host this national event. Participants compete in one of nine discipline areas including small bore rifle, small bore pistol, muzzleloading, shotgun, air pistol, air rifle, hunting skills, recurve archery and compound archery.

“This will be a great opportunity for the Grand Island community to partner with 4-H in helping to continue to grow this national event in scope. It has been an outstanding relationship in working with members of the Grand Island community to host the National Invitational,” said Steve Pritchard, UNL Extension Educator and Match Director for the Invitational.

Brad Mellema, Executive Director of the Grand Island Convention and Visitors Bureau stated, “This event is a significant economic boost to Grand Island’s hotels, restaurants, retailers and attractions. For many families, this five-day event is also their vacation. You could not ask for a finer group of young people to visit our community.”

For more information, visit <http://4h.unl.edu/ntlshootingssportsinvitational> or call the visitors bureau at 308-382-4400.

As the official destination marketing organization for Hall County, Nebraska, the Grand Island Convention & Visitors Bureau works to grow the tourism economy and identify Grand Island as a destination.

Western Heritage Project Update

The 4-H Western Heritage Project is a combination of Western Action Shooting and a study of the American frontier from 1860 – 1900. Main objectives of the project are two provide a safe and exciting shooting program while utilizing an experiential, participatory living history approach to learning Old West history. Participants dress in Old West garb and compete against the clock by engaging in steel or cardboard targets at various distances with period firearms such as single action revolvers, lever action rifles, and double barreled, pump, or lever action shotguns. Competitive firearm use is dependent on age and only takes place after training. Scoring is based on accuracy and the time that lapses between the initial buzzer and last shot. Each missed target is penalized by the addition of five seconds to a competitor’s time. During a shoot, participants travel through a series of stages in a posse (group of shooters) along with an adult range officer. Stages consist of a series of targets set up at distances appropriate for sidearms, rifles, and shotguns. The shooting location of the stage may be as elaborate as a façade of a building, like the front door of the sheriff’s office, the window of the church, or just outside the door of the jailhouse, or as simple as engaging targets over a table.



The first National 4-H Shooting Sports Training in Western Heritage was conducted as pilot at the New Mexico training in April of 2014. To date Montana, Missouri, Oregon, Texas, Kansas, Colorado, Idaho, Oklahoma, and Alabama have certified leaders. Some programs are currently active while others are just beginning. National training consists of safe and proper use of the firearms in the project, 8-10 hours of range and shooting instruction, and the basics of period history.

With the growth of the project, Montana hosted the First Annual National 4-H Western Heritage Conference and Invitational Shoot July 30 through August 2, 2014 in Virginia City, MT. Over 150 members, parents, and leaders took part in two and half days of historically oriented workshops and tours followed by a shooting competition with 52 youth competing. The 2nd Annual event will take place in Springfield, Missouri on July 29 through August 1, 2015.

The historical education contained within the 4-H Western Heritage Project is particularly exciting. According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, 88% of high school seniors test below the proficiency level in U.S. history. Educational research indicates history is one of the least liked subjects in school and interest in history declines with advancing grade level. Students describe history as boring and irrelevant with little application to the future. Most concerning is that fact that these students will soon be in leadership roles in every community across the country and have very little knowledge of the traditions and requirements of this democracy. While reading a textbook, memorizing material, and listening to lectures appear to disillusion students, participatory living history approaches found with the 4-H Western Heritage Project have been shown to dramatically increase interest in American history among youth and also provide a sense of appreciation for family genealogy and the struggles and success of the past take have shaped our society today.

With sufficient interest, a training team of Montana, Missouri, and Oregon instructors is available for future National 4-H Shooting Sports Training Workshops. For more information, visit www.4-hwesternheritageproject.org.

