

Elbert County 4-H Shotgun Program 2016

What is Project SAFE?

Project S.A.F.E. (Shooting Awareness, Fun and Education) is an active program, attracting both youth and adult audiences. The program is curriculum based and designed to assist young people in character development, establish a personal environmental ethic and explore life-long vocational and avocational activities. The program uses experiential learning and positive interactions with youth and adult role models to help young people develop self-concept, self-assurance and a positive self-image.

The program promotes responsibility, decision-making and identifying realistic, personal goals. Participants may elect to compete at a level appropriate for their abilities or pursue other objectives. Participants have shown high achievement in the field, shop or classroom and on target range, but personal development for young people and leaders is the real objective. The program strives to make "every kid a winner," and to "make the best better."

Like other 4-H projects, S.A.F.E. has a subject matter base. It has strong links to natural resources, wildlife, outdoor recreation and safety. The content is drawn from sports medicine, psychology, education, biological and physical sciences, engineering, mathematics, technology, as well as American traditions, folklore and history.

What are the Project SAFE objectives?

Enhance youth development of self-concept, character and personal growth through safe, educational and socially acceptable involvement in shooting activities.

Involve youth in a life skills program that teaches safe and responsible use of firearms including sound decision-making, self-discipline and concentration.

Promote the highest standards of safety, sportsmanship and ethical behavior.

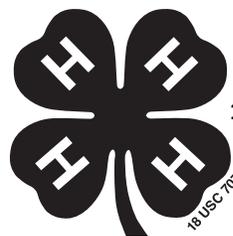
Expose participants to the broad array of vocational and life-long avocation activities related to shooting sports.

Strengthen families through participation in life-long recreational activities.

Complement and enhance the impact of existing safety, shooting and hunter education programs using experiential (hands-on) educational methods and progressive development of skills and abilities.



UGA
extension



Elbert County 4-H Program

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Guidelines for Handling Firearms on 4-H Ranges

It is the responsibility of each and every person to ensure that our program continues its high standards of safety and continues to serve as a great education tool for young people interested in the sport of shooting. This not only includes the 4-H'ers and coaches, but parents as well.

- 1) When firearms are brought to and from the 4-H range, they should be cased and the actions should remain open where applicable. When firearms are brought to the range in a different manner, the SAFE Development Committee suggests that a young person should not be allowed to participate in the day's activities.
- 2) Please communicate to parents that it is their responsibility to check and ensure that all firearms are unloaded and cased before coming to the range. In the event that a firearm arrives at the range with ammunition in the magazine or chamber, the firearm should be made safe and returned to the parent. Coaches and county Extension Staff members should work together to determine the appropriate action to be taken regarding the future participation of the 4-H'er.
- 3) When firearms arrive at the range, coaches (not parents or 4-H'ers) should uncase all firearms and check to make sure that they are safe.
- 4) 4-H rules do allow for 4-H'ers to carry their own firearm to the shooting line at the discretion of the coaches. However, ammunition should be controlled by the coaches and made available only when it is a 4-H'ers time to shoot. For modified trap, coaches should still hand shotshells one-at-a-time to 4-H'ers. For Skeet, Trap and Sporting Clays, 4-H'ers should only have ammunition when it is their turn on the field and only enough ammunition to complete the round.
- 5) Before leaving the shooting station, it is the responsibility of both the coach and the 4-H'er to ensure that the firearm is unloaded.
- 6) After completing the round, firearms should be returned to the rack or cased.
- 7) Please remind 4-H'ers and all adults that no one should ever touch another person's firearm without permission from both the owner and an adult.

Additional Guidelines from Elbert County Gun Club

No hunting on club grounds.

Do not use rocks or glass as targets.

Do not carry concealed weapons on grounds.

Do not, EVER, load a firearm unless you are on the appropriate firing point & preparing to fire.

Always keep muzzle pointed in a safe direction.

Firearms should be unloaded when not actually in use.

Do not rely on the gun's safety mechanism.

