



LA FORTÉ COUNTY SHOOTING SPORTS
Teaching Safety, Responsibility and Discipline



11/28/2023

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General 4-H Info

4-H Motto

"To make the best better."

4-H Creed

I believe in 4-H Club work for the opportunity it will give me to become a useful citizen.

I believe in the training of my HEAD for the power it will give me to think, plan and to reason.

I believe in the training of my HEART for the nobleness it will give me to be kind, sympathetic and true.

I believe in the training of my HANDS for the ability it will give me to be helpful, skillful, and useful.

I believe in the training of my HEALTH for the strength it will give me to enjoy life, to resist disease, and to work efficiently.

I believe in my country, my state, and my community and in my responsibility for their development. In all these things

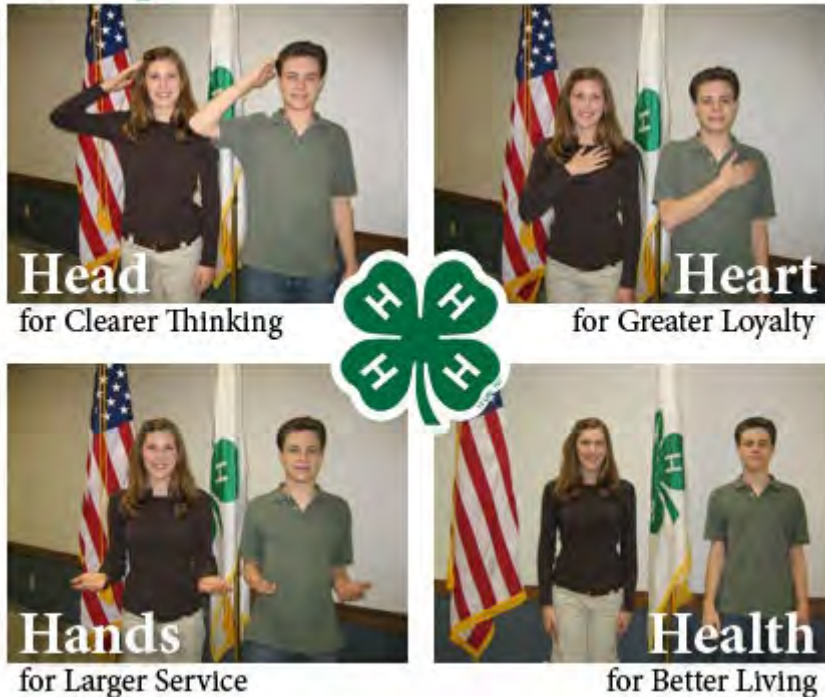
I believe, and am willing to dedicate my efforts to their fulfillment.

4-H Song

Over hill, over dale, we will find the 4-H Trail
 As we club folks keep swinging along.
 Let it rain, let it shine, we will keep a steady line,
 As we club folks keep swinging along.
 With a Hi, Hi, Hee, It's the the 4-H Trail for me,
 Shout out your numbers loud and strong, 4-H!
 Where'er we go, you will always know
 That we club folks keep swinging along
 As we club folks keep swinging along.

4-H Pledge

I pledge:



...for my Club, my Community, my Country and my World.

I pledge my head to clearer thinking,

My heart to greater loyalty,

My hands to larger service, and

My health to better living,

For my club, my community, my country and my world.

4-H Colors

The 4-H colors are green and white.

Green is nature's most common color and represents youth, life and growth. White symbolizes purity and high ideals

Outdoor Sports Mission Statement

The focus of all 4-H programs is the development of youth as individuals and as responsible and productive citizens. The Laporte County 4-H Outdoor Sports Program was founded to accomplish these goals, while engaging youth in outdoor activities. The activities of the program and the support of caring adult leaders provide young people with opportunities to develop life skills, self-worth, and conservation ethics.

Nondiscrimination Statement

It is the policy of Laporte County 4-H Outdoor Sports that all persons have equal opportunity and access to its programs, services, activities, and facilities without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran.

Harassment

The Laporte County Outdoor Sports Program prohibits all harassment based on real or perceived race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran. Participants, Instructors, Leaders, Volunteers, Parents, Guardians, or anyone associated with the Program will always treat each other and other members of the community with respect. Harassment of any type will not be tolerated.

Channels of Communication

The program uses several means of communication:

Online Bulk Communication Methods		
Method	Address	Notes
Facebook (Closed Group)	https://www.facebook.com/groups/LP4HOutdoorSports/	Limited to 4-H members, Parents/Guardians, 4-H Leaders, and 4-H Extension Staff
Facebook (Public Page)	https://www.facebook.com/LP4HOutdoorSports	
Website	http://www.LP4HShootingSports.org	The web page contains program information, and commonly needed forms and other documentation
Pinterest	https://www.pinterest.com/LP4HOS/	Interesting projects related to Outdoor Sports and other 4-H programs are located here. Inclusion in the boards does not mean that the information is appropriate to be used as a project.

Targeted Communication Methods	
Method	Notes
Email (From Outdoor Sports)	All Outdoor Sports Program Participants that supply an email will be added to the Shooting Sports email newsletter. Email will also be used for most general communication.
Email (From Extension Office)	All 4-H Program Participants will be added to email newsletters from the Extension Office. Email will also be used for most general communication.
Text Message	The Outdoor Sports Program utilizes a text message alert system to inform Participants and their families of Important last-minute cancellations or other important information. To add a number to the alert list, text the code "EZPEX99979" to 313131.
Mail from Extension Office	After enrollment, the Extension Office will mail important information to the address used in the sign-up information.

