Advice from a 4-H’er

From: Ethan, Age 17 (2015)

I have learned from and enjoyed 4-H so much, but I have especially enjoyed the Shooting Sports project. In Shooting Sports you can shoot Air Rifle, Air Pistol, BB gun, Archery, Hunting Skills, Shotgun, .22 Rifle, .22 Pistol, and Muzzleloading. I’ve competed at regional qualifiers, state matches, and even national shoots. I have made many new friends through Shooting Sports, both in and out of the county.

Through Shooting Sports I have learned self-discipline, self-confidence, and independence. I have learned to listen to the teachings and experiences of others, but I have also learned to trust my own instincts and make my own decisions for myself.

My advice to another 4-H’er beginning Shooting Sports is the same for anyone starting 4-H. Just jump headfirst into it and enjoy the experience. Don’t be afraid to try new things and always listen to the advice of others. Don’t be afraid to fail because it is just a stepping stone towards better things. Have fun and don’t be afraid the blaze your own trail and to make the most of your experience and the short time that you have in 4-H.

Ethan with his archery bow.

Project levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age 7-9</th>
<th>Age 10-13</th>
<th>Age 14 +</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✦ Identify parts, uses and care of archery equipment and rifles.</td>
<td>✦ Learn the differences and uses of a variety of equipment, such as types of archery equipment and rifle components.</td>
<td>✦ Make archery equipment.</td>
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<td>✦ Learn and practice range commands.</td>
<td>✦ Develop shooting skills using different techniques and positions.</td>
<td>✦ Do gunsmithing.</td>
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<td>✦ Learn and use safety rules and correct behavior on the range.</td>
<td>✦ Learn and use hunter safety rules and hunter ethics.</td>
<td>✦ Demonstrate advanced skills by participating in higher level competitions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>✦ Learn wildlife or hunting basics.</td>
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<td>✦ Do and teach about conservation practices.</td>
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The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.
Resources:

Visit http://www.johnson.k-state.edu/4-h/project-club-resources/projects.html to also find the following links.

Kansas 4-H Shooting Sports Website:

Other helpful Shooting Sports websites around the country:
- http://youth.nra.org/
- http://www.4-hshootingsports.org/
- http://www.youthshootingsa.com/
- http://www.odcmp.org/0614/default.asp

Exploring Opportunities

- Speak about proper handling, shooting, and types of firearms; and wildlife & hunting skills.
- 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 hunter ethics.
- Take leadership and partner with local groups to promote conservation and habitat improvement in your area.
- Plan and organize a shooting match.

Exhibit Ideas

- Present the proper outfit and accessories for hunting, shooting, etc.
- Give a presentation on proper gun handling, shooting skills, wildlife, hunting, types of firearms or archery equipment.
- Make a poster comparing different brands of available equipment.
- Make a poster comparing wildlife habitats and how humans interact with them on a daily basis.

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