Be sure of your target & what is beyond.

If your gun fails to fire when the trigger is pulled, handle with care.

ALWAYS wear eye & ear protection when shooting.

Be sure the barrel is clear of obstructions before shooting.

Do not alter or modify your gun. Have it serviced regularly.

Learn the mechanical & handling characteristics of the firearm you are using.



Georgia 4-H Modified Trap Rules & Regulations

State Event Guidelines:

A county may enter any number of eligible Junior or Senior Division boys and/or girls in an area 4-H Shotgun match. 4-H'ers must post a minimum score (Juniors 16 hits and Seniors 20 hits) at a state approved match consisting of three counties or more to qualify for the state match.

4-H'ers have only one opportunity per 4-H year at a qualification match to shoot the minimum score to qualify for state match participation. After 4-H'ers qualify for that year, counties can establish 5-7 member Junior or Senior teams for state competition at their discretion. If a county qualifies less than 5 shooters in either division, the shooters will compete as individuals.

The contest will be a modified trap shoot.

- o Twenty-five (25) single, orange domed, 108mm (standard) clay targets will be thrown, at random angles and elevation away from the shooter using an electric trap machine. The trap will be set to throw targets not greater than 45 degrees left or right of the center of the trap (oscillating) and vertically 0-35 degrees (wobble). The trap will be located to the right of the 4-H'er and a dividing screen will be used to separate the 4-H'er and the trap.
- o Throwers angles and elevation will be set by event management so target presentation will be as consistent as possible from station to station. Machine elevation and level will be set using a magnetic protractor to ensure consistency.
- o Target speed will be set by event management.
- o Tampering with trap speed or elevation settings will be justification for county ejection from a match.
- o In the event that a trap becomes disabled or throws targets outside of the required zone of fire, it will be repaired or replaced by the event management as necessary. A coach of a 4-H'er involved during trap repair or replacement is responsible for confirming that traps throw targets at the proper angles and elevation. Targets thrown at the request of a 4-H'er can not be disputed over a field of fire issue.
- o One point will be awarded per target broken. Each 4-H'er will be allowed two (2) optional practice targets or may view two (2) targets before their recorded singles round begins. The 4-H'er or coach is responsible for informing the scorekeeper if either one or two practice shots are desired prior to shooting. The option of shooting practice shots is permitted only once prior to shooting any targets.

Ties in the singles event will be broken by shooting rounds of 5 pairs of targets. The first round of tiebreakers may be shot immediately following the 4-H'ers singles round. Subsequent sets of pairs will be shot as needed to determine placements of individual winners and teams after singles rounds are completed. A coach must select one representative to participate in tie breakers on behalf of the team.

- o During tiebreaker rounds, 4-H'ers will not be allowed any practice rounds. However, they will be allowed to view the target presentation before shooting for record score.
- o 4-H'ers must fire once at each target during tiebreaker rounds. Firing twice at the same target will result in both targets scored as lost.
- o Shoot management or their designee will serve as the scorer/referee and trap operators for doubles. The scorekeeper/referee will observe each target's flight and record breaks or misses. In event of a dispute, the trap operator's opinion will be considered by the scorer/referee.
- o Doubles will be thrown by using two electric trap machines phased together. At the discretion of event management, doubles may be thrown using the manually operated Trius Trap if electric machines are not feasible for any contest.
 - § When using electric machines, each machine will be set to throw a target simultaneously or near simultaneously as possible within a one second delay. Machines will be set side by side where the right machine will be set to throw the target consistently at or near straight away, no more than 5 degrees left or right of center. The left machine will be set to throw a target consistently between 35- 45 degrees left from the center of the field of fire. There is no out of bounds. Target speed and elevation will be set by event management.
 - § When using the Trius machine, targets will be consistently placed back to back (not stacked) on the thrower arm at the same location for each pair. The angle will be so that one target is consistently at or near straight away and the other consistently at or near 45 degrees left from the center of the field of fire. There is no out of bounds. Target speed will be controlled by locking the spring at its maximum tension where there are no visible threads between the spring and the frame assembly. Target elevation will be set by event management.
- o For each subsequent set of doubles, the trap elevation will be lowered or raised until placing can be determined.
- o In the event of a no-target, gun or ammunition malfunction during a tiebreaker, neither target of a pair will be scored and another pair will be thrown to score.
- No adult will be allowed to score/referee or record scores for a 4-H'er from his or her county. Each county should have a minimum of two adults at the range with each team at all times. At least one of these adults must be a certified coach. These adults may be asked by the Range Officer to operate traps, be safety officers, scorers/referees, or any other task deemed necessary by the Range Officer. These extra adults are needed to ensure a safe match. If a county cannot bring two adults, their shooters will not be allowed to compete.
 - Coaching will be allowed behind the firing line unless it holds up the match. If a coach, after one warning by the Range Officer or their assistant, continues to slow the match, then they will forfeit this privilege. At no time is a coach allowed to indicate the flight elevation or direction of any target. Violators will be required to leave the range.

