To: County Extension Agents - Staff Chair  
Shooting Sports County Agents and volunteers

From: Rex Roberg, State 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator

Re: Shooting Sports Instructor Training and Certification Workshop Registration: March 17-19, 2016. 4-H Online Registration will be open January 20 through March 7.

4-H Shooting Sports is one of the fastest growing youth development programs in 4-H today. In addition to teaching youth concepts related to shooting safety and firearm responsibility, the program offers opportunities for youth to develop important life skills such as citizenship, leadership, sportsmanship, ethics, critical thinking, and an appreciation for nature. 4-H Shooting Sports is a community-based, volunteer-directed, family-oriented activity that emphasizes hands-on learning. The program also ties in well with a variety of outdoor-related educational programming, such as the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program, wildlife management and related topics.

State 4-H Shooting Sports instructor training and certification is scheduled for March 17-19, 2016, at the C.A. Vines 4-H Center. Agents and volunteers will be offered National 4-H Shooting Sports Curriculum training at the state level. From both a liability and safety standpoint, it is absolutely essential (and required) that all persons working with 4-H shooting sports youth be trained and certified by the state program. Each county club must have a trained and certified instructor in each shooting discipline in which it will be training youth.

State 4-H certification will be offered in the shotgun, rifle, pistol, muzzleloader, and archery disciplines. A Certified 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor must complete both days of shooting discipline training and pass a written test, and will then be certified to teach youth in the single shooting discipline in which he has been certified.

All registration for this training workshop must be done via 4-H Online. 4-H Online Registration will be open January 20 through March 7. In order to register, you must first be certified in your county as a 4-H Volunteer Leader. If you haven’t already done this, I strongly recommend you get started with this process immediately, as it may take up to 5-6 weeks! Contact your county office for instructions on how to proceed.

Once you have completed the county requirements, you will need to register for the March 2016 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Training on 4-H Online. Your county office can assist you if you need help.

Please save this letter as a document and print, copy and distribute to interested parties. The next instructor training will be offered in September of 2016.

This Registration Info Packet will also available soon on the Web at: http://www.uaex.edu/4h-youth/activities-programs/shooting-sports.aspx

cc: Dr. Tony Windham  
    Dr. Anne Sortor  
    Noah Washburn  
    District Directors
4-H Shooting Sports Training Courses: March 17-19, 2016

State 4-H Certification will be offered in the **shotgun, rifle, pistol, muzzleloader, and archery disciplines.** Participants will be able to obtain certification in a single discipline as a Certified 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor.

**Certified 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Training:** This two day course emphasizes youth education and development, instruction, marksmanship, and firearms safety. Additional sessions will provide training for county agents, program assistants, and volunteers in developing and implementing shooting sports programs, firearms and range safety, and descriptions of competitive opportunities including the state competitions.

Those who wish to coordinate and/or instruct youth in any 4-H shooting sports club, at local practices or for competition at any county or state level activity, event, or program, are required to receive certification as 4-H Shooting Sports Instructors. **Prior experience with, and knowledge of, firearms or bows appropriate to your selected training discipline is strongly recommended.**

**Eligible youth may enroll in a shooting discipline course as a Teen Leader.** To qualify for Teen Leader training, a youth must be at least 16 yr. old and have been an active participant in a county 4-H Shooting Sports Club for at least one year. A youth participant will receive Teen Leader certification in one shooting discipline from the list above (1st paragraph). Teen Leaders will be qualified to train county youth in their discipline under supervision of a certified adult instructor.

**Two short-courses** will be offered on Thursday (March 17) evening (7:00), prior to the Instructor Training Workshop which commences Friday, March 18. These courses are optional (and free). **They run concurrently, so you may only sign up and attend one or the other.**

- **4-H Shooting Sports Hunting Skills discipline short-course:** This course will introduce participants to the Hunting Skills discipline of 4-H Shooting Sports, and give you a head start on the upcoming **4-H Hunting Skills Instructor Training (April 15-16).** The first-ever Arkansas 4-H Hunting Skills competition is scheduled for February 24-25, 2017, so it’s time to start getting your county club prepared!

- **Compass & Orienteering short-course:** This course will help prepare you for the Orienteering segment of 4-H Hunting Skills, and cover everything coaches need to know for the YHEC Orienteering Challenge event.

**Firearms, ammunition, and bows & arrows for Instructor Certification Training:** Participants registered for the Training Workshop should, if at all possible, bring a firearm or bow and arrows (field tips) appropriate to their discipline for use during the training. **Absolutely no ammunition or broadhead arrows can be brought onto the 4-H Center grounds.** Please bring your own eye and ear protection.

**All fees will be paid to your county office, and each county will send a single check to the 4-H Shooting Sports Program, made out to UACES.** Contact me at 501-671-2334 or rroberg@uaex.edu with any questions.