Social Media Usage

Participants, Parents and Guardians of participants will be added to the private Facebook group on request. If your name does not match the last name of your 4-H participant, please send a message to one of the group's administrators (Program Coordinator or Division Superintendent) to clarify the relationship.

"Tagging" – "tagging" is adding the name of the person in a picture or that attended an event to a picture. To protect the privacy of our participants - pictures shared in the private group are not to be shared outside of the group, or have anyone under the age of 18 tagged, unless the participant requests to be tagged. Parents, Guardians, Instructors, Leaders, 4-H Staff, and Volunteers may be tagged.

Pictures taken at public events (fundraisers, Fair, Community Service events, etc.) and posted on the Public Facebook Page may be shared but need to refer to the tagging guidelines above.

The private Facebook group, public Facebook page, Twitter Feed, and Pinterest Feed are monitored by 4-H Staff and Volunteers and will be edited accordingly.

Fairs & Projects

Project Completion

To "complete" a project, the participant is only required to turn in a Record Sheet.

Local Fair Exhibiting & Judging

Participants have the opportunity to exhibit projects that they have worked on during the season at the County Fair. Volunteers assisting the Judging consist of Instructors, Leaders, Parents/Guardians, Jr. Leaders, and Program Participants.

Project Check-in

The Project Check-in Day will appear on the schedule as soon as it is confirmed every year. Projects may be turned in early to the Extension Office or the Program Coordinator to be checked-in in the participant's absence if they are unable to attend the Check-in Day. Projects turned in after the allotted times will receive a "participation" ribbon

Judging

Prior to judging, all volunteers and judges will be instructed on the processes to be used that day. Judges will be provided with the Project Requirements, in addition to "Judges' Instructions" to ensure that projects are uniformly evaluated. Participants are encouraged to wait to present their exhibits to the judge, and remain while the exhibit is evaluated, and answer questions posed by the judges.

If the Judge is evaluating the exhibit of a Volunteer's Child, Sibling, or other person directly related to the Volunteer, the Volunteer is required to politely excuse themselves for the duration of the evaluation.

After the judging, Volunteers will affix the proper "ribbon" (Blue for "A", Red for "B", and White for "C") and sort the projects as appropriate.

Selection of Honors and Champions

During the Judging, the Judge(s) will select several "A" projects to receive an "Honor" designation for completing the project requirements and exceeding expectations. Champions are typically, but not required to be, chosen from the "Honor" exhibits for a group.

Champions – Shooting Sports

The Following Champions may be selected:

1. Shooting Sports Grand Champion
2. Shooting Sports Reserve Grand Champion
3. Archery Division
 - a. Archery Grand Champion
 - b. Archery Reserve Grand Champion
 - c. Beginner Division Champion
 - d. Beginner Division Reserve Champion
 - e. Intermediate Division Champion
 - f. Intermediate Division Reserve Champion
 - g. Advanced Division Champion
 - h. Advanced Division Reserve Champion
4. Outdoor Pursuits Division
 - a. Outdoor Pursuits Grand Champion
 - b. Outdoor Pursuits Reserve Grand Champion
 - c. Beginner Division Champion
 - d. Beginner Division Reserve Champion
 - e. Intermediate Division Champion
 - f. Intermediate Division Reserve Champion
 - g. Advanced Division Champion
 - h. Advanced Division Reserve Champion
5. Pistol Division
 - a. Pistol Grand Champion
 - b. Pistol Reserve Grand Champion
 - c. Intermediate Division Champion
 - d. Intermediate Division Reserve Champion
 - e. Advanced Division Champion
 - f. Advanced Division Reserve Champion
6. Rifle Division
 - a. Rifle Grand Champion
 - b. Rifle Reserve Grand Champion
 - c. Beginner Division Champion
 - d. Beginner Division Reserve Champion
 - e. Intermediate Division Champion
 - f. Intermediate Division Reserve Champion
 - g. Advanced Division Champion
 - h. Advanced Division Reserve Champion
7. Shotgun Division
 - a. Shotgun Grand Champion
 - b. Shotgun Reserve Grand Champion
 - c. Beginner Division Champion
 - d. Beginner Division Reserve Champion
 - e. Intermediate Division Champion
 - f. Intermediate Division Reserve Champion
 - g. Advanced Division Champion
 - h. Advanced Division Reserve Champion

After the selection of all the Champions, The Grand Champion will be selected from all the Champions. After the selection of Grand Champion, the Reserve Grand Champion will be selected from the remaining Division Champions, and the Division Reserve Champion for the Division that the Grand Champion was selected from. (Example – if the Shotgun Beginner Division Champion is selected as the Grand Champion, the Shotgun Beginner Division Reserve Champion would be eligible for Reserve Grand Champion)

Champions –Sportsfishing

The Following Champions may be selected:

1. Grand Champion
2. Reserve Grand Champion
3. Beginner Division Champion
4. Beginner Division Reserve Champion
5. Intermediate Division Champion
6. Intermediate Division Reserve Champion
7. Advanced Division Champion
8. Advanced Division Reserve Champion

After the selection of all the Champions, The Grand Champion will be selected from all the Champions. After the selection of Grand Champion, the Reserve Grand Champion will be selected from the remaining Division Champions, and the Division Reserve Champion for the Division that the Grand Champion was selected from.

