

MISSOULA COUNTY 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS GUIDELINES

Updated, 2024



Missoula County Shooting Sports Guidelines

Approved by the Missoula County 4-H Shoot Sports Committee, 2021

The safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment is the primary focus of the 4-H Shooting Sports program. Members will improve their marksmanship skills, have the opportunity to compete, and learn self-discipline and personal responsibility. All 4-H shooting sports leaders must attend a state training workshop and become certified in their shooting discipline before serving as project leaders. It is strongly encouraged, and may be required, that a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult be willing to attend project meetings and shooting sports events with the 4-H member. There is opportunity for practice under the watchful eye of trained leaders who have the final say in safety matters and the behavior of the youth enrolled.

Subject to leader availability, Missoula County shooting sports project areas include: Air Pistol, Small Bore Pistol (.22), Air Rifle, Small Bore Rifle (.22), Archery, Shotgun, Muzzleloading, Hunting/Wildlife, and Western Heritage.

All 4-H shooting sports members must work under the supervision of a 4-H certified shooting sports leader. No shooting sport projects may be taken independently without a certified leader.

If you enroll in multiple disciplines such as archery and shotgun, you may need to work under multiple shooting sports leaders. For example, one leader certified in archery, and one leader certified in shotgun. The county extension agent and the shooting sports committee can help team you with a leader.

Project Requirements

Members must be 9 years of age by October 1. Age divisions in all 4-H sanctioned competitions will be the member's age as of October 1. The cannon project falls under the guidance of the muzzleloading project. Members must be 13 years of age by October 1 and have completed a basic muzzleloading safety course before being allowed on the shooting line.

Members must complete and turn in the following forms; (1) 4-H Member Enrollment, (2) Permission and Liability Form, and (3) signature of a 4-H certified shooting sports leader for each discipline you wish to enroll in. (4) western heritage and pistol members must also turn in a handgun permission form. All forms must be in before handling any firearms or archery equipment.

Keeping record books are required of all members including My 4-H Year (Green Sheet), Project & Financial Journal (Blue Sheet) and project books.

Required Safety Equipment & Code of Conduct

Arm guards are required for archery in practice and at all competitions. (Long sleeve shirts do not qualify as an armguard.)

Hearing protection and safety glasses are required for rifle, pistol, shotgun and muzzleloading in practice at all competitions.

Hearing protection and safety glasses are required for shooters and spectators at all western heritage events.

Equipment

Members may need to provide their own equipment and ammunition. Missoula County has a limited amount of equipment that can be checked out by certified leaders.

In addition to their 4-H project fees, members may be required to pay reoccurring range fees associated with their discipline.

Western Montana Fair

The Missoula County 4-H Fair Competitions are open to all members enrolled in any given discipline. Members must have their record books reviewed and signed off on by their certified shooting sports leader. Signed record books must be presented at your interview. Members must complete an interview prior to shooting. First year members in any discipline must also submit a safety display or poster. Please note: these first year member posters or displays MUST HAVE A CLEAR SAFETY MESSAGE.

Discipline interviews and shooting competitions are held at various locations. Competitors, parents and spectators are required to follow individual range regulations.

All Missoula County 4-H shooting sports members; (1) Must be enrolled in a shooting sports discipline no later than May 1; (2) Complete a club or county sponsored safety class for their discipline in the current 4-H year and; (3) Shoot a minimum of three times with a certified instructor during the current 4-H year prior to shooting at any county, state or national competition. This includes the Missoula County Fair Competitions.

Missoula County Competition Rules

Missoula County competition rules may differ from state competition rules. The intent and spirit of the rules are to help ensure fair and equal opportunity for all members. It is the responsibility of the 4-H member and Project Leader to know and abide by the rules at all times.

County Program Instructor Certification Requirements

To be a Montana 4-H certificated shooting sports leaders you must be 21 years of age and have successfully completed the 4-H shooting sports leader certification workshop

Youth Leaders must be 14 years of age and have successfully completed the 4-H shooting sports youth leader certification workshop. They may work with youth only under the direct supervision of a 4-H certified shooting sports leader.

