



UTAH 4-H SHOTGUN LEADER SUPPLEMENT



UTAH 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS

Empowering Youth Through Shotgun:
A Step-by-Step Guide to Skill Development and Achievement

Extension

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4-H Pledge:

I pledge my head to clearer thinking,
my heart to greater loyalty,
my hands to larger service, and
my health to better living,
for my club, my community, my country
and my world.

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INTRODUCTION

In the 4-H Shooting Sports Shotgun discipline members will accomplish the following learning experiences:

- Follow safety regulations when on the shooting range, including following all the range officer's instructions.
- Care and safety of shooting sports equipment.
- Demonstrate safe use of shotgun through practice, demonstrations, and exhibits.
- Explore other 4-H project areas.
- Get involved with other shotgun groups and practice with them throughout the year.

Equipment Required:

- shotgun
- ammo
- eye protection
- ear protection

Shotgun shooting discipline consists of three sections:

Learning trap, skeet, and sporting clays in order to shoot at the state competition:

- Shoot 2 rounds of 25 traps equaling 50 shots
- Shoot 2 rounds of 25 skeet equaling 50 shots

State Requirements:

- 4-H youth (3rd grade-18 years old that year) can compete at 4-H State Shooting Sports Competition.
- Hunter Education Blue Card is required to compete at State or approved equivalent.
- At State, you can participate in one or multiple disciplines – archery, .22 rifle & shotgun.

National Requirements:

- To compete at the 4-H Shooting Sports National competitions, Utah participants must be Senior age youth regardless of birthdate.
- National is held the 3rd week of June.
- You will only compete in one qualified discipline and may only represent in a discipline once.
- Utah 4-H will take one team in each discipline.



**Scan for UTAH 4-H State Shooting
Sport Resources**

More information:

<https://extension.usu.edu/utah4h/programs/shooting-sports>

GOALS OF THE NATIONAL 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS PROGRAM

- Teach decision-making, teamwork, self-discipline, self-confidence, and problem-solving.
- Promote the highest standards of safety, sportsmanship, and ethical behavior.
- Encourage and appreciate an understanding of natural resources.
- Develop leadership abilities.
- Build character and willingness to assume citizenship responsibility.
- Furnish enjoyable, positive relationships with peers and adult instructors.
- Strengthen families through participation in lifelong recreational activities.
- Build awareness of related career opportunities.

Identifying goals and objectives helps you become more skilled and knowledgeable as well as tracks your growth and progress. Goals are statements of things you want to achieve or improve. Objectives are the things you need to do to reach your goals. List two goals for your shotgun project this year. For each goal, list three objectives you need to accomplish to reach the goal.

Your Goals and Objectives for the Year-What do you want to achieve by participating in the 4-H Shotgun Project?

Goal 1 _____

Objective 1 _____

Objective 2 _____

Objective 3 _____

Goal 2 _____

Objective 1 _____

Objective 2 _____

Objective 3 _____

Shotgun Range Rules

1. Know and obey all range commands and instructions.
2. All shooting on the trap range, including patterning, must be supervised by a state certified 4-H Level I Shooting Sports Instructor. They may be assisted by trained RSOs.
3. All firearms entering the trap range area must be uncased and proven safe at the Safe House; then they are to be put in a gun rack beside the field.
4. Ear and eye protection are mandatory.
5. Only aim and shoot downrange at your target.
6. First-time shooters must be supervised by an experienced shooter or RSO of Shooting Sports Leader.
7. Juniors are always supervised.
8. Always walk when you are on the range.
9. Be courteous to the shooter next to you.
10. Stand behind the waiting line when you are not shooting or finished.
11. Guns must always remain unloaded with the action open, except when a shooter is on-station, ready to call for targets.
12. Break action shotguns **may** be closed while stored in a gun stand or rack but must be unloaded.
13. When preparing to shoot, shotguns shall be loaded with no more than two shells at a time.
14. Always keep the trigger finger off the trigger and on the frame until ready to shoot.
15. Tracer, armor piercing, white phosphorus, incendiary, or any other excessively destructive ammunition is **PROHIBITED** on all ranges!

Range Commands

Command: "Eye and ear protection on."

Command: "Move forward to your shooting position."

Command: "Practice mounting and following a target with the gun."

Command: "Load and prepare to fire."

Command: "Is the trapper ready?"

