



Shooting Sports

Rifle, Shotgun, Archery, Outdoor Skill, and Overall

- Description:** Each participant may compete in three shooting activities, an outdoor skills test, and complete a written test. Individual scores will be determined from the combined target scores (900 points maximum) and the outdoor skills test (100 points maximum). The written test score (100 points maximum) will be used as a tie-breaker. The three highest individual scores from each team will be added for a team score.
- Entries:** May enter as individual or teams of three to four members.
- State Awards:** First place individuals in each category – Rifle, Shotgun, Archery, and Outdoor Skills and members of the overall first place team will receive the choice of \$50 towards future county/state/national event or a State 4-H Contests Jacket. Winners must contact the State 4-H Office for National Competition details. High Individual Overall will receive a Certificate of Recognition.
- National Awards:** Determined at the national level.

General Information:

- State Shooting Sports participants must have successfully completed a Hunter Education Safety Course. Each participant must pay a \$10.00 registration fee to cover range fees and target costs.
- It is the responsibility of 4-H Shooting Sports participants to assure that their shooting sports equipment operates properly and that the equipment is appropriate for use in the State 4-H Competition.

Utah State 4-H Shooting Sports Competition Contest Rules and Information

The State Shooting Sports Competition consists of the following components (1000 points maximum):

Rifle: .22 caliber rimfire ammunition only (300 points)

Shotgun: 12 gauge, 20 gauge, or .410 (300 points)

Archery: acceptable hunting equipment excluding crossbows (300 points)

Outdoors Skills: involves outdoor skills common to hunting, camping, survival, compass and map use, identifying safe backstops, and any of the items listed for the exam. (100 points maximum)

Written Exam: The written examination will involve questions related to firearm safety, safety in the out-of-doors, shooting and hunting equipment, animal identification, and/or hunting rules. The information included in the Utah Hunter Education Guide is typical of what may appear on the written test. The subject matter of the written test is not limited to these topics. The test may also include current events, Utah legislation, the Utah Hunting Proclamation, 4-H information, and other items involving 4-H youth development. The test will serve as the tiebreaker, with the individual having the higher test score winning the tie. (100 points maximum).

Contest Rules: Think Safety

1. Participants must have successfully completed a Hunter Education Safety Course.
2. Safety will be the first and foremost consideration during all 4-H shooting sports activities.



3. Participants violating any safety rule may receive one warning. If a second infraction occurs, she/he will be disqualified from further competition/participation. If a safety violation is severe, a participant may be disqualified immediately without one warning.
4. Participants and spectators assume all risk and responsibility for personal injury or property damage. The Cache Valley Hunter Education Center, site of the State Competition, requires that spectators and shooters wear eye and hearing protection while on the firing line or while in close proximity to a firearm range.
5. Contestants will provide their own firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment. Contestants must use factory-loaded ammunition. No reloaded ammunition is allowed. Contestants, spectators and coaches will provide their own eye and hearing protection.
6. Each contestant may compete only once in each state event each year.
7. In the case of a tie, written exam score(s) will be used to determine a winner.
8. Participants are expected to exhibit behavior above reproach at all times.
9. The competition facilities will be set up the day before and during the day prior to the event. Contestants and coaches are not allowed to practice at the Cache Valley Hunter Education Center during this preparation period.

Safety Rules:

- While on the firing line, firearms may be handled/touched only with the permission of the event judge/range operator. Actions of uncased firearms must be open except when the firearm is on the firing line, ready to fire. Firearms are to remain unloaded until a competitor is on the firing line and has received instructions from the event judge to load/fire. Arrows will remain in a quiver when they are not being shot from a bow. Firearm muzzles are to be pointed in a safe direction. The position and direction of firearm muzzles and arrows should be such that accidental injury to others cannot occur.
- Listen and obey all range commands immediately. Dry firing of firearms is permitted only on the firing line with the judge's permission. Eye and hearing protection is each participant's responsibility and must be worn. Participants including competitors, coaches, judges and spectators **MUST** wear adequate eye and hearing protection while on the firing line or while in close proximity to a firearm range.
- When not shooting a firearm, it will be placed in a gun rack, stored in a case, or locked in an automobile. While standing at the firing position, arrows may be handled/touched only with the permission of the event judge/range operator. Arrows may be nocked only when the shooter is on the archery shooting line and has received instructions from the event judge to nock an arrow/shoot.
- When competitors are carrying/transporting firearms - not actually shooting the firearm - the firearm is to remain unloaded and the action is to remain open. During the competition, if firearms and/or ammunition are/is stored in vehicles, the vehicles are to remain locked. When competitors are carrying/transporting archery equipment – not actually shooting the bow - the arrows are to remain in a quiver that shields the arrow points.
- No shooting sports equipment is allowed on the USU campus. Keep all firearms and ammunition stored separately in locked containers. Contestants must provide their own equipment and factory-loaded ammunition, **including eye and hearing protection.**
- It is the responsibility of 4-H Shooting Sports participants to assure that their shooting sports equipment operates properly and that the equipment is appropriate for use in the State 4-H Competition.

Protest

Shooting sports judges will be available to handle all disputes including those regarding the value of shots as they are scored. Any questionable equipment, behavior, and/or score will be decided on by the judges based on the rules,



regulations, and guidelines printed herein. It is the responsibility of contestants to assure that their shooting sports equipment operates properly and that the equipment is appropriate for use in the State 4-H Competition.

