

4-H SHOOTING SPORTS STATE COMPETITIONS

Two Arkansas 4-H Shooting Sports State Competitions are held at the Arkansas 4-H Center each year.

All participants must be active 4-H members between the ages of 9 – 19, and may enter by enrolling in 4-H through the county Extension office. All participants must have a valid Hunter Education card issued by the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission. A photocopy of the certification card must accompany the entry forms. If participants need to be certified before the state competition, information about currently scheduled hunter education classes may be obtained by calling 1-800-482-5795 which is the Education Division of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. If a class needs to be set up in an area, names of certified instructors may also be obtained at that number.

All youth participants in Arkansas 4-H Shooting Sports practice in their respective county clubs under the guidance of 4-H Shooting Sports instructors trained using the National 4-H Shooting Sports Curriculum. Furthermore, all youth must also have successfully completed the AGFC's Arkansas Hunter education Course, and meet certain minimum proficiency standards in firearms knowledge and use established by the Arkansas 4-H Shooting Sports Committee.

Arkansas 4-H/Youth Hunter Education Challenge:

The Arkansas 4-H/Youth Hunter Education Challenge (4-H/YHEC) is a program sponsored by the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service's 4-H Shooting Sports Program in conjunction with the National Rifle Association (NRA). The Arkansas 4-H/YHEC is a program through which today's youth learn leadership, ethics, and safety while giving them an outlet to expand their horizons about the outdoors, shooting, and hunting. It is a multidiscipline program that enables participants to strive to be better sportsmen while teaching safety and letting them have fun. At first glance, this program looks like a regular shooting competition and, given, the competitive edge can be part of the experience, but it goes much further than that. In what has been called "Advanced Hunter Education" by some, the instructors of the program teach the participants about safety, shooting, and the outdoors through eight different disciplines. Events such as the Hunter Safety Trail and Hunter Responsibility Exam inspire the participants to learn more about ethics, conservation, and being good sportsmen; other events like the Hunter Orienteering Challenge and Hunting Wildlife Identification Challenge allow the participant to gain knowledge and real outdoor skills. The shooting events (.22 light hunting rifle, 12 and 20 ga. Sporting clays, 3-D archery, Muzzleloader) promote marksmanship and, more importantly, safety in simulated hunting situations.

Arkansas 4-H Range Events State Competition:

The Arkansas 4-H Shooting Sports Range Events is a competition sponsored by the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service's 4-H Shooting Sports Program. The State Range Events Competition is primarily a "bullseye" type of competition, and consists of six or seven events: Shotgun (trap), .22 Rifle Bullseye, Muzzle Loader Bullseye, 3-D Archery, .177 Pellet Rifle, 177 Pellet Pistol, and .22 Pistol. The shooting events promote marksmanship and, more importantly, safety. General rules for all events are listed below.

1. Shotgun: Twenty-five (25) clay targets, singles only, will be thrown to both Junior and Senior contestants on a modified American Trap course. Low brass, light loads will be provided for 12- and 20-gauge shotguns. Only clay targets with a visible piece broken off will be scored.
2. .177 Pellet Pistol: Class 2 (Daisy 717 or equivalent, weight not to exceed 2.7 lb), or Class 3 (Daisy 747 or equivalent, weight not to exceed 2.9 lb). CO2 pellet pistols meeting these criteria are allowed. 177 Pellet Pistol event (10 meter) will be held indoors.
3. Archery: Simulates hunting using hunting-type compound, recurve, or long bows and shooting arrows at life-like game targets at 15 - 40 yards.
4. .177 Pellet Rifle: Any type of sporter .177 caliber pneumatic, spring air, compressed air or CO2 rifle can be used if it has a conventional appearance and conforms to the following requirements: Weight: Total weight excluding sling may not be more than 7.5 lb. Event will be held indoors. Trigger Weight: Minimum 1.5 lb. Shooting Positions: Shooting will be done from the Prone, Kneeling, and Standing positions as described in the National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rules.
5. .22 Rifle–Bullseye: Event (50 ft.) will be held at the shooting range, iron sights only, no scopes allowed. Accessory equipment and shooting positions are the same as for the .177 pellet rifle, as per the National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rules.
6. Muzzle Loader Bullseye: A three position, 50-yard, bullseye event. Twelve (12) record shots - 4 standing, 4 kneeling and 4 prone. Powder charges are limited to a maximum of 60 grains of pyrodex or its volumetric equivalent. Ammunition: ONLY propellant provided by 4-H Shooting Sports will be allowed. Number 11 percussion caps will be supplied.
7. .22 Pistol: Seniors only. 10 shots each – slow, timed and rapid fire at 25 yards. One handed hold, iron sights only. NRA pistol rules apply.

For further information, check the Arkansas 4-H Shooting Sports Website:

(http://www.kidsarus.org/go4it/Activities_Events/Shooting_Sports/default.htm) or contact Rex Roberg at 501-671-2334, rroberg@uaex.edu .