Selection of State Fair Entries

Three projects can be selected from the Shooting Sports exhibits judged, and three projects selected from the Sportsfishing exhibits judged. They will be selected for the following categories:

1. (1) Beginner Division (Grades 3 through 5)
2. (1) Intermediate Division (Grades 6 through 8)
3. (1) Advanced Division (Grades 9 through 12)

State Fair Projects will typically be selected in the following priority:

1. Grand Champion
2. Reserve Grand Champion
3. Division Champion
4. Division Reserve Champion
5. Division Exhibit w/ "A" & Honor
6. Division Exhibit w/ "A"

Exhibits may be ineligible for State Fair Entry if they do not meet the State Fair Exhibit requirements located at <State Fair Exhibit Requirements>

Judging Errors or Mistakes

In the event of a mistake in judging, duplicate State Fair Entries, or other Judging inconsistencies, Laporte County 4-H Extension Staff and Laporte County Shooting Sports Leaders will review scorecards and judges notes to determine proper placement and/or awards. If a clear determination cannot be made, a substitute judge will be appointed to correct the error. Note that the Judges are also Volunteers that travel great distances to judge our exhibits.

Please keep in mind that Volunteers are Human, and mistakes do happen. The Program's Participants are our top priority, and we will do our best to serve their interests.

Any perceived errors in placement, project requirement interpretation, or other issues with judge(s) decisions must be addressed the day that judging takes place. If there is an issue, pull the Project Coordinator or an Extension educator aside, and address the issue immediately. Complaints or grievances filed after the judge(s) considerations have completed and left the project check-in will not affect the assigned placings and awards.

Display at the Fair

Exhibits will be displayed at the Fair with attached ribbons and scorecards. Please leave ribbons and scorecards with the exhibits for the duration of the Fair. If you look at another Participant's scorecard, please return it to the envelope on the corner of the poster. Notebooks may also be reviewed with

care, please return them to the proper location when you are done. Please do not move or open any of the items that may be exhibited.

Project Pick-up

Exhibits may be picked up the Sunday following the Fair. Please pick up projects on this day to minimize the projects that the Extension Office is required to move to their offices. Any projects not picked up will be stored for a short time (usually until December), after which they may be discarded or used as resources for the Program.

State Fair Projects

Projects selected for State Fair Entry will be transported to the State Fair by the Extension Office, and then brought back at the conclusion of the Fair. Participants that have their exhibit for State Fair entry will receive a pass to the State Fair so that they can see their exhibit at that Fair.

Contact Information

General questions or comments can be directed to our Program Coordinator, Jeremy Smith, at (219) 878-7777 or Jeremy@LP4HOutdoors.org or the Laporte County Extension Office at (219) 324-9407

Program Enrollment Process

It is very important that everyone enroll in the program correctly. This information is also available at <http://www.LP4HOutdoors.org>.

Laporte County 4-H Program Sign-up

Before enrolling in Shooting Sports, all participants must sign-up with the Laporte County 4-H Program.

Go to <http://in.4honline.org>, and create an account if you do not have one. The participant and family information will be reused in subsequent years, so make sure to record the login and password. Select the projects that the 4-H'er wishes to participate in, making sure that when you pick the club for any of the shooting divisions that you select "Shooting Sports" for the club. If you do not, it could delay the verification processes or project enrollment at the Fair.

If you are not a member of a township club, you can take any project offered by the Laporte County 4-H Program through the Shooting Sports club and participate in the General Project Club.

After completing the process, and paying the \$15 State Program fee, print out the confirmation page and turn a copy in with the Information Sheet (Step 2). If you do not have access to a printer, you can also email a copy to enrollment@LP4hShootingSports.org.

Laporte County 4-H Outdoor Sports Sign-up

After enrolling in 4-H, Complete the enrollment in the Laporte County 4-H Shooting Sports by completing the Shooting Sports Registration, the Participant Behavioral Expectations, and the Parent/Guardian Expectations form located at <http://www.LP4HOutdoors.org>.

Program Fees

As of 2023, here are the fees to participate each of the Outdoor Sports Program:

Description	Cost per participant	Notes
State Program Fee	\$15	Payable to the State Program or the Extension office. Maximum of \$45 per family
Archery	\$10	
Outdoor Pursuits	\$10	There may be additional fees for other programs and activities.
Pistol	\$20	The Pistol Program is available to Participants in 7 th Grade and older

Rifle	\$10	Base fee for all Rifle Participants
Rifle – Advanced	\$20 (Total of \$40)	If the Participant qualified for Advanced Rifle in 2015, pay this fee at sign-up or pay the fee upon qualifying in 2016. This fee is addition to the base fee.
Shotgun	\$40	Base fee for all Shotgun Participants
Shotgun - Advanced	\$40 (Total of \$80)	If the Participant qualified for Advanced Shotgun in 2015, pay this fee at sign-up or pay the fee upon qualifying in 2016. This fee is addition to the base fee.
Hunter Education	Free	
Sportsfishing	\$10	
Fundraiser Donation	\$60	If family elects not to sell fundraising tickets, we ask that they donate to help support the operating expenses of the club

To help keep the program fees low, the Program conducts various fund-raising events throughout the year. To help offset the costs, the Program asks that each family sells a minimum of tickets to our fall Steak Fry and fall Breakfast. In lieu of selling tickets, families can donate to help with the operational costs of the Program.

Participant Identification Cards

Upon completion of the registration process, the Program will issue identification cards to the participants. Participants are required to present the cards at each shooting activity to gain access to the range. Identification cards will be provided with a plastic holder and clip, which can be replaced if lost for \$2.00. Lanyards will also be available for purchase at meetings and other Shooting Sports events.

Meetings

Meeting Attendance

The Laporte County 4-H Outdoor Sports does not require attendance at any meetings.

For Shooting Sessions, participants must be present for the first 30 minutes of the Shooting Session to receive safety instructions relevant to that Session. Instructors may make provisions with prior notice but are not required to do so. Participants can leave sessions early if required.

