



SHOOTING SPORTS PROJECT AREA



The Safety and Education in Shooting Sports project area uses skills and disciplines of shooting to assist young people and their leaders in obtaining knowledge and developing life skills. The disciplines include archery, rifle, shotgun, muzzle loader, and wildlife skills.

Ideas for Project Area Learning

- Identify the parts, uses, and care of archery equipment or rifles.
- Learn and practice range commands.
- Learn and use safety rules such as eye and ear protection and proper behavior on the range.
- Learn wildlife or hunting basics.
- Learn the differences and uses of a variety of equipment.
- Develop shooting skills using different techniques and positions.
- Advance your shooting experiences by trying shotguns or muzzleloaders.
- Learn and use hunter safety rules and hunter ethics.
- Make some archery equipment.
- Learn the art of gun smithing.
- Demonstrate advanced skills by participating in higher level competitions.
- Learn and then teach conservation practices.
- Encourage an understanding of our natural resources and the development of a personal environmental stewardship ethic through participation in shooting-related activities.
- Learn about the different breeds of hunting dogs.
- Learn general outdoor safety and orientation skills related to shooting sports.
- Learn about various targets and help your club make targets for their practices.
- Explore the historical development of a certain type of firearm.

APPLY WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED

Communication

- Listen to and respect range commands.
- Create a poster, news release, or video related to shooting sports.
- Speak about proper handling, shooting, and types of firearms.

Civic Engagement

- Follow range and hunting safety rules and regulations.
- Clean up the shooting range and participate in environmental projects.
- Partner with local groups to promote safety and hunting ethics.

Leadership

- Invite friends to participate in your club.
- Partner with local groups to promote conservation and habitat improvement in your community.
- Plan and organize a shooting match.

Entrepreneurship

- Make targets to sell to people who enjoy shooting sports.
- Provide gun cleaning and craftsmanship services.



Goal Setting and Record Keeping

Goal setting is an ongoing process that guides your project area learning. Having goals is like having a road map to show you how to get you to where you want to go. Record keeping is also an ongoing process and another important life skill. In 4-H, you are encouraged to select from a variety of record keeping formats to meet your own personal needs and your preferred learning style. Keeping records of your learning experiences helps you determine how well you met your goals. Goal setting and record keeping improve your skills in organization, communication, planning, and evaluating.

Iowa 4-H Event Opportunities

- Participate in **county and state fair** exhibit classes.
- Check with your local county 4-H youth development staff to see if there are special events or **workshops in your county** that you want to attend to learn more about your project areas.
- Iowa 4-H members in grades 9–12 can apply for **State Project Area Awards** at State Recognition Day. Applications are open December through January.
- Meet young people from around the state who have completed grades 8–12, and share your interests at the **Iowa 4-H Youth Conference** held at Iowa State University in late June.
- Use your leadership skills to advocate for the Shooting Sports program as a **Shooting Sports Ambassador**. Apply for this opportunity through State Recognition Day.
- Showcase your skills and make new friends by competing at the **4-H Shooting Sports Nationals** in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Share Your Learning With an Exhibit

- Present the proper outfit and accessories for hunting.
- Give a presentation on proper gun handling, shooting skills, wildlife, or archery equipment.
- Make a poster comparing different brands of available equipment.
- Give a demonstration on how to train a dog for hunting.
- Present about the different breeds of hunting dogs.
- Make a poster comparing wildlife habitats and how humans interact with them.
- Write a paper about general outdoors safety and orienteering skills.

CAREER CONNECTIONS

- **Law enforcement officers** prevent, detect and investigate criminal activities and maintain public safety.
- **Summer camp directors** work to manage daily functions of camp life and planning recreational programs including shooting sports disciplines.
- **Forensic ballistics experts** use science related to weapons to help solve crimes.
- **Firearms engineers** improve the design and safety of firearms.
- **Combat arms professionals** in the military study a variety of disciplines to aid in defense.

EDUCATION CONNECTIONS

- **Leisure studies** students study how to develop, deliver, and oversee recreational programming for a diverse public.
- If you enjoy writing, leading, controlling functions, and project planning, you may enjoy **sports management**.
- Study **marketing** if you enjoy discussing firearms and publicly speaking about products.
- If you're interested in preventing or solving crimes, study **criminal justice**.
- Study **forensic science** to learn about the collection and analysis of forensic evidence.

Written Iowa 4-H Youth Development 2013. Revised in 2019 by Bonnie Dalager, 4-H Product Development Specialist, and Payton Sash, 4-H Student Office Assistant, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.