National 4-H Shooting Sports Teen Leadership Institute

On August 6 - 8, 2014 a select group of twenty seven teens from sixteen different states met at Montana State University in Bozeman. Their purpose for gathering was to strengthen themselves as national and state ambassadors of the 4-H Shooting Sports Program. During their training, the teens sharpened their skills in public speaking and leadership. These teens traveled across the country with the sole purpose of bettering their state shooting sports programs, and to take back what they learned to their home states where they look forward to educating other youth. Each 4-H state shooting sports coordinator is encouraged to send candidates to this once in a lifetime experience. Information for the 2015 National 4-H Shooting Sports Youth Leadership Institute will be announced and forwarded to all coordinators in early 2015.



Missouri 4-H Shooting Sports Teen Attends SCI American Wilderness Leadership School

Chyanne Davis from Ashland, Missouri attended the American Wilderness Leadership School June 30, 2014 – July 6, 2014 as a National 4-H Shooting Sports Teen Ambassador. The Safari Club International Foundation (SCIF) annually hosts the American Wilderness Leadership School (AWLS). The school provides instructional programs focusing on conservation and natural resource management. There are also recreational activities such as overnight camping and whitewater rafting. The conference center where the event takes place is located in the scenic Gros Ventre Wilderness area in Teton National Forest. Applicants are chosen through application, references, personal essays and they are currently active in 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassadors within their state.

NOTE: PARTS OF THIS NEWSLETTER MAY LOOK FAMILIAR BUT ARE WORTH REPEATING

The New Vision for 4-H Shooting Sports

The past 2 years have been very busy for National 4-H Shooting Sports. As communicated with State Coordinators, the following major points and implications for state level 4-H Shooting Sports programs are highlighted below.

- A major change for future national workshops is the concept of conducting **2-3 national workshops per year**. This should make it easier and more affordable for states to get participants from their state to a national workshop. This plan will rely on high functioning state programs to provide the equipment and host the workshops with reduced oversight and management from the national committee. The biggest challenge to this approach will be to maintain consistency and continuity of future national workshops. For this reason the concepts and tools outlined below were developed.
 - Development of **“First Shot Fundamentals”** for each discipline. First Shot Fundamentals are based on a written plan to get state and national workshop participants up and shooting safely within one hour. This is not only a skill that must be developed in 4-H shooting sports instructors, but it is also a key behavior that we wish to model in state and local level 4-H shooting sports programs.
 - State workshop and national workshop **Teaching Outlines** – These are step-by-step teaching outlines (by discipline) to be used in conjunction with the 4-H curriculum. The purpose of these teaching outlines is to promote consistency of future state and national workshops.
 - Increased emphasis on **Positive Youth Development (PYD)** – At the workshop in Arkansas and the subsequent pilot workshop in Oregon in September, the concepts of 1) Life Skill Development, 2) Experiential Learning, and 3) Essential Elements are emphasized not only in the general sessions but in the discipline instruction as well.
 - Increased emphasis on **STEM** – Incorporation of STEM concepts and activities enhances the 4-H Shooting Sports program by 1) expanding the educational opportunities of the program, and 2) strengthens the acceptance of the program by state level administrators who do not have a background or interest in the shooting sports. (See note elsewhere in this newsletter a note from our National 4-H shooting Sports sub-committee on STEM.
 - Increased emphasis on **evaluation** – An evaluation committee has been established to help the program demonstrate the relevance of the 4-H Shooting Sports program. The committee is being chaired by Dr. David White, Oregon State University Extension.
 - The national committee also plans to strengthen the **Environmental Education** connection of the 4-H Shooting Sports.
- **All 4-H Shooting Sports curriculum has been updated as of October 2014 and is on the national website. Make sure that you are using the most up to date curriculum for your state workshops.**

4-H Shooting Sports STEM Sub-Committee

Todd Williver from Oregon has agreed to chair a STEM sub-committee for the 4-H Shooting Sports National Committee. After a brief end-of-year hiatus, the 4-H Shooting Sports STEM Subcommittee will resume work shortly after the new year. The Subcommittee is in the process of creating a few dozen 45-90 minutes SET lessons that can easily be presented/facilitated at shooting sports club meetings that will illustrate scientific principles and boost youths' awareness of scientific method and how science applies to shooting sports, and life. If you'd like to become involved with the work of the Shooting Sports Subcommittee contact Lincoln County 4-H Program Coordinator Todd Williver at todd.williver@oregonstate.edu

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Some of the items to be addressed by the sub-committee include:

- Development of standardized format for 4-H Shooting Sports STEM related materials and activities.
- Develop methods/systems to publish and access STEM materials related to shooting sports.
- Promote use of STEM activities at state level 4-H Shooting Sports events and activities.

