



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION



Georgia 4-H – UGA Extension
332 Hoke Smith Annex Athens, Georgia 30602
706-542-5667

www.uga.edu, cfhudson@uga.edu

TO: Banks, Bulloch, Chatham, Jones, and Wilcox County Extension
Personnel ; Hunting Skills Coaches
FROM: Craven F. Hudson, State 4-H Specialist
CC: Melanie Biersmith, State 4-H Leader; Mandy Marable, Associate
State 4-H Leader; Al Parker, Melinda Miller, Lee Anna Deal and Lori
Bledsoe, 4-H PDCs
DATE: May 8, 2024
RE: Target Challenge & Field Day – Hunting Skills
Saturday, May 18, 2024
Thigpen Farm, Statesboro, GA

DEADLINES—Quick Reference

Enter all 4-H participants, Certified Coaches and Match Helpers in Event Registration

Due: Wednesday, May 14, 2024, 5:00p.m.

The Georgia 4-H SAFE Program will hold the Hunting & Outdoor Skills Target Challenge & Field Day on May 18, 2024 at the Thigpen Farm in Bulloch County. The farm is located at 2700 JS Nesmith Road, Statesboro, GA 30458. GPS Coordinates for the gate to the farm are 32.3209635, -81.7866462.

Due May 14, 2024: Go to the 4-H Event Registration Website and enter all certified coaches and 4-H'ers participating in this year's event. **Please be sure to select "Hunting Skills Participant" for 4-H'ers and Junior or Senior in the "Division" attribute.** Certified Coaches and "Match Helpers" (volunteers who will assist with scoring) will be registered in the online system. Family who is just coming in to watch on Saturday do not need to be registered in the online system. Event registration will close at 5:00PM on May 14.

Match Fees: There will be an individual registration fee for all match participants. The registration fee covers all awards, supplies, insurance and labor. Fees are due at the event. Match fees per participant will be \$10.

Lunch Fee: A lunch fee of \$8 covers a soft drink, chips, a freshly cooked hamburger, or hot dog for each participant. Please notify event staff of any special dietary needs (vegetarian, etc.) Water will be provided at each outside event site. An accurate head count is necessary for food planning. Participants or family are welcome to bring their own food. No grills or cooking on site other than by event staff.

On Site Check-in: Saturday check-in will be held in the barn at the Farm 9:00 - 9:30AM. Only the head coach/lead adult should come the check in area. Please bring a check-in list printed from the Event Registration site to check-in. Checks should be made payable to GA 4-H Foundation. Please do not fill in the amount on your check until your county checks in. Head coach/lead adult will get score sheets at check in. **Shooting station & squad assignments will be developed and provided at check-in.**

Coaches Meeting: There will be one coaches' meeting held on the range at the farm on Saturday at 9:30AM. It is extremely important that all coaches are present for the coaches meeting.

Shooting Equipment & Guidelines: Juniors (6th -8th graders) and Seniors (9th-12th graders) will be allowed to carry all shells and self-load at coaches' discretion. Gun racks should be available, otherwise keep firearms and bows cased until ready to use on the line/station. Carry all firearms and bows in accordance with safe carry training, i.e. action open shoulder carry for shotguns and action open safe carry for rifles, all muzzles pointed in a safe direction/downrange.

Archery: Recurve or compound suitable for hunting (no crossbows), drawing no more than 60 pounds with suitable arrows tipped with field points only (no broad head tips), are permitted. Hunting style sights are allowed. Sights may not be adjusted once the day's competition begins. Stabilizers are limited to a maximum length of 12 inches. Side stabilizers are not allowed – **10 3-D Targets at un-marked yardages** – Range briefing on site

.22 Rimfire Rifle: No hollow point ammunition; 22 Rimfire long rifle standard or high velocity only. Iron sight or scope (max of 6X telescopic) **15 Targets at 2-D targets, 5 targets each at three positions; Standing, Prone and kneeling or seated** – A hunting- style sling no more than 1 ½ inches in width is permitted. All smallbore rifles are required to use an ECI (Empty Chamber Indicator). Common Hunting items such as a jacket or daypack are permissible for the Kneeling or prone positions if desired. Range briefing on site

Shotgun: 12 gauge or smaller, capable of 2 shots without reloading, with standard factory target or factory field loads of no more than 1 1/8 ounces of shot and shot no larger than #7 1/2. No hand loads. **5-Stand format, 20 targets total**, 4-H'ers may have full use of the gun (load two shells for singles or report pairs) –Bring at least two boxes of shells per 4-H'er to allow for misfires or broken targets - Range briefing on site

Closed toed shoes or boots are required to be worn by all participants. No crocs authorized for wear by participants. Additional instructions will be provided at the safety & range briefs.

Participants must provide:

Orienteering Compass
Suitable field clothing and footwear (No open toed shoes)

Pens or pencils
Protractor (optional)

Eye and Ear protection
Clipboard (optional, clean/no writing)

Sunscreen(recommended)

Prohibited items while competing: If found, participant will be disqualified for that portion of the event.

Radios

Cell Phones

Field Guides

Electronic and/or digital compass

Smart watches

Binoculars

Range Finding Equipment

Any equipment exceeding event guidelines

Awards: No individual or team awards will be awarded at this pilot program event.

Who is Eligible to Attend: Juniors (6th -8th graders) and Seniors (9th-12th graders) who have participated in their county Hunting Skills program or are deemed qualified to participate by their county Hunting Skills coaches.

Adults / Volunteers: Each county is responsible for the chaperoning and coordination of their group. Certified Coaches and volunteers must meet the UGA Policies on Volunteers. Volunteers will be needed to serve as safety officers, assist with scoring and crowd control. Adult assignments will be set up on a rotational basis by county. Counties will be responsible to make sure the assignment is filled by a qualified adult leader.

Medical Release and 4-H Code of Conduct: A Medical Release Form must be properly completed on each 4-H participant. A current copy of the 4-H Code of Conduct must be completed and on file with the county office. The lead adult for the county delegation will keep the medical forms for the county group for the event and trip home.

Traffic Management Plan: Detailed maps and traffic plans will be sent to all registered counties the week of the event.

4-H'ers providing their own transportation: If 4-H'ers are providing their own transportation to the event, their vehicle should be parked, and their keys given to an adult leader from their county until they leave to go home. 4-H'ers are not allowed to drive while on Thigpen Farm.

Schedule and directions on the next page.

Target Challenge & Field Day – Hunting Skills May 18, 2024

Saturday, May 18

Thigpen Farm

8:00 - 9:00	Arrival and set up	Field as directed
9:00 – 9:00	Registration	Barn
9:30	Coaches Meeting	Barn / Range
10:00	Begin Shooting (Archery, .22 Rimfire Rifle, Shotgun per squad assignment & rotation	Ranges
12:00	Lunch	Barn
1:00	Compass Course, Wildlife ID, General Knowledge testing begin	Range / Barn per rotation

Event concludes when field activities & testing have completed.

The farm is located at 2700 JS Nesmith Road, Statesboro, GA 30458. GPS Coordinates for the gate to the farm are 32.3209635, -81.7866462.

JS Nesmith Road is off Georgia 46, South of Statesboro. Look for a 4-H event sign at the turn from Ga 46 to JS Nesmith Road; signs will lead to farm entrance.