



## Target Sports

Georgia 4-H Project Achievement empowers young people with skills for a lifetime. Through a competitive process, students explore their interests, unleash their creativity, share their work, and celebrate their achievements! This guide provides 9th—12th graders with examples for getting started with their project exploration.

### Description of Project:

4-H'ers may explore the leisure activity and sport of shooting at targets including the use of bows and firearms. Through this project 4-H'ers may:

- learn how to safely handle and use bb guns, air rifles, air pistols, .22 rifles, shotguns, recurve bows, or compound bows
- develop knowledge in the history, care, and variations of various firearms and shooting competitions
- acquire an understanding of specific safety practices to protect against personal injury or property damage while shooting
- develop an understanding in the selection of a firearm for a specific shooter or style of shooting
- acquire an understanding of how air-powered and regular firearms work
- develop skills in shooting at a target
- explore career opportunities related to target sports and wildlife management

### Overview:

- ⇒ Choose project
- ⇒ Develop skills in:
  - Project
  - Leadership
  - Service
- ⇒ Prepare portfolio for work completed from January 1—December 31
- ⇒ Prepare presentation
- ⇒ Practice
- ⇒ Compete
- ⇒ Reflect

### Examples of Project Development Experiences:

- Participate in target sports activities as often as possible
- Attend a shooting match, gun show, or compete in 4-H Shooting Sports competitions
- Tour places such as gun shops, shooting ranges, hunting preserves, sporting goods stores, etc.
- Take lessons from a trainer/instructor, attend a workshop, and/or participate in the Georgia Hunter Education Safety Course and potentially NRA's Youth Hunter Education Challenge
- Interview wildlife biologist, game wardens, gunsmiths, park and conservation rangers, sporting goods store owners, camp managers, parks and recreation personnel, etc.
- Acquire and read books, magazines, and pamphlets that relate to your project
- Research applicable rules, regulations, laws, history, and origins of a target sport
- Learn and demonstrate MAT Safety: Muzzle, Action, Trigger

## Project Sharing and Helping Examples:

- Start a project club and lead others in your target sport. Contact your local Extension staff to discuss plans
- Shadow an adult range safety officer and, under the adult's guidance, demonstrate at a club meeting or make a tutorial how-to video of how to safely handle a firearm, including muzzle control, loading, unloading, and passing firearms to others
- Learn the history of a target sport, present it to a class, and discuss how others can get involved
- Show younger 4-H'ers how to properly string and unstring a recurve bow and explain the proper care and storage of the bow, bowstring, and arrows
- Under the supervision of your coach, demonstrate the fundamentals of proper shooting and sighting in a firearm
- Lead a group to assist in range setup and cleanup
- Schedule an expert to share experiences in shooting sports
- Explain Georgia 4-H Project SAFE rules to new members
- Help raise club funds by holding an invitational match
- Promote a shooting sports team for youth in your community
- Mentor a younger 4-H'er in the Target Sports project

## Recommended Resources:

- [Georgia4h.org/ProjectAchievement](http://Georgia4h.org/ProjectAchievement)
- [Georgia4h.org/safe](http://Georgia4h.org/safe)
- [4-hshootingsports.org](http://4-hshootingsports.org)
- [georgiawildlife.com/hunting/education](http://georgiawildlife.com/hunting/education)
- [olympic.org/shooting](http://olympic.org/shooting)
- [nssa-nsc.org](http://nssa-nsc.org)
- [shootata.com](http://shootata.com)
- [usashooting.org](http://usashooting.org)
- [home.nra.org](http://home.nra.org)
- [archery360.com](http://archery360.com)
- [thecmp.org](http://thecmp.org)

## Special Considerations:

- Youth should seek adult supervision and training prior to beginning target sports.
- Follow all safety guidelines when setting up shooting ranges.
- Remember to reference official guides, rules, and regulations.
- Youth should practice safety, handle tools and equipment with care, and include friends or parents in all interactions.
- Carry a water bottle and drink water often to stay hydrated.
- Live animals and weapons are not permitted in this project.
- Ask your local Extension Agent to clarify what shooting sports equipment may be used in 4-H Project Achievement presentations, in club meetings, in 4-H team practices, etc.

## At Competition:

*Target Sports 4-H projects may use posters, artifacts, biofacts, and/or technology to support their presentation. The time limit for these presentations is 12 minutes. Computers, projectors, screens, and other technological devices may be used.*

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Sources: Aamoth, Dan. *Junior/Senior Project Notebook*. "Target Sports Project."

The University of Georgia CAES. 2016. Project Achievement. <http://www.georgia4h.org/projectachievement/>