How do the changes made in 2013 & 2014 affect your state 4-H Shooting Sports Program?

Most states are planning to address these changes in the following ways:

1. Communicate these changes to the state training team.
2. Make sure your state workshops are:
 - a. Using the **new curriculum**.
 - b. Following the state workshop **Teaching Outlines**.
 - c. Implementing the **First Shot Fundamentals** in each discipline.
 - d. Incorporating **PYD** based instruction in discipline instruction as well as in general sessions.
 - e. Incorporating **STEM** concepts in discipline instruction as well as in general sessions.
 - f. Follow **Best Practices** as outlined by the national committee.

Be aware that the implementation of the **First Shot Fundamentals** at your state workshops might be a challenge based on your available training facilities. It will take some creative thought and ingenuity to operationalize this concept at the state level workshop (especially for shotgun and muzzle loading disciplines). While some states might see the need to re-train all the state level instructors in these new concepts and practices, the national committee believes that following the above mentioned outline will suffice in getting us all on the same page with this new vision for 4-H Shooting Sports.

All of these changes mentioned above will affect how states operate their State Instructor Training and their 4-H Shooting Sports Programs. We feel these are significant changes and because of that, we will be sharing this information with all State 4-H Program Leaders.

New instructor resources available on the website

The following instructor resources are now available on the National 4-H Shooting Sports website in the State Coordinators section.

1. Revised curriculum – October 2014
2. First Shot Fundamentals – found in the front of each of the revised discipline curriculum.
3. Teaching Outlines by Discipline

Teaching Resources

Kids and Guns - 10/10/13 (Powerpoint)

Elements of A Risk Management Plan (Powerpoint)

Art of Teaching Kids - 2013

Risky Business

Lethal Impact Video

New Vision for National Workshops 10/13

Welcome to 4-H Shooting Sports 10/13

State Workshop Essentials 10/13

Best Practices 10/13

Second Amendment 10/13

4-H Shooting Sports Logic Model 10/13

4-H Shooting Sports National Committee Member Needed from the Southern Region

- Applications are being sought for a 4-H Shooting National Committee member to represent the Southern Region. The application can be found on the National 4-H Shooting Sports website. Application deadline is February 20, 2015. According to the operating guidelines for the national committee, regional representatives to the national committee must be Extension professionals.

4-H Shooting Sports National Steering Committee

Co-Chairs	Jeff Goodwin, CO	Rick Richardson, NM	Mark Tassin, LA
Northeast Region	Conrad Arnold, MD	Lisa Muzzey, VT	Applicant Pending (in-coming)
Southern Region	Rick Willey, SC	Vacant	Applicant Pending (in-coming)
North Central Region	Gerry Snapp, MO	Donise Peterson, IA	Applicant Pending (in-coming)
Western Region	Todd Kesner, MT	John Borba, CA	
4-H National HQ	Amy McCune		
Extension Director Liaison	Jeff Bader, MT		

Odds and Ends

- Visit our web-site: www.4-hshootingsports.org
- Be a Fan of National 4-H Shooting Sports on FaceBook!
- Check us out at the 4-H Mall for 4-H shooting sports gear:
 - <http://www.4-hmall.org/Catalog/SearchResults.aspx?page=1&SearchQuery=shooting>
- We have not yet received state demographic reports from all states. This is important information that we use with our donors. If you have not yet submitted demographic data from your state, please do so IMMEDIATELY.
- 2015 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (formerly National Invitational) – June 21-26, 2015, Grand Island, Nebraska. Registration info coming soon.
- Daisy Scholarship applications due April 1. Application on the National 4-H Shooting Sports Website. Two applications per state.