

## Get Involved

### Members

Local 4-H Shooting Sports clubs are open to all youth ages 8 to 18. Each year, 4-H teaches a shooting sport to more than 300,000 boys and girls. Shooting sports can be gratifying for youngsters, especially those who aren't athletes. The program provides a supportive environment in which young people can experience hands-on, fun, learning experiences.

### Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to coordinate county programs and to work at the local level. Individuals who are interested in shooting sports and are willing to learn about them can become involved in an existing program or club. If none exists, they can work with 4-H youth staff to help establish a program.

All instructors are trained by state instructors certified to teach courses. Adult volunteers receive training in shooting sports at state and regional workshops to become qualified instructors. 4-H teen leaders may wish to assist with instruction. Shooting sports leaders act as role models and must impart the 4-H philosophy and youth development objectives to 4-H members.

### Meeting Places

Clubs need meeting places and sites—such as sportsmen's clubs, community ranges, and privately owned facilities where they can meet, learn, and practice the disciplines.

There are so many ways to become involved or to support 4-H Shooting Sports. For more information on the National 4-H Shooting Sports program, contact your local Cooperative Extension Office by looking in the government section of the phone book.



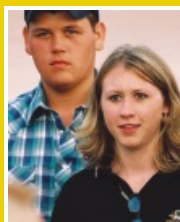
### Teen Ambassadors Program

One of the most exciting programs that 4-H Shooting Sports offers is the Teen Ambassadors. This gives 4-Hers, ages 15 through 18, the opportunity to travel across the U.S. and represent 4-H Shooting Sports.

If you are selected as a National 4-H Shooting Sports Teen Ambassador, you will represent over 300,000 youth and 46,000 instructors across the United States. You will be introduced to donors and supporters who are CEO's of major companies and organizations. As an ambassador, you will be taught the importance of appropriate attire and respectful address to those you meet.

To apply for this exciting opportunity you can go to [www.4-hshootingsports.org](http://www.4-hshootingsports.org) or talk to your State or County coordinator. There you will find out all about the program and what you must do to apply.

Soon, you could be traveling the country, meeting new people and showing everyone you meet the value of 4-H Shooting Sports.



*As an ambassador you will enhance your leadership skills and develop confidence when speaking in public.*



Brothers Jim, Dan, and Ryan Grippo have more in common than their love of shooting sports—all three are pursuing medical careers. The young men grew up in Pennsylvania 4-H and credit the 4-H Shooting Sports program with teaching them to concentrate on a target or goal, to practice diligently, and to aim for the highest level of success in life. 4-H community service projects cultivated a love of helping others. Despite their medical studies and other demands on their time, the brothers volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, and Ronald McDonald House, and serve on medical missions in South America.

4-H shooting sports activities opened many doors for me, even helped me to attend college.

—Ryan Grippo



*Ryan Grippo's trip to Alaska to visit friends from the 4-H Shooting Sports program led to an invitation to become a fishing guide there.*

# Point Kids in the Right Direction

[www.4-hshootingsports.org](http://www.4-hshootingsports.org)



The Cooperative Extension System's programs are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, sex, handicap, religion, age, or national origin.

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### Focusing on Youth Development

The focus of all 4-H programs is the development of youth as individuals and as responsible and productive citizens. The National 4-H Shooting Sports Program stands out as an example. Youth learn marksmanship, the safe and responsible use of firearms, the principles of hunting and archery, and much more. 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.

### Building Life Skills

Specific objectives for the program are to:

- teach decision making, teamwork, self-discipline, self-confidence, and problem solving;
- promote the highest standards of safety, sportsmanship, and ethical behavior;
- encourage an appreciation and understanding of natural resources;
- develop leadership abilities;
- build character and willingness to assume citizenship responsibility;
- furnish enjoyable, positive relationships with peers and adult instructors;
- strengthen families through participation in lifelong recreational activities;
- build awareness of related career opportunities.

### Something for Everyone

The Shooting Sports curriculum uses the resources of the land-grant university and the time, talent, and dedication of Cooperative Extension agents and certified 4-H leaders, instructors, and trainers who instruct 4-H members in firearms safety and marksmanship. The shooting disciplines include archery, muzzle loading, pistol, rifle, shotgun, and hunting. Each discipline is taught by a National or State Certified Instructor.

### Healthy Competition

4-H members have opportunities to test their shooting, hunting, and sportsmanship skills in county, regional, state, and national competitions. In fact, they could ultimately set Olympic competition as their goal. There are seventeen Olympic shooting sports events, which continue to draw the third-greatest number of countries.

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Katie and Kristie Harrington are expert rifle shooters.

Both girls hold the National Rifle Association Marksmanship Qualification Award of Distinguished Expert in International Air Rifle and American Rifle. Katie and Kristie are officers of their 4-H Shooting Sports club in Jacksonville, Florida, as well as honor roll students. Their dad, Joe Harrington, a Navy captain, and their mom, Judy, a teacher, are 4-H volunteers. Judy is also a National Rifle Association appointed coach. For the Harringtons, the 4-H Shooting Sports program is a family affair.

Helping little kids in the club helps me with my concentration and school work. In 4-H, we set a lot of goals for ourselves. Mine is to make it to the Olympics.

—Kristie Harrington



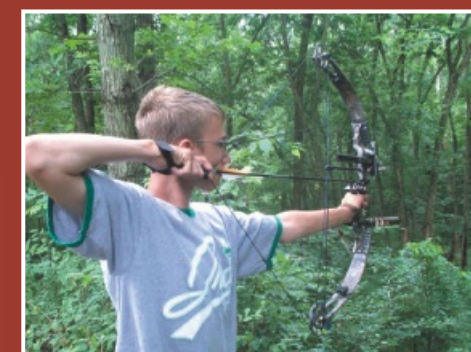
Joshua Burchick, like his dad, a former U.S. Park Ranger with the National Park Service, loves the outdoors. The high school honor roll student and first baseman finds time to hunt, fish, accompany his father on biological surveys, and take

award-winning wildlife photographs. At age 15, he was Maryland's 4-H Shooting Sports representative to the Grand National Water-fowl Hunt, which encourages wildlife conservation and promotes shooting sports.

Joshua is president of the 4-H Gun Club in Maryland, where he has been a member for five years. Yet he makes time to help elderly neighbors with chores. Like other outstanding club members, his life reflects 4-H values.



Joshua in action during the Smallbore Rifle Competition at the Maryland 4-H State Shooting Sports event.



Member participating in the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational, the national level competition in all of the disciplines. photo credit: pilkguns.com

# Meet a few of our members

At the Grand National Waterfowl Hunt, Joshua hunted with General Alexei Leonov (middle), first man to walk in space, and Lt. General Tom Stafford (right), Commander of Apollo 10, the first lunar module to the moon. In the back-ground are numerous decoys they used near the blind to attract the dawn waterfowl.

NRA airgun summit, Wilmington, NC, July 2005. photo credit: pilkguns.com

