



Firearms Safety Program Guidelines

In response to the ever increasing interest in firearms safety and firearms use among adults, New York State 4-H Shooting Sports has developed these guidelines, in cooperation with P.W. Wood & Son, Inc., to assist 4-H Educators in determining how to offer these programs to 4-H families and the general public. The following is a list of requirements that assure the safety of Instructors and participants, as well as meet legal compliance guidelines:

SUBMIT PROGRAM FOR APPROVAL. Prior to carrying out any programming of this type, you must submit a proposal to P. W. Wood & Son, Inc. and receive approval from them. Full details must be provided to them well in advance of the anticipated program and before any promotion for the program is done. You must also include the name(s) of the Certified 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor(s) who will be participating in the program.

NO LIVE FIRE. Use of inert training firearms is required (Mossberg makes a set for the IHEA and may be borrowed through the local DEC Sportsman Education program).

Simulated shooting can be accomplished using the following laser systems: LaserShot, LaserLyte, SERT (pistol), and the new AllTyme Lasers. These are professionally manufactured systems designed for education and muscle memory development.

NO LIVE AMMUNITION OR BLANKS are to be present. Again, there are manufactured inert (dummy) cartridges and orange plastic shells and shot shells that can be used.

Youth age 5 and under may be allowed to observe but are NOT allowed to handle inert firearms or simulators. All youth should be encouraged NOT to handle firearms without parental permission and be directed to tell an adult if they find one.

The 4-H Guidelines MUST be used as the standard safety rules. MATT - Muzzle in a safe direction, **Action** open until ready to shoot, keep your finger off the **Trigger** until you are ready to shoot, be sure of your **Target** and what is beyond it.

Any program MUST include basic Safe Storage principles. Wood cabinets no longer meet "secure" storage definitions which is of even greater concern due to the New York State SAFE Act outlining that homes with convicted felons, those with mental illness, or those who may be considered a danger to themselves or others MUST have all firearms stored in a secure location. Ammunition and firearms should be stored separately in appropriate locked cabinets.