Those attending Shooting Sports Instructor workshops will be required to work with youth in their county 4-H Shooting Sports Club, and/or assist in event leadership in their discipline at the State Competitions in accordance with Arkansas 4-H Shooting Sports Policy. Please keep the tentative Agenda that is found in this packet. It lists all pertinent times for arrival, short-courses, departure, etc. It may be the only schedule you will receive prior to arrival at the 4-H Center.
TENTATIVE AGENDA
Arkansas 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Certification Workshop
March 17-19, 2016

Thursday, March 17  Instructors Arrive, Set up for Training
Thursday, March 17  (lodging available, Fee Option 1)
  7:00 pm  4-H Hunting Skills short-course
  7:00 pm  Compass & Orienteering short-course

Friday, March 18
  7:00 am  Breakfast (for Thurs. lodgers, Fee Option 1 only)
  8:00 am  Participant Registration
  8:30 am  Welcome / Course Overview
  9:00 am  4-H Shooting Sports Discipline Training
  12:00 pm  Lunch (Dining Hall)
  1:00 pm  Training in Disciplines
  6:00 pm  Dinner (Dining Hall) NRA Grant Seminar
  7:00 pm  Training in Disciplines (as needed)
  8:00 pm  4H Shooting Sports Committee meeting

Saturday, March 19
  7:30 am  Breakfast (Dining Hall)
  8:00 am -12:00 pm  Training in Disciplines
  12:00 pm  Lunch (Dining Hall)
  1:30 pm  Training in Disciplines
  3:30 pm  Adjourn

This agenda is tentative and subject to change without notice. You will receive an official Schedule of Events upon registration at the 4-H Center.
4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Training

Certified 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor Workshop

Goal: Provide leadership training for the 4-H Shooting Sports program that focuses on youth development, safe and ethical shooting, conservation, and hunter education to help leaders attain knowledge and develop instructional skills through in-depth, advanced training and provide hands-on range experiences.

Purpose: Active County 4-H Volunteer Leaders who coordinate and/or instruct youth in any 4-H shooting sports club, activity, event, or program are required to complete this workshop and be certified as a 4-H Shooting Sports Instructor.

Prerequisites:
Adult volunteers must be registered County 4-H Volunteer Leaders.
Youth must qualify as 4-H shooting sports teen leaders, 16 yr.old, one year in 4-H Shooting Sports Club, minimum.

Audience: Agents, program assistants, adult 4-H leaders, teen leaders

Cost: 4-H Shooting Sports Discipline Training
Thursday arrivals: $120......................2 nights lodging, 5 meals & materials
Friday arrivals: $90.........................1 night lodging, 4 meals, & materials
No lodging, meals only: $80..............5 meals and materials
No meals or lodging: $30............... materials only
Workshop Instructors:...............meals and lodging expenses paid via grants

Dates: March 18-19, 2016

Location: C.A. Vines 4-H Center, Ferndale

Disciplines (offered concurrently): Shotgun, Archery, Muzzleloader, Pistol, Rifle

Workshop Instructors: Nationally-certified 4-H Shooting Sports Instructors plus other resource persons

Discipline Lesson Content: (includes, but not limited to National 4H Shooting Sports Curriculum)

- discipline training including methods and teaching techniques
- one-on-one instruction.
- advanced marksmanship training.
- advanced range management.
- range safety

General: Provide an introduction and overall understanding of the program for those agents and volunteer leaders who provide leadership for the county program.
DIRECTIONS: Ten miles west of Little Rock city limits.

From I-40:
After crossing the Arkansas River from the north, take the first exit - Centreville Highway 10 - and travel west (right). Follow Highway 10 8.5 miles. Turn left onto Fermale Cutoff (West Pulaski Fire Dept. will be on the right). Follow Fermale Cutoff 5 miles to stop sign in Fermale. Travel another 1.1 miles on Fermale Cutoff. The 4-H Center will be on the right. From South, take Shackelford exit and loop around to get on I-430. See instructions below.

From I-430:
Stay on I-430 until the interstate ends at a stop light at Shackelford Road. Continue through the light. This will be Financial Center Parkway and will turn into Chenal Parkway. Travel approximately 2.5 miles on Chenal Parkway and left on Kanis Road (after you pass Texaco which is on the right). Travel another 1.4 miles and bare left at the “Y”. After 6.4 miles, you will get to a 4-way stop at Fermale. Turn left onto Fermale Cutoff and travel another 1.1 miles an turn right into the 4-H Center. Watch for signs.

From I-30:
Exit on Congo Road (in Benton), and travel North. Turn left at the stop sign in Salem. Take a right at the “Y” of Mulberry Rd. & Congo Rd. Take a right at the next “Y” of Steel Bridge Rd. & Congo Rd. Continue to The 4-H Center which is on the left. Total distance from I-30 is 17 miles. Watch for signs.