



North Carolina 4-H Shooting Sports

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NORTH CAROLINA 4-H TARGET SPORTS NEWSLETTER

This is the first edition of the North Carolina 4-H Shooting Sports Newsletter. The purpose is to inform counties about what is happening in 4-H shooting sports around the state.

National News

National Training Workshop

The national 4-H Shooting Sports Workshop for 2003 will be held in New Mexico at the Whittington Center near Raton. The dates for the workshop are May 16-21, 2003. This is a regional workshop designed to enhance the shooting sports programs within the states. These workshops are first open to states within the region and are usually open to other states if there is room. Openings for states outside the region will be announced after March 15 this year. The coordinator for this year's workshop is Frank Hodnett. You can contact Frank at 505-646-5472 or via email at fhodnett@nmsu.edu.

National Wild Turkey Federation Grant Reports

(from National SS Newsletter)

Each year states must submit reports on how they spent grant money for the previous year. N.C. spent most of its money from last year on registration fees for the national workshop, for Fur, Fish, and Game Camp, the Shooting Sports Minicamp, and the fall training workshop. Much of the remaining grant money will be used for the spring shooting

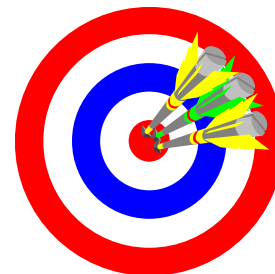
sports workshop. Here are some of the ways NWTf grant monies were spent in other states.

In **Nebraska** they used their funds to purchase equipment and awards for their state tournament. A scholarship to their state instructor training was also provided.

Tennessee used part of their money to sponsor Target S.M.A.R.T., a camp where kids learn about shotgun, muzzleloader, archery, and rifle. Sixty-two 4-H campers attended this event. They also used funds to provide archery and rifle training to school students at their four 4-H Centers, which involved nearly 8,000 youth.

Up in **Vermont**, they used funds to purchase archery equipment that is used to train instructors and is loaned to county programs for their shooting clubs

In the buckeye state of **Ohio**, they used the funds to provide scholarships to their youth shooting education camp, and to train volunteers to be instructors.



What is 4-H Shooting Sports?

(from the Coordinator's Handbook, by Ron Howard)

The shooting sports program is an active program, attractive to youth and adult audiences. The curriculum is designed to assist young people in personal development, establish a personal environmental ethic and explore life-long vocational and avocational activities. The program uses experiential learning and positive interactions with youth and adult role models to help young people develop self-concept, self-assurance and a positive self-image.

The content provides a framework of knowledge and skills for lifetime participation in recreation, hobbies, and careers related to shooting sports and wildlife. Core concepts stress safety, ethical development, personal responsibility, and lifetime recreational skills.

The content of the program continues to grow, and its scope is limited only by the availability of leaders and the imaginations of participants. The programs are flexible and adaptable to nearly any local audience – rural or urban. Equipment and facilities are also flexible, and numerous funding alternatives are available. The major disciplines of the 4-H Shooting Sports Program include archery, hunting, muzzleloading, pistol, rifle, reloading, and shotgun. A foundation of basic programs leads into more advanced activities.

Shooting sports involve too much for a single leader to deliver successfully. It is designed to be delivered by a committee or team of volunteers with agent advice, consent, and support. It emphasizes the value of a dynamic group of volunteers, each with limited responsibility to present a program that is better than any one of them could present alone. Identifying, recruiting, selecting, and equipping leadership teams is one of the most significant keys to success. State and regional workshops equip leaders to deliver and promote the program.

The Goals and Objectives of the North Carolina 4-H Shooting Sports Program are:

(From NC State Plan)

- To encourage participation in natural resources and related natural science programs by exposing participants to the content through target shooting, hunting and related activities.
- To enhance development of self-concept, character and personal growth through safe, educational and socially acceptable involvement in target shooting programs.
- To teach safe and responsible use of firearms and archery equipment including sound decision making and self-discipline.
- To promote the highest standards of safety, sportsmanship and ethical behavior.
- To expose participants to the broad array of vocational and life-long avocational activities related to target sports.
- To strengthen families through participation in life-long recreational activities.
- To complement and enhance the impact of existing safety, target sports and hunter education programs using experiential education methods and progressive development of skills and abilities.