Command: "Call "Pull" when shooter is ready."

Command: "Cease fire."

Command: "Range is clear."

Command: "You may exit the shooting area."

Command: "Remove eye and ear protection."

Shotgun Glossary

Action: the moving parts that allow you to load, fire and unload your shotgun.

Barrel: a tube, usually metal, through which a controlled explosion or rapid expansion of gases are released to propel a projectile out of the end at high velocity.

Barrel Selector: determines which barrel of a double barrel gun you will fire first.

Bore: the interior diameter of a gun barrel, which will vary according to the gun's size and intended use.

Break Open: in a hinge-type gun, where the barrels are dropped open and clear of the action, exposing the chambers to view.

Breech Bolt: ['brēch ,bōlt] (ordinance) a mechanism that opens and closes the breech in a carbine, machine gun, rifle, and the like; designed to push a cartridge into the chamber by sliding action.

Butt: the rear of the shoulder end of the gun's stock.

Buckshot: Often used for hunting large animals. This is ammunition for shotguns that have medium or large pellets that burst when fired. Buckshot pellets are around .24" in diameter, creating a bigger impact on the target. For hunters, that means buckshot has the intensity to kill the animal quickly.

Chamber: the part of the action, at the breech end of the barrel, into which the shell is placed.

Choke: the degree of narrowing or constriction of the bore at the muzzle end of the barrel. Intended to increase the effective range of the gun.

Comb: the side of the stock that fits against your cheek.

Ejector: the mechanism on shotguns by which spent shotshell cases are automatically ejected from the gun when it is opened after firing.

Forearm: the part of the stock that lies under the barrel.

Full Choke: the tightest constriction or narrowing of the bore, producing the greatest effective range.

Gauge: the term used to describe the interior diameter of the bore. The smaller the gauge number the larger the bore size.

Grip: the narrow portion of the stock held with the trigger hand.

Hinge: a type of action in which a hinge mechanism separates the barrel from the standing breech block, providing access to the chamber.

Shotgun Glossary

(continued)

Improved Cylinder: least constricted or narrowed choke causing the shotshell pattern to widen relatively quickly.

Magazine Cap: a fixed, tubular shotgun magazine that holds more than 28-inches of shotgun shells, including any extension device that is attached to the magazine, and holds additional shotgun shells.

Modified Choke: moderate constriction or narrowing of the bore.

Muzzle: the end of the barrel from which the shotshell exits.

Over-and-Under: a two-barreled shotgun with one barrel placed over the other.

Pump: a type of action that loads and ejects shells by "pumping" the forearm of the stock back and forth.

Safety: a safety device that, in the "on" position, prevents the gun from firing. In many field guns, the safety is automatically engaged when the gun is opened; in other guns, particularly competition grades, the safety must be manually opened.

Semi-Automatic: a type of action in which gas from burning gunpowder in the shell automatically ejects the spent shell that loads another.

Shell or Shotshell: the ammunition fired by shotguns, consisting of five components: the case, primer, powder charge, wad, and shot.

Shot: round projectiles, usually of lead or steel.

Shot Pattern: the concentration of a shot measured in a circle at a given range, usually 30 to 40 yards.

Sight (Front): sighting system provides a measurement and visual verification of the angular and radial position of your firearm's bore relative to the target.

Stock: the "handle" of the shotgun, the part held to the shoulder, comprising the butt, comb, grip, and forearm.

Trigger: finger-pulled lever (single, double, or release) that drives the firing point forward and fires the gun.

4-H Shotgun Contests

Trap

Target:

- 25 clay birds

Position: Standing for all targets at the 16 yard Square

Procedure:

- You have 25 shots—five shots at five posts
- Shooter on left will shoot first



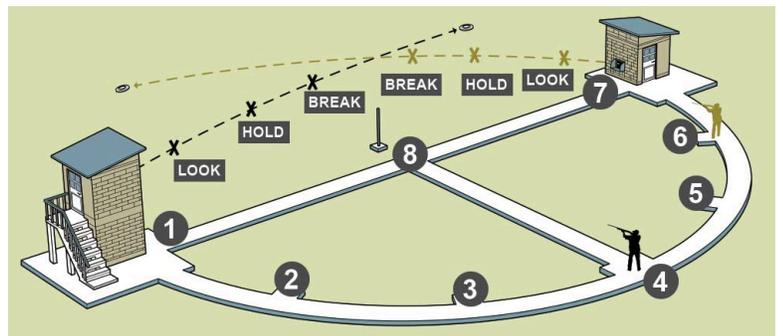
Skeet

Target:

- 25 clay birds

Procedure:

- Stations 1 and 2: High house single; Low house single; High house/Low house pair
- Stations 3, 4, and 5: High house single; Low house single
- Stations 6 and 7: High house single; Low house single; Low house/High house pair
- Station 8: High house single; Low house single



Sporting Clays

Target:

- 25 Clay birds

Procedure :

- 4 shots each station
- Will shoot at 6 station one station will shoot 5 shots
- Must be in shooting Stand before loading round into the chamber
- Shooter on left side will go first



TRAP

To shoot a trap bird, most ranges will have you stand behind the “trap house” (the apparatus that launches the clay trap birds) and shout, “Pull!” when you’re ready for a target to launch. Your shotgun should already be up and at your shoulder by the time you yell for the bird to be released.

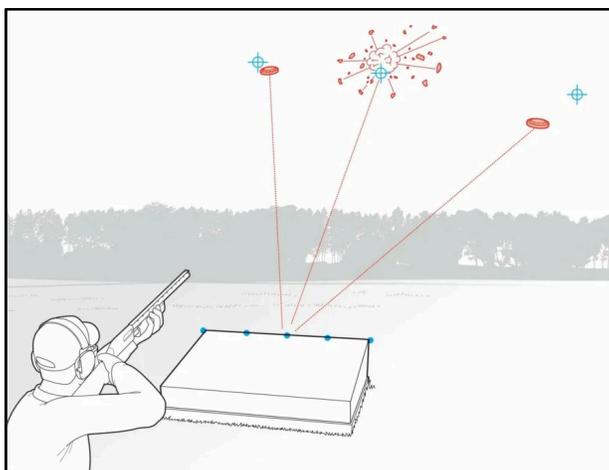
The basic technique goes like this:

- Watch the bird as it flies and “read” the angle that it seems to be holding. Remember that trap houses can launch birds in several angles to provide complexity and a challenge.
- If the bird flies in a straightaway pattern, try to shoot the bottom edge of the target.
- If the bird is quartering or taking a shorter flight, try to shoot the leading edge of the target.
- If the bird is taking a hard angle, aim about a foot ahead of its current flight position to have the best chance of success

Regardless of the exact flight pattern, you’ll always want to try to shoot a trap bird as it’s rising or leveling off.

You have 25 shots—five each at five posts. Make ‘em count.

- Zip Your Trap—keep quiet except when you call “pull.” Save any razzing and conversation for after the round ends. Trap, like golf and tennis, is shot in silence.
- Follow Order—be ready to shoot when it’s your turn. Load one shell at a time and do not close your action or raise your gun until the shooter is ahead of your fire.
- Catch Shells—semi-auto shooters should have either a shell catcher or a rubber band around their gun’s receiver to prevent empties from hitting other shooters in the squad.
- Don’t Litter—at some clubs, empties belong to the club when they hit the ground. At others, you have to pick them up. In that case, gather them after the round.
- Walk This Way—go to the next post with your chamber empty and your gun pointed down. Turn right when you step off Post 5 so you don’t bump into the shooter behind you.

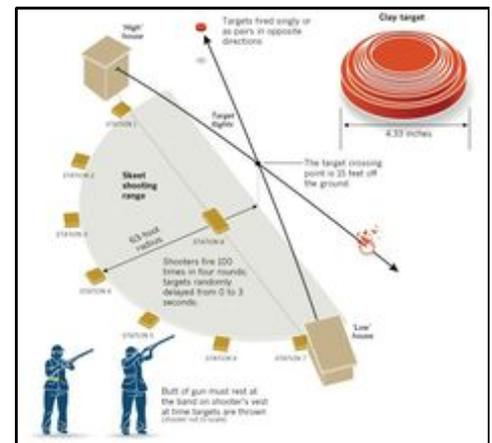


SKEET

There are two traps, one low and one high, which launch clay targets called birds or pigeons in an X shape. You'll take multiple shots at each station for a total of 25 shots per session. Moving through 8 different stations, set up in a semi-circle, but only shooting off 2 houses. Usually only 5 shooters at a time on the field. At each station, how many shots will depend on what type of "game" you will be shooting.