Special Accommodations

When possible, accommodations will be made for 4-H members with disabilities. Parents must request special accommodations in writing. Requests should be turned in with the following permission forms.

Project Books

In the archery, shotgun, rifle, pistol, and muzzleloader project books there are pages where members are asked to record information that is also recorded on the blue sheets. Members are welcome to complete both, but they can also opt to skip those pages in their project books. Members may not skip completing their blue sheets.

Since there are no level 2+ books, it is recommended that members complete a special interest report, educational poster, or exhibit for their second year and each subsequent year.

All members need to bring their blue sheets and project manuals to the required interviews.

The list below are those pages members can skip in their shooting sports project books.

Old style green archery book - boy with bow on front

Skip pages 5, 6, 9, 30, 32, 33, 34 and do special interest report on page 28 in year two.

New archery book - target on front CFAES in red

Skip pages 4, 6, 9, 30, 31, 33 and do the special interest report on page 32 in year two.

Shotgun book - CFAES in red

Skip pages 4, 6, 9, 30, 31, 33 and do special interest report on page 32 in year two.

Rifle book

Skip pages 4, 6, 9, 30, 31, 33 and do the special interest report on page 32 in year two.

Pistol book

Skip, pages 4, 6, 9, 30, 31, 33 and do the special interest report on page 32 in year two.

Muzzleloader - the older book, purple color boy with a gun on the front

Skip pages 5, 6, 9, 39, 41, 42, 43 and do the special interest report on page 35 in year two.

Muzzleloader - newer book CFAES in red on front

Skip pages 4, 6, 9, 36, 37, 39 and do the special interest report on page 38 in year two.

Important! - This form AND the next page must be signed and returned to the 4-H office before Handling any firearms or archery equipment.

Certified Leader Verification Form

Name of 4-H member _____

Club name _____ Age October 1 _____

All 4-H shooting sports members must work under the supervision of a 4-H certified shooting sports leader. No shooting sport projects may be taken independently without a certified leader. *This should not be confused with your club organizational leader.* The county extension agent and the shooting sports committee can help team you with a leader if one is not available in your club.

If you enroll in multiple disciplines such as archery and shotgun, you may need to work under multiple shooting sports leaders. One leader certified in archery, and one leader certified in shotgun. If you enroll in only one discipline, you will only need the signature of one leader.

Rifle

Signature of certified leader _____ Date _____

Pistol

Signature of certified leader _____ Date _____

Shotgun

Signature of certified leader _____ Date _____

Muzzleloading

Signature of certified leader _____ Date _____

Western Heritage & Cowboy Action

Signature of certified leader _____ Date _____

Archery

Signature of certified leader _____ Date _____

Hunting

Signature of certified leader _____ Date _____

I have read and agree to follow the Missoula County Shooting Sports Guidelines:

Parent or Guardian _____ Date _____

4-H Member _____ Date _____



PERMISSION AND RELEASE FORM
FOR
PARTICIPATION IN A 4-H PROGRAM
OF THE
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SERVICE



[Youth's name] _____ will be participating in

[name of activity] _____ on [date] _____.

A description of this activity, transportation methods, and the Code of Conduct are attached.
 A "Medical Care and Treatment Form" is on the reverse side of this notice.

Please complete these forms and return them to

by [date] _____. The 4-H youth will be unable to participate without them.

I/We give permission for [youth's name] to participate.

I/We understand the responsibilities, hazards, and dangers inherent in participation in this activity, including the transportation. We understand and agree that my/our child will adhere to the Code of Conduct.

I/We hold harmless Montana State University, its trustees, officers, agents, and employees from and against all claims, demands, actions, and causes of action for damages which may be sustained by [youth's name] _____ or anyone else. This includes personal injury, death or property damage, whether or not the result of negligent acts or omissions.

I/We understand the MSU Extension 4-H does not provide accident/medical insurance for participation.

If [youth's name] _____'s participation in the activity causes damage to the property of MSU Extension Service, we agree to pay the University for such loss.

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian

