



Introduction

History:

The 4-H YDP shooting sports program has been around for years in many guises in California. Originally it might have occurred as an archery or rifle program at a 4-H summer camp. Or, it could have taken place as wildlife conservation or hunter education project led by a 4-H adult volunteer or staff member in an individual club or county.

However, the formal structuring of the 4-H YDP shooting sports program in California can find its roots in the early 1980s when three 4-H Youth Development Advisors traveled to Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa for one of the original National 4-H Shooting Sports Training Workshops. Bob McNulty of Sutter County, Wallace “Wally” Tyler of Shasta County, and Ben Waller of San Joaquin County were the first three Californians to serve as state instructors for shooting sports. Bob McNulty received his certification in shotgun. Wally Tyler was certified as a rifle instructor and Ben Waller was the archery instructor. They returned to their home counties and planned and implemented the first California 4-H YDP Shooting Sports Training Workshop in 1984 in Stockton. They trained 4-H adult volunteers and staff in the first version of the 4-H shooting sports curriculum. Newly hired Ken Willmarth, 4-H Youth Development Advisor, Stanislaus County, was one of the first California trained 4-H YDP staff members.

Wally Tyler and Carlee Longacre, 4-H Advisors from Shasta County, started the first state postal match in 1985. This is an annual event where targets are shot at the local level and mailed to a central location for scoring. It is still in existence after more than twenty years. In 1995, the program was reinforced when a delegation of seven volunteers and staff members traveled to Camp Rilea in Astoria, Oregon for the Western Regional Shooting Sports Workshop. The delegation included the following that were certified in their specific disciplines:

4-H adult volunteers: James Atherstone - Stanislaus County, pistol instructor
 John Cooper - Sutter County, shotgun instructor
 David LaRue - San Luis Obispo County, hunting instructor
 Calvin Murphy - Sierra County, rifle instructor
 Raoul Salem - Santa Clara County, rifle instructor

4-HYDP staff: John Borba - 4-H Program Representative, Tulare County, coordinator
 Andrez “Andy” Montiel – 4-H Youth Development Advisor, Imperial County, pistol instructor

This core group of adult volunteers and 4-H YDP staff designed the current California 4-H Shooting Sports Program and developed the program policies and procedures that govern the project.

Situation Statement

The California 4-H YDP Shooting Sports Program provides instruction in the safe handling of firearms, air guns and archery equipment, develops self-confidence and leadership abilities in 4-H participants, and instills an appreciation for conservation and wildlife.

Program Philosophy

The 4-H YDP Shooting Sports Program utilizes the skills and disciplines of shooting to assist young people and their adult volunteers in attaining knowledge and developing essential life skills. The program follows a standardized format, lists program components and identifies clearly intended learning outcomes.

Program Objectives

1. Identify, develop, and promote positive advocacy roles for youth to emulate as responsible stewards of our environment.
2. Promote the safe handling and storage of firearms.
3. Develop responsibility, sportsmanship, ethical behavior and respect for safe conduct of Shooting Sports activities and environmental stewardship.
4. Promote awareness and appreciation of the broad spectrum of Shooting Sports and related activities as life-long leisure and career opportunities for youth and families.
5. Implement and strengthen an adult volunteer and teen assistant leader certification program.
6. Expand 4-H membership and involve more volunteers.
7. Enhance family communications and quality time together.
8. Focus on youth audiences at risk and pilot models and methodologies tailored for specific audiences.
9. Create a quality youth development education program evidenced by partnerships that reflect resource development, program innovation, quality delivery of instruction, and access to research based knowledge.
10. Promote awareness of shooting and archery as athletic sports and provide youth with the knowledge, skills and desire to participate.

Certification Requirements

All Instructors, Trainers and adult volunteers in the Shooting Sports Program must be currently enrolled as 4-H YDP Shooting Sports adult volunteers in their respective counties, and must be certified by the California 4-H YDP Shooting Sports Committee in each discipline they teach.

No person may be certified as an Instructor, Trainer or adult volunteer until the following requirements are met:

1. Currently enrolled in the 4-H program and have completed the adult volunteer orientation and screening process at the local level.
2. Be at least 21 years of age.
3. Have satisfactorily completed a discipline-specific National or State training session, or possess a current certification from an approved organization in the discipline being certified (see table 1, below).
4. Have no felony convictions.
5. Have no convictions for hunting, fishing or firearm related violations in the past 5 years.
6. Be able to demonstrate competency in instructing youth in Shooting Sports.
7. Must submit a completed Application for Certification to the California 4-H YDP Shooting Sports Committee and receive certification approval.

Table 1 – Certifying Organizations

The following agencies and organizations certify individuals in various disciplines. Individuals who have a current certification as listed below may be certified as a 4-H adult volunteer in that discipline, provided they complete the county 4-H adult volunteer orientation and screening process and are approved by the California 4-H YDP Shooting Sports Advisory Committee.

Certification	Archery	Hunting	Pistol	Rifle	Shotgun	Muzzle Loading Pistol	Muzzle Loading Rifle	Muzzle Loading Shotgun
California Department of Fish & Game Hunter Safety Instructors		X						
NRA Certified Instructors			X	X	X	X	X	X
NRA Certified Coaches			X	X	X			
National Muzzle Loading						X	X	X

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Rifle Association Instructor								
National Field Archery Association Instructor	X							
National Archery Association Instructor	X							
National Bow Hunter Education Instructor	X							
4-H State or Regional Certified Instructor	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Certification Records

All 4-H Shooting Sports Instructors, Trainers and adult volunteers must complete the *California 4-H Shooting Sports Program Certification Application* located in the appendix of this manual and provide copies of all other required documents, to the State 4-H YDP Office in order to be certified as a California 4-H YDP Shooting Sports Instructor, Trainer, or adult volunteer.

4-H Shooting Sports Guide

All Instructors, Trainers and adult volunteer are required to be familiar with and use the 4-H Shooting Sports Guide for their respective discipline. The Shooting Sports Guide contains lesson plans that outline the objectives of each session, the roles for teen and junior leaders, and roles for parental involvement.

County Approval

All Shooting Sports Instructors, Trainers and adult volunteers applying for certification must have the county 4-H YDP Staff sign their application and verify that the adult volunteer has completed the volunteer screening and orientation process.

State 4-H YDP Shooting Sports Advisory Committee

The 4-H YDP Shooting Sports Advisory Committee is comprised of a representative group of 4-H members, adult volunteers, and 4-H YDP staff. The

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committee identifies, discusses and agrees on recommendations regarding their designated area of focus. Rotating terms of appointments are established by the committee. Membership recruitment is conducted annually as part of the State 4-H YDP advisory committee process. All Shooting Sports Advisory Committee members are appointed by the State 4-H YDP director.

The California 4-H YDP Shooting Sports Advisory Committee should consist of:

1. The State 4-H YDP Shooting Sports Program Coordinator, who is a University of California 4-H YDP staff member that serves as the liaison between the committee, the University, and the State 4-H YDP office and is responsible for all 4-H YDP Shooting Sports events and trainings.
2. One adult volunteer or 4-H YDP staff representing each discipline (archery, hunting, muzzle loading, pistol, rifle, shotgun).
3. Other adult volunteers as designated by the state coordinator and approved by the state 4-H YDP director.
4. Two (2) teen youth members.

The following shall be appointed from the committee by the 4-H YDP Shooting Sports coordinator:

1. An assistant California 4-H YDP Shooting Sports coordinator.
2. A secretary to maintain records.

Focus Areas

The following focus areas shall be administered by the California 4-H YDP Shooting Sports Advisory committee:

1. Policy review and program administration.
2. Activities.
3. Instructor certification standards.
4. Resource development.

Meetings

The California 4-H YDP Shooting Sports committee will meet at least once each year.

County Committees

Each county will be encouraged to develop a County 4-H YDP Shooting Sports Committee modeled after the State 4-H YDP Shooting Sports Advisory Committee.

Youth Membership Eligibility Criteria

Open Program

The California 4-H YDP Shooting Sports program is open to all 4-H members 9 years of age or older, or in the 4th grade by December 31st of the program year.

A minimum of one year of participation in another shooting sports discipline is required before a member may participate in the Muzzle Loading discipline.

Firearm Use Eligibility

Use of firearms, air guns, or archery equipment in the 4-H YDP Shooting Sports program is subject to approval of the adult volunteer in charge of the project. Approval is based on the member's ability to follow instructions and safety rules.

Project Activity

The California 4-H YDP Shooting Sports program is a 4-H project and members enroll in the discipline that they will be participating in (i.e. Archery) on the California 4-HYDP Enrollment Form. It may also be taught as a group project activity, or in sessions such as camp, special interest clubs, etc.

Intermediate Youth Leaders (Junior Leaders) – Grades 6-8

Are trained and certified in specific disciplines to assist in the training of other youth members. Intermediate youth leaders may be utilized in the classroom, but not on shooting ranges.

Senior Youth Leaders (Teen Leaders) – Grades 9+

Are trained and certified in specific disciplines to assist in the training of other youth members. Senior youth leaders may be utilized in the classroom and on the range.

Adult Volunteer Requirements and Definitions

Instructors

1. Are required to be trained and certified in their discipline through participation in an Instructor training conducted by the National 4-H Shooting Sports training team.

2. Are responsible for developing and implementing Shooting Sports Trainer and adult volunteer classes.
3. Are willing to make a three-year commitment to the California 4-H YDP Shooting Sports Program.

Trainers

1. Are required to be trained and certified in their discipline through participation in a Trainer class conducted by a California 4-H YDP Shooting Sports Instructor.
2. Are responsible for teaching regional and county Shooting Sports adult volunteer classes.
3. Are willing to make a three-year commitment to the California 4-H YDP Shooting Sports Program.

Adult Volunteers

1. Are required to be trained and certified in their discipline through participation in a county/regional adult volunteer training conducted by a California 4-H YDP Shooting Sports Instructor or Trainer, or possess a current certification in that discipline by an approved agency (see table 1, page 3).
2. Are trained and certified as an adult volunteer in one or more of the following disciplines;
 - Archery
 - Hunting
 - Muzzle Loading / Black Powder
 - Pistol
 - Rifle
 - Shotgun
3. Can only lead projects in disciplines in which they are certified.
4. Are responsible for developing and implementing Shooting Sports projects at regional and county levels.

Training Guidelines and Instruction Requirements

The 4-H Shooting Sports Program and projects will adhere to all policies as outlined in the 4-H Policy Handbook and follow training guidelines and instruction requirements as outlined below.

Trainer Class

All Trainer classes will be taught by a State or National 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor who is certified in the specific discipline being taught. Instruction will include:

- Discipline specific lesson plans from the 4-H Shooting Sports Guide.
- Range time to demonstrate competency both in using the appropriate firearms or other shooting sports equipment, and in effectively instructing youth and adults in their proper use.
- Practicum where the students have the opportunity to demonstrate classroom teaching skills.
- A written examination that covers the content of the class to demonstrate competency in the subject matter.

This class will take 15-20 hours to complete. The written exam should be passed with a 90%, and the participant will be expected to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to be effective as a 4-H YDP Shooting Sports Trainer.

Adult Volunteer

All adult volunteer classes will be taught by a State or National 4-H Instructor or Trainer who is certified in the specific discipline being taught. Instruction will include:

- Discipline specific lesson plans from the 4-H Shooting Sports Guide.
- Range time to demonstrate competency both in using the appropriate firearms or other shooting sports equipment, and in effectively instructing youth in their proper use.
- A written examination that covers the content of the class to demonstrate competency in the subject matter'

This class will take 10-15 hours to complete. The written exam should be passed with an 80%, and the participant will be expected to demonstrate the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to be an effective 4-H YDP Shooting Sports adult volunteer.

Re-Certification

In order to maintain active status as Shooting Sports adult volunteer, individuals must stay actively involved in the Shooting Sports project. Those who have not actively taught within their discipline for more than 2 years will be required to be re-certified through 4-H or other approved training.

Quality Assurance

At the end of each class taught, Instructors and Trainers will forward a 4-H YDP Shooting Sports Training Report to the State 4-H YDP Shooting Sports coordinator. Each of the individuals trained will be asked to fill out a feedback form on their class and these forms will be forwarded to the state coordinator for review. If it becomes apparent that an Instructor or Trainer is not teaching effectively, at the request of the state coordinator they may be required to re-certify in their discipline before they are allowed to continue teaching.