Calendar

The full Shooting Sports Calendar can be accessed online at <https://www.lp4houtdoors.org/calendar>, or individual calendars are also maintained at:

General Events: <https://go.lp4houtdoors.org/GeneralEvents>

Fundraising: <https://go.lp4houtdoors.org/FundraisingCalendar>

Archery: <https://go.lp4houtdoors.org/ArcheryCalendar>

Rifle: <https://go.lp4houtdoors.org/RifleCalendar>

Pistol: <https://go.lp4houtdoors.org/PistolCalendar>

Shotgun: <https://go.lp4houtdoors.org/ShotgunCalendar>

Outdoor Pursuits: <https://go.lp4houtdoors.org/OPCalendar>

Sportsfishing: <https://go.lp4houtdoors.org/SportsfishingCalendar>

Meeting Cancellations

The Program spends a great deal of time generating a schedule, but due to outside circumstances we sometimes must cancel meetings or other events. In the event of a cancellation, the Program will attempt to reschedule the event. Meetings are typically cancelled for the following reasons:

1. Weather – If the weather presents conditions that present a danger to our participants or families, we will, without hesitation, cancel a meeting or event. Due to the wide range of weather conditions possible across Laporte County, many times a meeting or event may not be canceled, but conditions are hazardous in your area. Please use your personal judgement to keep your family safe. Cancellations due to weather will occur under the following conditions:
 - a. Laporte Community School Events Canceled – If the day’s events are cancelled by the Laporte Community School Corporation, all Shooting Sports activities (an all other Laporte County 4-H activities) on that day will also be cancelled.
 - b. Indiana Department of Homeland Security Travel Advisory Status – If the Travel Status for Laporte County is upgraded to “Watch” or “Warning” (accessible at <http://www.in.gov/dhs/traveladvisory/>), all Shooting Sports Activities for that day will be canceled.
 - c. Local Reports – Our Instructors, Leaders, and other volunteers live across Laporte County, and if there are weather concerns, meetings may be cancelled.
2. Facility Schedule Conflict – Many of the facilities that we use are used with the express understanding that the Laporte County 4-H Shooting Sports can use that facility free of charge but may need to reschedule if the facility needs to use the facility for revenue-producing activities.
3. Lack of Interest – If a program is being organized that requires a sign-up in advance may be canceled if there is little or no interest. In the event of cancellation, the Program will contact those that have already signed up to inform them of the cancellation.

In the event of a cancellation, the announcement will be made via the following channels:

1. Facebook – Messages will be posted on both the public page (accessible without an account) and the private Group Page
2. Twitter – Message will be posted after Facebook Messages
3. Email – Message will be sent to all email addresses on our mailing list <sign-up info here>
4. Text Message – Message will be sent to all numbers on our registered phone list <sign-up info here>
5. Mail – If time allows, notices will be mailed from the Extension Office.

Meeting Rules

1. All participants must sign-in to all meetings
2. If the participant is being dropped off, contact information must be left on the sign-in sheet.
3. If the participant is being dropped off, they cannot be accompanied by any friends, siblings, or other youth not enrolled in Shooting Sports.
4. All participants must be enrolled in the division or activity that they are attending, and all fees must be paid before participation.
5. All participants must be dressed appropriately for the activities of the day.

Range Safety Rules

Pistol, Rifle, and Shotgun

The three main safety rules are:

1. **ALWAYS keep firearms pointed in the safest direction.** This is the primary rule of gun safety. A safe direction means that the gun is pointed so that even if it were to go off it would

not cause injury or damage. The key to this rule is to control where the muzzle or front end of the barrel is always pointed. Common sense dictates the safest direction.

- 2. ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.** When holding a gun, rest your finger on the trigger guard or along the side of the gun. Until you are actually ready to fire, do not touch the trigger action, depending on different circumstances.
- 3. ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.** Whenever you pick up a gun, immediately engage the safety device if possible, and, if the gun has a magazine, remove it before opening the action and looking into the chamber(s) which should be clear of ammunition. If you do not know how to open the action or inspect the chamber(s), leave the gun alone and get help from someone who does.

Additional Safety Rules to Observe:

- 1. Know your target and what is beyond.** Be absolutely sure you have identified your target beyond any doubt. Equally important, be aware of the area beyond your target. This means observing your prospective area of fire before you shoot. Never fire in a direction in which there are people or any other potential for mishap. Think first. Shoot second. Know how to use the gun safely.
- 2. Know how use your firearm safety.** Know its basic parts, how to safely open and close the action and remove any ammunition from the gun or magazine. Remember, a gun's mechanical safety device is never foolproof. Nothing can ever replace safe gun handling. Be sure the gun is safe to operate.
- 3. to remain operable.** Regular cleaning and proper storage are a part of the gun's general upkeep. If there is any question concerning a gun's ability to function, a knowledgeable gunsmith should look at it. Use only the correct ammunition for your gun. Regular cleaning is important in order for your gun to operate correctly and safely. Taking proper care of it will also maintain its value and extend its life. Your gun should be cleaned every time that it is used. A gun brought out of prolonged storage should also be cleaned before shooting. Accumulated moisture and dirt, or solidified grease and oil, can prevent the gun from operating properly. Before cleaning your gun, make absolutely sure that it is unloaded. The gun's action should be open during the cleaning process. When cleaning firearms, ensure that no ammunition is present in the cleaning area.
- 4. Use only the correct ammunition for your firearm.** Only BBs, pellets, cartridges or shells designed for a particular gun can be fired safely in that gun. Most guns have the ammunition type stamped on the barrel. Ammunition can be identified by information printed on the box and sometimes stamped on the cartridge. Do not shoot the gun unless you know you have the proper ammunition.
- 5. Wear eye and hearing protection as appropriate.** Guns are loud and the noise can cause hearing damage. They can also emit debris and hot gas that could cause eye injury. For these reasons, shooting glasses and hearing protectors should be worn by shooters and spectators.
- 6. Never use alcohol or over-the-counter, prescription or other drugs before or while shooting.** Alcohol, as well as any other substance likely to impair normal mental or physical bodily functions, must not be used before or while handling or shooting guns.
- 7. Unattended firearms should not be accessible to unauthorized persons.** Many factors must be considered when deciding where and how to store guns. A person's particular situation will be a major part of the consideration. Dozens of gun storage devices, as well as locking devices that attach directly to the gun, are available. However, mechanical locking devices, like the mechanical safeties built into guns, can fail and should not be used as a substitute for safe gun handling and the observance of all gun safety rules. Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions.