Description of Shooting Events

.22 Rimfire Rifle Event

The .22 rifle shooting event is conducted on a firing range, shooting at animal targets. Shooting is done from three positions: prone, sitting or kneeling, and standing. Range distances may vary depending on range limitations. Typically the distance is 50 feet. Contestants fire a maximum of 30 rounds at a maximum of three targets. Scores are determined by the positions of each shot in relation to the scoring zone on each target. Shots within and/or touching a zone are scored accordingly. Shots outside a zone are scored at the lower value or as a miss. The maximum score for the rifle event is 300 points (100 points per target).

Only standard .22 rifles, designed primarily for hunting, will be permitted. All action types except full automatic will be permitted. The rifle may not exceed seven pounds in weight including a scope. The sling may not exceed 1.5 inches in width and may not be used to provide stability. Rifle sights may include a scope of four-power or less, or open or peep sights with standard front post or bead. Variable magnification scope sights must be set at four-power or less. Shooters may not change guns during the competition except for malfunction. No gunsmithing will be allowed on the firing line. An equipment malfunction does not extend the time for participants to complete an activity or allow the opportunity for another attempt. (Note: In many rifle competition events, shooters may not use scopes with variable magnification or with magnification greater than four-power.)

Other than equipment provided by the judges, special equipment may not be used. Contestants may not use natural or man-made rests to support the rifle or the body. The following shooting aids will not be permitted:

- Clothing with padding or stiffness designed to assist steadiness
- Shooting mats or kneeling rolls
- Adjustable competition sling
- Hooked butt plate
- Adjustable or thumbhole stocks
- Palm rest or stock forearms exceeding 2.24 inches wide or 2.25 inches deep as measured from the center of the bore
- Spotting scopes, binoculars or range finders.

Ammunition used in this event will be .22 caliber long rifle. All rifles must be sighted in prior to competition date. Time or facilities will not be made available for competition day training or sighting in.

Score sheets must be signed by the competitor and event judge, and turned in following the completion of each activity. Lost or misplaced targets or score sheets are NOT the responsibility of 4-H judges or volunteers and will be scored as a zero.

Shotgun Event

The shotgun events can be a round of skeet, a round of trap, a round of sporting clays, or a combination of any of the three. In combination events, the targets may be released as singles and/or doubles, and may be throw at the discretion of the judge. Twenty-five targets will be thrown from one or more machines. One shot per target is allowed. Each target will receive a numerical score and the combined score will not exceed 300 points. Competitors are allowed to have their guns shoulder mounted for skeet and/or trap, but must use a ready position (not shoulder mounted) for sporting clays.



Targets broken by the machines should not be shot. These targets will be re-thrown for the competitor. If a competitor shoots at a broken target, the hit or miss is recorded and the target will not be re-thrown. In order for a target to be scored as a hit, the contestants must hit it and a piece of the target must break off. The event judge will call out a loss/miss following each shot/release. Any challenge to the call must be made immediately and will be resolved by the event judge after conferring with the other judges. All whole targets that are released must be shot at or the target will be counted as lost. Only the malfunction of factory loaded shotgun ammunition will enable a participant to repeat a shot. The malfunction of a firearm is the contestant's responsibility and will not result in a shot being repeated. In some situations a judge may allow a shot, missed because of equipment malfunction, to be repeated.

If a firearm malfunctions repeatedly, the contestant will be required to use another gun. No gunsmithing will be allowed on the firing line. An equipment malfunction does not extend the time for participants to complete an activity or allow the opportunity for another attempt.

Contestants will provide their own factory-loaded ammunition with a shot size ranging from 7 ½ through 9. Shotguns may not be larger than 12 gauge. All action types except fully automatic are permissible. There are no restrictions on shotgun grade, design or intended use. Firearms are not to be equipped with any lenses, optics, or battery powered illumination for this event. Contestants may not change shotguns after beginning the event except for a malfunctioning firearm. Choke tubes may be changed between rounds, but not during a round.

Score sheets must be signed by the competitor and event judge, and turned in following the completion of each activity. Lost or misplaced score sheets are NOT the responsibility of 4-H judges or volunteers and will be scored as a zero.

Archery Event

The archery event will be conducted on an indoor range and/or outdoor course at various distances not to exceed 40 yards. Targets will be paper archery targets, paper animal targets, and/or 3D animal targets. Competitors will shoot a maximum of 30 arrows (two or more arrows per target). A hit occurs if the arrow is in or touching the score line. Arrows outside the score line will be counted at the lower value or as a miss. Each arrow shot will receive a numerical score and the total score will not exceed 300 points.

Judges must score arrow placement before the arrows are pulled. Do not touch or remove your arrows until after your scores have been recorded. If an arrow is touched or removed the arrow will be scored as a miss. Challenges to assigned scores must be made immediately before the arrows are pulled. The event judges will make the final decision.

Only compound, recurve, or long bows will be permitted. Legal hunting equipment is acceptable with the exceptions listed below. Contestants may not change bows during the competition except for malfunction. Questions on legal sites, bows and equipment, and procedure alternatives must be discussed with the State 4-H Office at least seven working days prior to the scheduled competition.

Only target or field-point arrows will be allowed (no broadhead hunting tips). The following equipment may not be used in this event: range finders, binoculars, spotting scopes, telescopic sites, or battery powered sights. Score sheets must be signed by the competitor and event judge, and turned in following the completion of each activity. Lost or misplaced score sheets are NOT the responsibility of 4-H judges or volunteers and will be scored as a zero.