Safety Procedures:

All 4-H'ers must have successfully completed the Georgia Hunter Education Program.

All 4-H'ers, trap operators, coaches, scorekeepers/referees, and range safety officers will wear hearing and eye protection at all times while on the firing line.

Closed toe shoes that are secured to the feet by use of a heel strap or formed heel must be worn at all times while on the range. Flip flops and sandals are not allowed. Shoes must be worn at the firing line.

At no time may a gun muzzle be rested on the body part or a toe pad in 4-H competition. In addition no body part may be rested on the muzzle of the firearm.

All shotguns and ammunition will be cased or boxed and secured by a certified coach until ready to move to the firing range and after the match is over.

The next 4-H'er in rotation will be 'on-deck' waiting their turn and ready to go. Ammunition will be presented to the scorer/referee to be inspected for rule compliance and shall remain in a closed box until time for the 4-H'er to shoot. A coach will hand one shell at a time to the 4-H'er on the firing line.

The Range Officer will be in charge at all times during the match. Failure to heed the Range Officer's instructions immediately will be grounds for ejection from the match and removal from the range.

All shotguns will be placed at a designated place at the firing range and will remain there until the 4-H'er is told to approach the firing line. The 4-H'er is allowed to transfer a shotgun, with coaches' approval, from the designated gun storage area to the firing line and back to the designated area. All guns must have the action open while being transferred to the firing line. A coach must be in control of ammunition at all times.

All 4-H'ers, trap operators, coaches, scorekeepers/referees, and range safety officers will wear hearing and eye protection at all times while on the firing line.

An adult coach will stand behind the 4-H'er and monitor safety. The coach will load the shotgun or hand shotshells (one shotshell only when shooting singles and two shotshells only when shooting doubles) to the 4-H'ers. The coach will serve as the trap operator when electric traps are used. Only one coach will be allowed at the firing line and an additional coach may not be used to operate the trap.

In the event of a misfire, the 4-H'er cannot move either hand from the firearm, must maintain muzzle control down range while keeping their finger on the trigger. The 4-H'er must follow the instruction of the referee. Only a referee can inspect the firearm to determine and declare an ammunition or gun malfunction or shooter error.

Safety is the number one consideration in the 4-H SAFE Program. The Range Officer or any safety officer may eject any 4-H'ers, coach or spectator for unsafe actions or behavior at any time during the match with no warning or appeal upon the event coordinators approval.

Equipment & Ammunition:

Any 12 or smaller gauge shotgun will be allowed to be used in this match.

4-H'ers will supply their own shotgun and shotshells. Shotshells must meet the following specifications:

- o 1 oz cannot exceed 1325 FPS
- o 7/8 oz can not exceed 1350 FPS.
- o Shot size must be 7 ½ or smaller and not exceed 1 oz. Shells will be factory loads. **NO RELOADS WILL BE ALLOWED.** Shooters are responsible for bringing enough shells for practice shots, record fire and tie breakers if necessary.
- o It is the coach's responsibility to provide written proof from the manufacturer that the ammunition meets Georgia 4-H requirements if questioned by a Range Officer or scorer/referee. Written proof shall consist of a box labeled with FPS information or a manufacturer's literature with that information. If a 4-H'er is found to have used illegal ammunition, they are subject to disqualification from the event.