Appendix

1. Training Request and Registration Form – *Separate Document*
2. Application for Certification as a Shooting Sports Adult Volunteer – *Separate Document*
3. Shooting Sports Training Report – *Separate Document*
4. Course Evaluation Form – *Separate Document*
5. Firearms & Ammunition Storage Policy
6. Equipment Maintenance Log – *Separate Document*
7. Equipment Check-out Log – *Separate Document*
8. Code of Ethics

Firearms & Ammunition Storage Policy

California Penal Code (CPC) section 12071 states that if a person under 18 years of age obtains a firearm from any premise that is in your custody or control, and uses it, resulting in injury, or carries it to a public place, you may be guilty of a misdemeanor or a felony unless you stored the firearm in a locked container or locked the firearm with a locking device to keep it from temporarily functioning.

It is the policy of the California 4-H YDP shooting sports program that, when not in use, all firearms owned by 4-H units must be unloaded and stored either in a locked gun safe that meets the standards for gun safes adopted pursuant to section 12088.2 of the California Penal Code, or stored with a properly utilized firearm safety device (FSD) that is on the Department of Justice (DOJ) Roster of Firearm Safety Devices Certified for Sale. (The DOJ maintains a list of approved gun safes and FSD's. A copy of the DOJ regulatory gun safe standards and information on obtaining a list of approved FSD's is attached to this document.)

As defined by the Dangerous Weapons Control Law, section 12001;

a "firearm" means any device from which is expelled through a barrel a projectile by the force of any explosion or other form of combustion.

The term BB gun (or air rifle/pistol) means any instrument that expels a metallic projectile, such as a BB or a pellet, through the force of air pressure, CO2 pressure, or spring action.

In most circumstances, air guns are treated and handled the same as firearms. While the storage of air guns is not regulated like firearms, it is the California 4-H YDP Shooting Sports program policy that firearms and air guns, (rifles, pistols, BB guns), owned by California 4-H shooting sports groups shall be stored in a safe and appropriate manner that makes them inaccessible to unauthorized use. Storage options include standard gun safes, a "long gun safe" (this is a locking container designed to fully contain and secure a long gun but that does not meet the standards for gun safes, (As defined in 12087.6(c) of the CPC)), other locked box capable of the storage of air guns (available from some air gun companies), or in a storage area that is kept locked and is only accessible by authorized individuals.

All firearms and air guns owned by a 4-H unit must be uniquely identifiable or marked as 4-H property and a permanent record of inventory kept. If 4-H shooting sports equipment is stored at an adult volunteer's home, there will be a check out log on file at the county 4-H YDP office to maintain a clear chain of custody. If an adult volunteer stores 4-H guns or other 4-H shooting sports

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equipment at their home, their signature on the equipment check out log is acknowledgement that they possess 4-H property that will and must be returned immediately at such time as they are no longer a shooting sports adult volunteer or the appropriate custodian of the guns. (A sample check out log is attached to this file.)

In any unit that owns air guns or firearms, the shooting sports adult volunteer will be responsible for keeping a maintenance log on each firearm or air gun. This log will document cleanings, inspections, repairs, acquisition and disposition (A copy of this log is attached).

All firearm ammunition will be kept in a locked box or location separate from firearms and inaccessible to unauthorized use. In some communities, there are additional local laws regarding firearms that may apply. It is the responsibility of all shooting sports leaders to be aware of, and abide by, all applicable laws regarding the use of firearms and air guns in their community, the most stringent shall apply. Check with your local law enforcement agency.

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**CODE OF ETHICS
NATIONAL 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS PROGRAM**

A complete 4-H shooting sports program must convey life skills development and be presented in a way that is safe, technically competent, and helps to instill 4-H values in participants through teaching and example. Certified shooting sports instructors and volunteers must be cognizant of their role as a moral and ethical mentor, as well as teacher, to youth and adults in their state and community.

As a 4-H shooting sports instructor or volunteer:

- I will respect the participants, volunteers and property associated with the 4-H shooting sports program.
- I will set a good example as a mentor and role model for 4-H shooting sports youth and volunteer leaders.
- I will conduct myself and my 4-H shooting sports program in a professional and ethical manner.
- I will strive to be knowledgeable of the life skills embodied in the 4-H shooting sports program and aid positively in the development of youth through adherence to those principles.
- I will strive to be technically competent in the subject matter I teach and adhere to the national 4-H shooting sports guidelines and curriculum.
- I will respect the dignity of each participant in the 4-H shooting sports program regardless of gender, origin, ability, achievement or conviction.

Print Name

Signature

Date