



4-H Shooting Sports Education Project Meetings

The 4-H Shooting Sports Education project is successful only because of all the dedicated, certified volunteer leaders. Volunteer leaders work hard to achieve the shooting sports program goals and maintaining the highest standards of safety. Please make every effort to work through scheduling conflicts that some youth will have, to be as inclusive as possible. We know that this can be difficult for volunteer leaders who give so much time to the program and try hard to schedule meetings at a time that works best for all. Remember, however, that difficult as it is for you to schedule time it may be even more difficult for the 4-H youth because they must coordinate their schedule with both the meeting time and their parent's schedule.

Meetings

Volunteer leaders or Extension Educators may not require youth to attend 4-H club meetings. There is one exception to this policy: if the county extension educator and county shooting sports education instructors feel it is necessary, one safety meeting may be required of 4-H youth enrolled in shooting sports as long as an agenda for this meeting is on file in the county extension office. The addenda must outline what will be taught in the required meeting. The required safety meeting can be held at the shooting range or at a separate meeting before range shooting begins. Review of safety guidelines is required at all range meetings. (See the 4-H Shooting Sports Education Policy Statement).

Hunter Education (IDNR program)

Many 4-H shooting sports instructor teams choose to offer the IDNR Hunter Education (HE) course to 4-H members. This course gives an overview of firearms and hunting and includes a lot of safety information. Note, however, that while the course may be recommended, it may not be required.

Successful completion of the IDNR HE course may be used in lieu of a required safety meeting. For example, volunteer leaders could offer the HE course and state that anyone successfully completing the HE course will not be required to attend a safety meeting before shooting on the range. Note, however, that you will need to offer the option of a safety meeting for those youth choosing not to attend the HE course.