Archery Range Safety Rules

1. **Always know your target and know what is beyond.**
2. **Never Dry Fire a Bow!**
3. **Never nock an arrow unless you are on the firing line and have been given the command to Fire by an Instructor!**
4. **Make sure that the bow and arrow points downrange at all times!**
5. **Never run on the range.**
6. **When pulling an arrow out of the target face, use two hands and make sure that there is no one standing behind you.**
7. **Make sure that you are using the proper equipment.**
8. **Wear protective gear as appropriate.**
9. **Never use alcohol or over-the-counter, prescription or other drugs before or while shooting.** Alcohol, as well as any other substance likely to impair normal mental or physical bodily functions, must not be used before or while handling or shooting guns

Range Commands

Pistol, Rifle, and Shotgun Range Commands

- "Get Your Firearm"
- "Take Your Position"
- "Load and Make Ready"
- "Fire" or "Fire when Ready"
- "Unload and Make Safe"
- "Your Firearm"
- "Cease Fire" - verbal command or whistle blasts
- "STOP"

Archery Range Commands

- "Get Bows" – 2 whistle blasts
- "Shooters to the Line!"
- "Fire when Ready!" – 1 whistle blast
- "Retrieve" – 3 whistle blasts
- "Cease Fire!" – 5 whistle blasts

Instructional Style

All 4-H programs utilize a "Learn by Doing" philosophy. Instructors are 4-H volunteers that have attended a certification workshop to learn the curriculum that we are required to teach. Most instruction will occur while actively shooting during shooting sessions.

Outdoor Sports Projects

Shooting Sports Project – Archery Division

Description

Participants in this Project will learn to safely shoot recurve and compound bows. The club will provide basic shooting equipment and safety equipment. Members may provide their own bow and arrows. Crossbows are not permitted currently. The program begins in January.

Possible Fair exhibits include topics on the basics of archery, making bowstrings, fletching arrows, making quivers, archery shooting forms, bow tuning, arrow flight physics, and many other aspects of archery. For a full list of projects, visit the Laporte County 4-H Shooting Sports Website (<http://www.LP4HOutdoors.org/Projects>), or obtain a printed copy from a leader or at a meeting.

Meeting Locations

Meeting Locations will be listed on the Program Calendar, located at <https://www.lp4houtdoors.org/calendar>.

Manuals

There is an electronic version of the Archery Manual at <https://www.lp4houtdoors.org/manuals>.

Equipment Recommendations

Bows

The Archery program has a large selection of bows, both owned by the Program and bows that our Superintendent, Gary Alexander owns and brings for our participants to use. To list them all here would take many pages. Here are the two bows that we recommend to new shooters:



Genesis Bow (on left) (<http://www.genesisbow.com/>)

The Genesis compound bow is unique in that the draw weight is the same throughout the entire draw length, which is 15" to 30". This enables the bow to "grow" with the participant without needing constant adjustments. The draw weight is adjustable from 10 to 20#, and the bow is available in right and left hand versions. A Genesis Pro is available that has an increased 15 to 25# draw weight. For shooters of smaller stature, they make a Genesis Mini that has a 14" to 25" draw length with a 6-12 pound adjustable draw weight. These bows are available at One Stop Archery in Portage, or Bass Pro or Cabela's.



Samick Polaris

This is a traditional recurve bow, available in a variety of configurations and sizes to fit the shooter. Risers are available to make 48", 54", 62", and 66" bows, and the limbs are available in draw weights from 10 to 40 pounds. These bows are available at One Stop Archery in Portage.

Arrows

Easton XX75 Genesis Arrow's, 30" long. These are the arrows used in the NASP program.

Where to Purchase

Our closest locally owned Archery Shop is One Source Outfitters in Portage, Indiana. Make sure to tell them that you are with the Laporte County 4-H Shooting Sports, and they will typically give you a better deal. These bows can also be purchased from Bass Pro in Portage, Indiana, or Cabela's in Hammond, Indiana.

Shooting Sports Project - Outdoor Pursuits Division

Description

The project will cover a variety of outdoor activities and is open to all grade levels. Some of the subjects that we will cover are Outdoor Emergency Preparedness & First Aid, Backyard Habitats, Navigation, Fire making & Campfire cooking, Hunter Safety, Wild Edibles, and Outdoor Shelters. The list of subjects will be adjusted based on participant interests. There may be a fee and required supplies, depending on activities. Project begins in January.

Possible Fair exhibits include topics on fire making, outdoor cooking, outdoor survival and safety, map reading and navigation, outdoor shelters, wild edibles, and habitat conservation, construction and restoration. For a full list of projects, visit the the Laporte County 4-H Shooting Sports Website (<http://www.LP4HOutdoors.org/Projects>), or obtain a printed copy from a leader or at a meeting.