Certified Coaches & Adults:

Counties are required to have a minimum of one 4-H certified coach in the shotgun discipline for each 5-7 person team.

A 4-H certified coach in shotgun discipline must be present for a county practice or event to be recognized as a Georgia 4-H SAFE program.

Additional adequate adult supervision should be present to serve as range safety officers and help facilitate all aspects of Project SAFE events and activities. Adults should be Certified Overnight Chaperone Trained or Screened Volunteers depending upon responsibilities and roles assigned.



Scoring:

A scorekeeper/referee will observe each target's flight and record breaks or misses on the official score sheet. The scorekeeper/referee must see a visible piece of the target break off to be scored as a broken target. "Dusting" or moving a target does not count as a broken target. Two flankers will be used to the left and right of the field to confirm broken and missed targets.

Disputes over broken or missed targets must be resolved prior to calling for the next target (or pair in doubles). Calling for the next target signifies agreement with the scorekeeper/referee and previous targets cannot be reviewed. The flankers opinion of broken or missed shall be used by the referee to resolve disputes over broken or missed targets. If the flankers are unable to or fail to make a judgment, the decision of the scorer/referee is final.

Each 4-H'er gets a maximum of two failures to fire resulting in a "no target." In event of a "no target," the 4-H'er will be allowed to shoot that target again for record score. A failure to fire may be caused by gun malfunction, ammunition malfunction or shooter error including failures to take off the safety, selecting the proper barrel, or loading of shell. Each failure to fire after the first two instances will be scored as a "lost target." Failure to fire shall be noted on the score sheet as F1, F2, etc. in the space where the target is scored along with the score for that target.

If a target breaks when thrown from the trap, the scorer/referee will call "no target" A no target will not be scored and must be re-shot.

Broken targets/ machine malfunctions: If 2 broken targets are thrown consecutively, fire should suspend and the trap machine cleared. If the machine continues to malfunction or break targets, a coach may pull a 4-H'er off the line and request that the machine be evaluated or repaired. The 4-H'er is allowed to view 1 legal target and will resume his round at the point where they stopped. The 4-H'er cannot start their round over and hits/misses on previous targets will remain as scored. If a coach allows a 4-H'er to complete their round on a malfunctioning machine, they will not be allowed a second opportunity to post a score.

It is the responsibility of the coach to make the scorekeeper/referee aware of a gun or ammunition malfunction so a judgment can be made.

At the conclusion of the 4-H'ers turn, each 4-H'er must initial his/her score at the scorer's table before returning to the ready line. Failure to initial score cards indicates acceptance of scores as recorded. Score cards will be checked for accuracy by event management.

Practices:

Elbert County 4-H Shotgun Team practices will be held at the Elbert County Gun Club (1239 Ruckersville Road, Elberton, GA 30635). Shooters are expected to attend at least 70% of practices in order to be eligible for competition at the matches.

If you have a question about practice due to the weather, please call or text 706-988-6582.

Members are expected to help set up and clean up the range at each practice.

Matches:

The District Match will be held at the Elbert County Gun Club on **Saturday, April 8th**. Our team is hosting the match. Everyone is expected to help with the event (all team members and parents).

The State Match (for those that qualify) will be held at Rock Eagle 4-H Center on **Saturday, May 13th**.

Other:

The Shotgun Program is meant to be a team sport. All participants are expected to help with practices and matches. Parents are expected to attend and assist as well.

All members will also be expected to participate in at least one fundraiser. The money earned for the fundraiser will directly impact the shotgun program (registration fees, team shirts, equipment, etc.).

Students must complete and return a Code of

