



New York State 4-H Shooting Sports Certified Instructor Training - Frequently Asked Questions

- 1) **Question:** Why does New York State 4-H Shooting Sports conduct State Instructor Trainings, why can't certified Hunter Education Instructors, NRA Instructors, USAA Instructors or other Instructors be 4-H Shooting Sports Instructors without further training and certification?

Answer: 4-H is about youth. The 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor training program specifically teaches adults to teach youth. Instructors trained by other organizations have limited training and access to 4-H/youth development education and materials. 4-H Shooting Sports offers comprehensive Instructor Certification training, as part of the National 4-H Shooting Sports Program, that focuses on life skills and positive youth development within the education and training components of our core curriculum disciplines including risk management. All rules, regulations and standards set forth by the New York State 4-H Shooting Sports Program supersede rules, regulations and standards set forth by other organizations.

- 2) **Question:** What 4-H Shooting Sports curriculum disciplines are covered under the National and New York State Instructor Certification Training Program?

Answer: Air Pistol/Pistol, Archery, Hunting/Outdoor Skills, Muzzleloader, Rifle and Shotgun. Coordinator, which encompasses county and local program administration, is also offered as applicable.

- 3) **Question:** Must applicants seeking to become 4-H Shooting Sports Certified Instructors undergo a background check?

Answer: Yes, all applicants seeking to become 4-H Shooting Sports Certified Instructors in New York State, as well anyone seeking to become a 4-H Volunteer, must undergo a background check as part of Volunteer Involvement Policy and Procedure. All Instructor applicants must pass this background check requirement and be approved prior to attending any New York State 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Certification Training Course.

- 4) **Question:** What does State Instructor Training consist of?

Answer: 4-H Shooting Sports State Instructor Trainings consists of a Nationally approved curriculum, a Nationally trained State Team, training in youth development and training in the defined 4-H Shooting Sports curriculum disciplines. 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Training requires applicants to complete a minimum of 14 hours of education and training per curriculum discipline area, including risk management, and pass specific requirements in order to qualify for Certification. Instructor curriculum discipline trainings may not overlap - only one curriculum discipline may be studied by an applicant at one time. All applicant Instructors are trained by National Instructors, except in rare circumstances where a State Instructor with extensive experience takes the place of a National Instructor with permission of the New York State 4-H Shooting Sports Director.

- 5) **Question:** Where do I start the process of becoming a New York State 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor?

Answer: 4-H Shooting Sports Programs are offered in many, but not all, counties in New York State. For more information on 4-H Shooting Sports please visit the [Contact Us](#) page on our website or your local Cornell Cooperative Extension Office.