Meeting Locations

The Outdoor Pursuits division meets at a wide variety of locations across Laporte County, with occasional trips to Bendix Woods in St. Joseph County, and Potato Creek State Park in North Liberty Indiana. Meeting Locations will be listed on the Program Calendar, located at <https://www.lp4houtdoors.org/calendar>.

Equipment Recommendations

Outdoor Pursuits will be participating in a wide variety of activities in all weather conditions. It is very important that participants have clothing appropriate to the weather, and be prepared to get dirty. Basic outdoor gear, such as knives, daypacks, water bottles, etc. may be appropriate for some activities, but not required. We will be having several family-style campouts over the season, which will require a tent or other accommodations. If a family does not have a tent, contact the superintendent, and they will assist in finding equipment to borrow if it is available.

Shooting Sports Project – Pistol Division

Description

The Pistol division is limited to participants in grades 7 through 12. Participants in this project will learn to safely shoot pistols, primarily in .22 caliber. Participants will also have the chance to gain experience with centerfire and muzzleloading pistols. The club will provide basic shooting and safety equipment as well as all ammunition. Members wanting to shoot their own equipment may make arrangements for their parents or guardians to deliver pistols in secure cases, but no ammunition, directly to the division instructors. The program begins in January.

Possible Fair exhibits include topics on the basics of pistol marksmanship, parts and action styles of pistols, construction of accessories to assist in target shooting, cleaning kits, caliber and other cartridge comparisons, or pistol model histories. For a full list of projects, visit the Laporte County 4-H Extension Office Website (<http://bit.ly/LP4HExtension>), the Laporte County 4-H Shooting Sports Website (<http://www.LP4HOutdoors.org/Projects>), or obtain a printed copy from a leader or at a meeting.

Meeting Locations



Equipment Recommendations

The Pistol program only owns two pistols, a Beretta Neos and a Heritage Single Action Revolver, the other pistols used are brought by our instructors from their personal collections. Here are three pistols that we recommend to new shooters:



**Browning Buck Mark
Camper UFX**

.22 LR Semiauto pistol with a 5.5" barrel. This is the most inexpensive Buck Mark that Browning makes, they are all outstanding pistols.



Beretta Neos U22 6.0

.22 LR Semiauto pistol with a 5.5" barrel. This pistol is almost identical to the Browning, but has a slightly different grip and is slightly less expensive.



Ruger SP101 (KSP-242-8)

.22 LR double-action revolver with a 4.2" barrel.

Shooting Sports Project – Rifle Division

Description

Participants in this division will learn to safely shoot a rifles, primarily in .22 caliber. Participants will also have the chance to gain experience with centerfire and muzzleloading rifles. After demonstrating mastery of basic Rifle skills, participants can participate in the Advanced Rifle program. The club will provide basic shooting and safety equipment as well as all ammunition. Members wanting to shoot their own equipment may bring their own rifles in .22LR caliber in a secure case, but no ammunition.. The program begins in January.

Possible Fair exhibits include topics on the basics of rifle marksmanship, parts and actions of rifles, construction of accessories to assist in target shooting, cleaning kits, caliber and other cartridge comparisons, rifle model histories, or even the construction of a complete rifle. For a full list of projects, visit the Laporte County 4-H Extension Office Website (<http://bit.ly/LP4HExtension>), the Laporte County 4-H Shooting Sports Website (<http://www.LP4HOutdoors.org/Projects>), or obtain a printed copy from a leader or at a meeting.

Meeting Locations

Rifle activities will be held on the ranges of the Michigan City Rifle on US Highway 20 east of Michigan City.



Equipment Recommendations

The Rifle Program owns several rifles that are perfect rifles for anyone that wants to target shoot. Here are the rifles that we recommend:



Savage Mark I FVT

.22LR bolt-action. This is a single shot rifle with peep sights. It has a heavy 21" barrel, a composite stock and the Accutrigger setup.



Savage Mark II GLY

.22LR bolt-action. This is a nice standard left-handed rifle with open sights and a five round detachable magazine. It is drilled for a scope mount and has the Accutrigger setup.



Savage Mark II FVXP

.22LR bolt-action. This rifle comes with a 3x9x40 scope mounted and boresighted out of the box! This rifle has the Accutrigger, a 5-round detachable box magazine, composite stock and a heavy 21" barrel.



Marlin Model 60

.22LR semi-auto. A basic wood stock, tubular magazine (no loose magazines to get lost!), and open sights make this an ideal first rifle.



Ruger 10/22

.22LR semi-auto. One of the best-selling .22 rifles. Available in many different finishes and configurations, and a large selection of available accessories.