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The 4-H Shooting Sports Program in North Carolina

History

We began looking at North Carolina's participation in the National 4-H Shooting Sports Program in the fall of 2001. At that time some shooting sports activities were being conducted in a few counties and at the state 4-H Education Centers. There was one nationally certified instructor who was actively involved with any type of shooting sports within the state. There were also several individuals who were interested in a 4-H shooting sports program.

Luckily as we began looking at what the program could offer 4-H in our state, information on the national workshop reached our office, and as luck would have it, the regional training was being held in South Carolina. We decided to take a team of 15 interested adults to the training to work toward their national certification in 4-H Shooting Sports. In May of 2002, 15 of us gathered in Aiken, SC for a week of training at Camp Long. The lodging at the camp was great and the meals were chicken.

All 15 of the participants completed their certifications and returned home enthusiastic about a program that was "for the kids". In the summer of 2002 those same people met at Millstone 4-H Center as the North Carolina Shooting Sports Committee.

They helped develop the beginnings of a state plan and decided to hold a statewide shooting sports workshop in the fall of the year.

In September 2002 the first state shooting sports workshop was held with 25 participants. Training in shotgun, archery, rifle, and pistol was provided by the state shooting sports team that had met in Aiken earlier in the year. Another enthusiastic group of instructors was graduated "for the kids".

So What's Happening Now?

Soon after the fall workshop, one of the instructors who had attended the Regional 4-H Shooting Sports Workshop, Jerry Taylor, asked what he needed to do to get a 4-H club started in his area. Jerry, along with one of the instructors trained at the state workshop, contacted the 4-H agent in Richmond County, filled out the necessary paperwork and with the agents help began recruiting youth and adults to participate in a shotgun club. The club began meeting in November of last year and now has 16 active members. But there is more: as soon as the club was formed the parents of the participants began asking how they could help. Parents were trained to help with the program and have volunteered food, time, and money to support the club activities. But wait there's more.

Cabarrus County has made great strides in developing a 4-H shooting sports program for their youth. Recently members of the shooting sports club attended at County Council meeting to share their thoughts and experiences in shooting sports. Even more recently a meeting was held in the county to provide adults with information on shooting sports volunteer/assistant training. The folks in Cabarrus have plans for an adult volunteer training and the first official meeting of the shooting sports club in February.

One of the things that has helped the Cabarrus County program along is the tenacity of our own April Boggs. Last year April applied for a grant from the Friends of NRA on behalf of her club. April recently announced in their newsletter that the club will be awarded \$1500 from the grant. They already have plans for some of the money. April says that one of their first purchases with the grant money will be Daisy competition level air pellet pistols similar to the ones we have used in our workshop.

Mike Davis, one of our nationally trained instructors, has also been working with a new 4-H shooting sports club in Stokes County. The club has about 15 members working in the pistol discipline. They have been active in several projects over the past year including conservation, community cleanup, and the 4-H plant sale in Forsyth County. The club has also been able to raise \$600. They have used some of this money to purchase equipment including ear protection for the club. They have participated in the all Jakes event held in Stewart, VA. And two of

the club members have achieved the pro marksman award and two more the marksman award with the NRA pistol program.

Let me tell you about one other success that the NC Shooting Sports program has produced. In mid January a group of Boy Scouts from Raleigh came to Millstone to work on their shooting sports merit badges. We provided instruction in archery, shotgun, and rifle with instructors trained in Aiken and at our fall workshop. We have heard from the scout leaders who attended the classes and they are beside themselves with praise for our instructors and the program. It was amazing to me to see our own instructors in action. It speaks well of our instructor trainers and the overall curriculum. Thanks to everyone for a job well done.

Upcoming Events

The North Carolina Shooting Sports Committee is planing a spring workshop to train adult volunteers to work with youth in shooting sports. The spring workshop will include the disciplines of black powder, hunting, reloading, archery, and rifle. We will be using an application process similar to that used in the fall workshop to choose participants. The workshop will be held at **Millstone 4-H Center, near Ellerbe, NC on April 4-6, 2003**. I will be sending a copy of the application to the county Extension offices or you may request them directly from me at 910-652-5905.



“It’s about the kids”

North Carolina 4-H Target Shooting Sports Committee:

William Dias

Jerry Taylor

Kinchen Taylor

William Basden

Stacy McCaskill

April Boggs

Joe Freeman

Melvin Wright

Charles Young

Ken Burgess

Gene Shutt

Jack Franklin

Ben Shutt

Mike Davis

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