

Elbert County 4-H BB Gun Team

Welcome to the Elbert County 4-H BB Gun Program! BB gun shooting is the perfect entry-level sport for all future shooting activities. The National Rifle Association is the governing body for rule development and competitive shooting practices.

In BB gun shooting, shooters use four different Olympic-style shooting positions (standing, prone, sitting, kneeling) and fire ten shots for score from each position. The target is placed 5 meters (some 16 feet) away. A possible perfect score in each position is 100, for a total possible score of 400 points. To date, the World Record is 398. Although the black aiming circle of each target is about 3 inches in diameter, the bull's-eye is only the diameter of a BB.

To be successful, BB Gun shooters have to maintain a certain level of commitment. They must know and understand the rules, learn the correct body positions, and practice the correct shooting fundamentals and techniques. This requires mental discipline, physical fitness and flexibility, and development of good muscular coordination. To achieve this in young shooters, parental involvement is an absolute must. Shooting skills are readily taught, but must be reinforced through regular practice. The rewards are self-confidence, self-esteem, self-discipline, improved hand-eye-muscle coordination, and an increased ability to focus on specific tasks. Further, shooting is a life-long sport one can enjoy.

Parents and prospective shooters need to decide up-front what recreational activities in which they want to participate. Shooting fares poorly when combined with other sports, such as football and baseball due to time commitment. We strongly suggest that you, the parent, encourage your child to focus on one sport, rather than several. We hope you decide on shooting.

General Policies:

- **A parent** (or responsible adult) is expected to accompany BB shooters to all practices and matches.
- **Parents will be expected to participate in the BB program by coaching, scoring targets, conducting study and testing sessions, and supervising gun maintenance.** Parents will be taught these skills.
- Your time is valuable, so we will do our best to start and end practices on time. Please make sure your shooter arrives on time to scheduled events.
- **Gun safety** is paramount, and every participant will be taught applicable safety rules. We will not tolerate horseplay, teasing or rambunctiousness. Safety rules will be strictly enforced.
- **Hunter safety education** is required for all shooters and special classes will be conducted at the 4-H Center for new shooters. If you do not have a Hunter's Safety Card, you will need to take the Hunter's Safety Course. ***The Georgia Department of Natural Resources is holding a class at the 4-H Center (Beaverdam Elementary) on Monday, November 14th, & Thursday, November 17th, from 5:00-9:00pm. This is an in-person class and you must be present both nights to complete the course and take the test.***

Costs:

- Cost to participate in the BB Gun Program is **\$70.00** per shooter. A payment schedule is offered if needed. Payments of **\$20** each will be due the first week of practice in **November, December & January**, with a \$10 payment in February. This covers the NRA BB Gun Rule Book, targets, BB's, and practice match entry fees.

- 4-H owned BB guns (Daisy Model 499) are available to shooters to use at no charge. Individual guns may be purchased from Daisy through the 4-H Center at a cost of \$100.00 each. Orders for Christmas should be placed as soon as possible; however, guns may be purchased at anytime if desired.
- Other out-of-pocket costs parents may anticipate are meals, transportation, and lodging in conjunction with away matches.

Practices:

- Weekly practices will be held on **Mondays from 6:00-8:00pm** for new shooters and **Thursdays from 6:00-8:00pm** for returning shooters, at the 4-H Center, with the first practice to be held on **October 24th for new shooters and October 27th for returning shooters**. To maintain standing on the team, a shooter must be able to attend at least 70% of scheduled practices.
- Once the competition season starts, practices will be combined and shooters will practice twice a week.
- No mandatory practices during school holidays. Other scheduling conflicts may occur or other circumstances and will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
- During each practice session, shooters will spend approximately one hour studying the BB Gun Rulebook and one hour shooting under the supervision of coaches.
- Parents will be taught how to coach the various shooting positions and perform other tasks associated with the program.

Team Selection:

- Tryouts for team selection are open to all. Due to facility/equipment limitations and coaching staff, the program must be reduced to no more than 32 shooters. Team selections will be based on scores shot by shooters and test scores. Full refunds will be provided to those shooters who are eliminated at the time of selection.

Matches:

- Elbert County 4-H BB Team hopes to host a practice/fun match at our location in January. Parents will be responsible for helping with the match.
- We will participate in approximately three out-of-town matches. Those include the **VFW BB Championship Match in Coffee County** (February), a **District Qualifying BB Match** (March) in Madison County and the **State BB Competition May 6th, 2017** at Rock Eagle near Eatonton. Dates and locations of other matches will be announced as the information is available.
- After the 4-H State Match, we may participate in the Georgia Games.

Registration Papers & Down Payment Due by November 7th

BB Team General Information

This is a family affair. Parents are just as important as shooters. Without the parents, practices would not go smoothly and 4-H'ers would not get to shoot. Please join our preparations for practice, during practice tasks and our clean-up efforts. Parents and volunteers are the heartbeat of the BB Program!

Before Practice: The shooting range needs to be set-up. This includes getting out shooting mats, lights, target boxes, targets, bb's, safety glasses, kneeling rolls, slings and ram rods.

During Practices: Targets need to be scored and recorded. Each 4-H'er needs a line coach, an adult on the shooting line. There also needs to be a range coach, the person that calls times and positions. Someone needs to teach educational material used for tests at matches and administer practice tests.

After Practices: All equipment and materials need to be put away. The floor needs to be swept and gone over with a magnet to pick up loose bb's.

General Needs: Paperwork, practice records and match entries need to be kept up with throughout the season. Money also needs to be turned into the 4-H Center.

SAFE Coaches

Because the BB Team is completely volunteer led, we are always looking for parents who are willing to step up to volunteer and help lead the program. We ask that all parents complete the Elbert County 4-H Volunteer Paperwork. However, we also need parents of 5th or 6th graders that would be eager to become a certified SAFE Coach with Georgia 4-H. Elbert County 4-H must have a certified coach in order to have a BB Program.

The next SAFE Certification is December 2-4, at Rock Eagle 4-H Center. Registration is due by Nov. 7th. Another certification will be held in January. Please see Ms. Lauren for more details.