

Feliciania 4-H Programs Need Shooting Sports Instructors; Training Scheduled for 19-20 September

The local, parish 4-H Programs are looking for a few, good men and women to volunteer their time as instructors in the fairly-new, 4-H Shooting Sports Program. At present, there is an Archery and Shotgun Club in East Feliciania and one, Rifle Club in West Feliciania.

According to Ken Spoto, County Agent working with 4-H youth and Volunteer Leaders, Shooting sports is an active program attractive to both youth and adults. It is volunteer-driven, and the learning is designed to assist young people in personal development, establishing personal respect for the environment, and exploring life-long vocational and avocational activities. The program promotes positive interaction between young people and concerned and well-prepared adults with shared interests.

The shooting sports program strives to make every kid a winner. Youth work with instructors and/or assistant instructors on a monthly (or more frequent) basis. They have the option to prepare and compete at District, State, and national level shoot offs in the spring of each year. Advanced and competitive youth have been found to possess their own equipment and practice beyond the normally scheduled meetings.

Shooting sports equipment and facilities, however, can be flexible. At present, the East Feliciania 4-H program owns one Shotgun and 6 bows and a fair supply of arrows, armguards, finger tabs, and 5, large Styrofoam targets. One site in Baker and one or two sites in the parishes will more than likely be available for practice and local competition. Shooting sports activities are covered by 4-H insurance, and, so, the adult instructor, also a certified 4-H Adult Leader, may want to hold educational and practice sessions on his or her property.

The prospective, instructor would be a special individual, 21 years of age or older (may be younger for Archery) willing to devote at least 2 hours of his or her personal time a month. During a two day training, scheduled for September 19-20, and from affiliation with other instructors across the state, he or she will learn instruction techniques for a particular discipline, but also learn of numerous funding sources that will assist him or her in securing shooting sports equipment, as needed.

The deadline for applying to the September 19-20 training is September 10, but interested adults are encouraged to contact the 4-H Office as soon as possible. The session fee of \$30 is covered by 4-H if the prospective instructor agrees to volunteer for at least one year; interested adults will need to travel to Franklinton, LA (Washington Parish) for the training. First time adults and returning instructors may only be involved in one of the following disciplines during the shooting sports training: Archery, rifle, shotgun, pistol, muzzleloading, and hunting and wildlife.

For more information on 4-H Shooting Sports, please phone Ken Spoto at 683-3101 or at 635-3614.