Shooting Sports Project – Shotgun Division

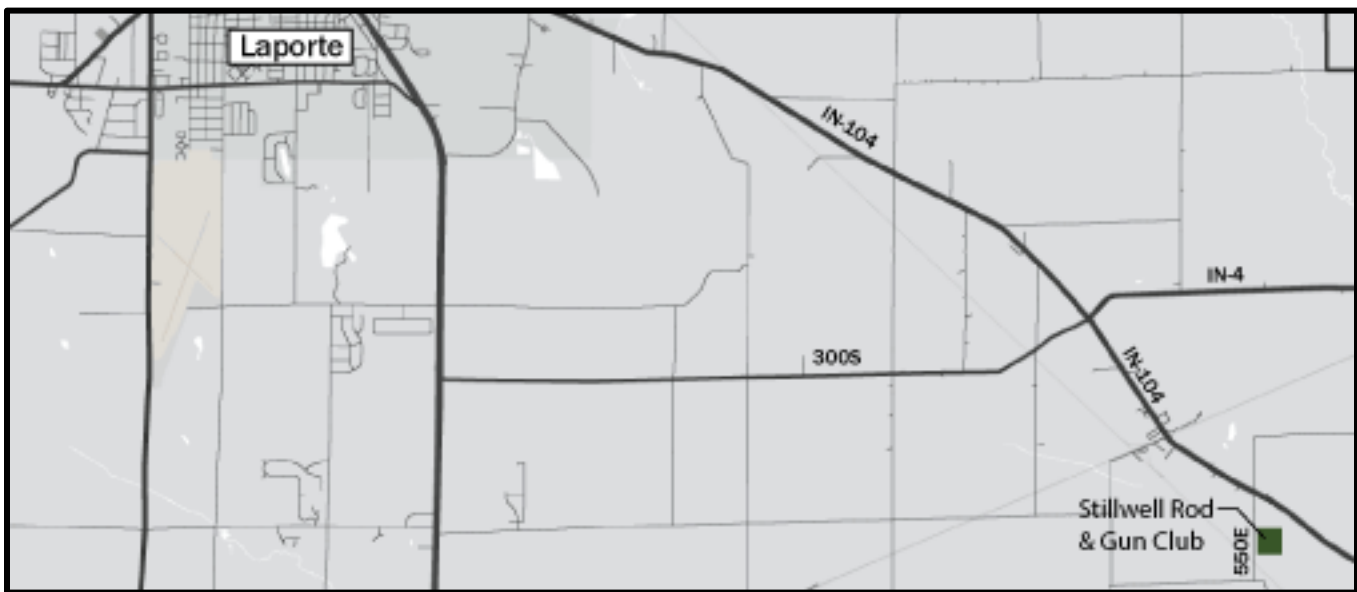
Description

Participants in this division will learn to safely shoot shotguns at clay targets. The club will provide basic shooting and safety equipment as well as all ammunition. After demonstrating mastery of basic Shotgun skills, participants can participate in the Advanced Shotgun program. Members wanting to shoot their own equipment may bring their own shotguns in .410, 20, or 12 gauges in a secure case, but no ammunition. Project begins in April.

Possible Fair exhibits include topics on the basics of shotgun shooting, parts and action styles of shotguns, construction of accessories to assist in target shooting, cleaning kits, gauge and other shell comparisons, or shotgun model histories. For a full list of projects, visit the Laporte County 4-H Extension Office Website (<http://bit.ly/LP4HExtension>), the Laporte County 4-H Shooting Sports Website (<http://www.LP4HOutdoors.org/Projects>), or obtain a printed copy from a leader or at a meeting.

Meeting Locations

All Shotgun activities will be held at Stillwell Rod and Gun Club, which is located between Laporte and Walkerton on Indiana Highway 104.



Equipment Recommendations

The Shotgun Program owns several shotguns that are perfect for anyone starting shooting clay targets. Here are some shotguns that we recommend:

Remington 870 or Mossberg 500

Pump Action shotguns. These shotguns are available in a wide variety of finishes and configurations. Prolific designs that can often be found used for a reasonable price with a stock that is easily replicable to fit smaller shooters.

Remington 1100 or 1187

Semi-auto shotguns. Prolific designs easily adaptable for younger shooters.

Weatherby SA-08

A well-constructed semi-auto shotgun, but not appropriate for smaller-stature shooters due to the lack of different standard stock and barrel lengths.

Browning Citori

Over Under Shotguns (break-action) are more expensive than most pump or semi-auto shotguns. Due to the wide array of different options and configurations, discuss the purchase options with an instructor before purchasing this style of firearm.



Sportsfishing Project

Description

Participants in this division will learn to safely fish local bodies of water. The club will have basic equipment available for participants.

For a full list of projects, visit the Laporte County 4-H Extension Office Website (<http://bit.ly/LP4HExtension>).

Meeting Locations

Sportsfishing workshops will be held at various locations throughout LaPorte County. Meeting Locations will be listed on the Program Calendar, located at <https://www.lp4houtdoors.org/calendar>.

Participant Expectations

In my role as a 4-H Outdoor Sports Participant, I will:

1. Respect, adhere to, and enforce the rules, policies, and guidelines established by the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service including all laws related to child abuse and substance abuse.
2. Conduct myself in a courteous, respectful manner, exhibit good sportsmanship, and demonstrate reasonable conflict management skills.
3. Be truthful and forthright when representing the 4-H Youth Development Program.
4. Under no circumstances possess, consume, or be under the influence of alcohol, tobacco or tobacco-like products, illegal drugs, or other dangerous substances at 4-H Youth Development Program events or activities.
5. Recognize that verbal or physical abuse, failure to comply with equal opportunity and anti-discrimination laws, or committing criminal acts are not acceptable practices in 4-H Youth Development Programs.
6. Accept my responsibility to represent 4-H Youth Development Programs with dignity and pride by being a positive role model for other youth.
7. Accept supervision and support from salaried Extension staff or designated management volunteers.
8. Will participate in orientation and training, which includes youth protection standards, sponsored by the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service.
9. Operate machinery, vehicles, and other equipment in a safe and responsible manner when working with other youth participating in 4-H Youth Development Programs.
10. Treat animals in a humane manner and teach program participants appropriate animal care and management.
11. Use technology in an appropriate manner that reflects the best practices in youth development.
12. Accept my responsibility to promote and support the 4-H Youth Development Program to develop an effective county, state, and national program.
13. Use appropriate safety equipment and accessories as provided by the Shooting Sports Program. Eye and ear protection is mandatory at all events where firearms are used.
14. 4-H events encourage interaction among all members of the group, but not exclusively with another person. Kissing and other sexual displays are inappropriate and prohibited.
15. Dress appropriately for the occasion. We will be outdoors.
16. Be courteous, clean and always have good manners.
17. To take part in a 4-H shooting sports club activity, members must have their dues paid.
18. Participants will always obey the instructions and range commands of instructors at all events where firearms or archery equipment are used.
19. Participants will obey the range safety rules at all times.
20. Language must be appropriate for a 4-H member – NO SWEARING will be tolerated at any time.
21. Participants are responsible for ensuring that any facilities used will be left cleaner than when the club arrived.
22. Violators of this code of conduct (participants and spectators alike) will be asked to immediately leave the event.

