



## ALABAMA 4-H

4-H programs are designed to help youth prepare for positive and productive roles in a diverse society, encouraging development of character, leadership, and the skills and competencies needed for life. Four-H helps young people explore their interests and expand their awareness of the world they live in while providing guidance for youth to realize their full potential in a positive and supportive environment.

### 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS

This 4-H program creates an environment for a supportive relationship between a young person and a caring adult. Since approximately 200 million firearms are found in homes in the United States today, there is a need for young people to be aware of gun safety. The 4-H Shooting Sports program teaches young people the safe and responsible use of guns and the fundamentals of firing air guns, .22 and blackpowder rifles, pistols, and shotguns. Archery is also taught.

The 4-H Shooting Sports program is designed to:

- \*Give boys and girls thorough instruction in gun safety;
- \*Provide proper training in the use of firearms;
- \*Develop self-confidence, personal discipline, responsibility, and sportsmanship;
- \*Create an appreciation and understanding of natural resources;
- \*Provide volunteer instructors safe and proper instructional techniques;
- \*Show volunteer leaders how to plan and manage a 4-H Shooting Sports Club.

Currently 28 states have active programs involving approximately 150,000 youth in one or more disciplines of shooting sports. More than 10,000 adult volunteers donate time, talents and financial resources.

Benefits of involvement in the 4-H Shooting Sports program are numerous. Youth develop shooting skills they will use the rest of their lives. They also learn the value of working with others in a disciplined environment.

All Alabama 4-Hers who participate in a Shooting Sports competition are required to pass the Game & Fish Division Hunter Education course.