Parent or Guardian Expectations

In my role as a 4-H Shooting Sports club member's Parent and/or Guardian, I will:

1. Respect, adhere to, and enforce the rules, policies, and guidelines established by the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service including all laws related to child abuse and substance abuse.
2. Conduct myself in a courteous, respectful manner, exhibit good sportsmanship, and demonstrate reasonable conflict management skills.

3. Be truthful and forthright when representing the 4-H Youth Development Program.
4. Under no circumstances possess, consume, or be under the influence of alcohol, tobacco or tobacco-like products, illegal drugs, or other dangerous substances at 4-H Youth Development Program events or activities.
5. Recognize that verbal or physical abuse, failure to comply with equal opportunity and anti-discrimination laws, or committing criminal acts are not acceptable practices in 4-H Youth Development Programs.
6. Accept supervision and support from salaried Extension staff or designated management volunteers.
7. Operate machinery, vehicles, and other equipment in a safe and responsible manner when working with other youth participating in 4-H Youth Development Programs.
8. Treat animals in a humane manner and teach program participants appropriate animal care and management.
9. Use technology in an appropriate manner that reflects the best practices in youth development.
10. Accept my responsibility to promote and support the 4-H Youth Development Program in order to develop an effective county, state, and national program.
11. Use appropriate safety equipment and accessories as provided by the Shooting Sports Program. Eye and ear protection is mandatory at all events where firearms are used.
12. 4-H events encourage interaction among all members of the group, but not exclusively with another person. Kissing and other sexual displays are inappropriate and prohibited.
13. Dress appropriately for the occasion. We will be outdoors.
14. Be courteous, clean and always possess good manners.
15. Participants will obey the instructions and range commands of instructors at all times at all events where firearms or archery equipment are used.
16. Participants will obey the range safety rules at all times.
17. Language must be appropriate for a 4-H member – NO SWEARING will be tolerated at any time.
18. Participants are responsible for ensuring that any facilities used will be left cleaner than when the club arrived.
19. Encourage my child to always abide by the Shooting Sports Code of Conduct.
20. Accept that the Shooting Sports Instructors and Leaders have been carefully chosen, and will accept and respect their instructions and decisions, which are made in the best interest of all the children.
21. Accept that the Shooting Sports have been trained in the instruction of youth participants in the appropriate divisions and will refrain from providing contradictory instructions to avoid any confusion.
22. Agree to deal with any problems that may arise in a calm, rational and confidential manner, away from participants of the program and other Parents and/or Guardians. The Program's Coordinator is available to address concerns at any time.
23. Understand the importance of submitting all the required paperwork and fees and will do so in a timely manner.
24. Agree to let the participants run non-shooting event meetings and events without interference.
25. Agree to drop off and pick up participants at event locations promptly, and not leave any other minors without adult supervision at any event.
26. Violators of this code of conduct (participants and spectators alike) will be asked to immediately leave the event.

Volunteer Information

The Shooting Sports is always looking for dedicated volunteers to help conduct the program and ensure that it can operate into the future. Here are some areas that we can always use assistance:

- Division Instructors – We do not need experts or individuals with years of experience. All Instructors attend a 4-H training session to prepare them to instruct participants as directed by the program, and we have many other instructors more than willing to share knowledge. To be a good instructor, the instructor must be willing to learn.
- Event Staff – We conduct several fundraising events and community service projects. Any help is greatly appreciated!
- Project Club Leaders – We can always use leaders to help the 4-H participants in the General Club.

If you are interested in helping but am unsure of where exactly you might fit in, contact our Program Coordinator, Jeremy Smith, at Jeremy@LP4HOutdoors.org or (219) 878-7777.

Outdoor Sports Advisory Committee

The Laporte County 4-H Outdoor Sports program is overseen by a committee consisting of Instructors, Volunteers, Participant, and Parents. Meetings of the council are included on the Program Schedule, and open to anyone that wishes to observe the proceedings.

Related Websites

Laporte County Extension Office – <https://extension.purdue.edu/laporte>

Laporte County Extension Office Calendar -

<http://www3.ag.purdue.edu/extension/Lists/Extension%20Calendar/LaPorte.aspx> (located under the "About" tab on the Laporte County Extension Office Home Page)

National 4-H Website - <http://www.4-h.org/>

Indiana 4-H Website - <https://www.four-h.purdue.edu>

Indiana State 4-H Shooting Sports Project Page - <https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H/projects/4-h-project-shooting-sports.html>

Indiana State 4-H Sportsfishing Project Page - <https://extension.purdue.edu/4-H/projects/4-h-project-sportfishing.html>

National 4-H Shooting Sports Website - <http://www.4-hshootingsports.org/>

Laporte County Fair - <http://lpfair.com/>

Indiana State Fair - <http://www.in.gov/statefair/fair/>