Keep these tips from pros in mind before you even hit the range:

- **It's the movement, not the accuracy:** a lot of newbies try to focus on accurately hitting the bird when they should be focusing on their pivoting movement in between shots. Learn how to develop a rhythm and the shots will come naturally.
- **Start with dry firing:** no one will look down on you for it. Everyone needs to start somewhere and dry firing your shotgun will give you a chance to focus on your rhythm instead of the actual shot.
- **Get comfortable:** it can't be stressed enough that you should buy your own gun. This will give you a chance to really get familiar with the specific gun's recoil, loading, weight, and trigger. When you get comfortable with your shotgun it will start to feel like an extension of your body and be much easier to control.
- **Pattern your gun:** this alone will give you an edge over many other shooters. It's impossible to know where your shot is landing without patterning your shot. Use a piece of paper at multiple intervals to see how your shot spreads.

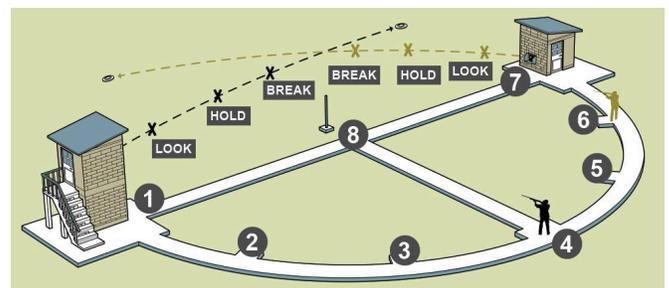


Skeet is more like bird hunting, but the difficulty of it could give you a troubling time. It is more of a mental fundamental sporting game.

If you have never shot a shotgun before, this might not be the sport for you. The times that someone came in and started up are very rare. It takes dedication and practice.

Keeping your eyes open and working on hand/eye coordination is the most practical thing you can work on when it comes to skeet.

- Stations 1 and 2: High house single; Low house single; High house/Low house pair
- Stations 3, 4, and 5: High house single; Low house single
- Stations 6 and 7: High house single; Low house single; Low house/High house pair
- Station 8: High house single; Low house single



Sporting Clays

Sporting clays is often compared to golf, but with shotguns. It takes place in an outdoor environment where participants move through a series of stations, each representing a different challenge. (If the course is not big enough, 5-stand is an alternative.) At each station, shooters aim to hit clay targets launched in various directions, angles, and speeds. These targets may soar high like birds, roll across the ground like rabbits, or move at varying paces, testing different shooting skills. The layout is designed to simulate real hunting scenarios, providing a dynamic and varied experience.



Sporting Clays Course

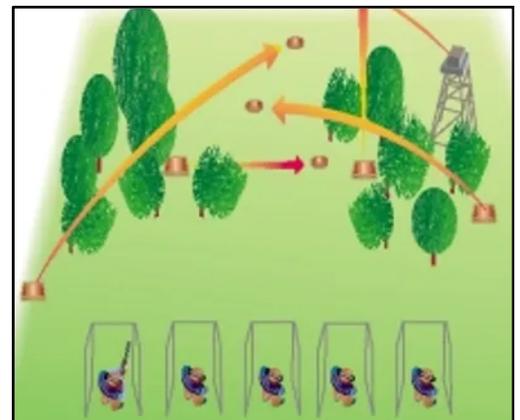
Understand the Layout: Five shooting stations (or stands) and multiple trap machines placed at different locations. A menu card at each station shows the sequence of targets you'll encounter. Familiarize yourself with the menu to know if you'll shoot singles, report pairs (second clay launched upon firing at the first), or true pairs (both clays launched simultaneously). You will move to 5-6 shooting stations (or remain at stands arranged in a row). There is usually 6 to 8 machines, each launching clay targets from different angles, speeds, and directions to simulate various types of game.

Observe and Adjust: As you move from location to location, each station will have a menu card to show the order of the targets so shooters know what to expect. Pay attention to how each target is flying. Make any adjustments to your timing or lead as needed. Combinations vary for each target, most often a single target, then pairs. The target presentations vary widely, offering shots that imitate ducks, pheasants, rabbits, and more, making it an excellent choice for hunters wanting to hone specific skills in a controlled setting.

Squads and Equipment: Typically shot in small squads, each shooter rotates through the stations (or stands), with shotguns. Generally bring the same as those used for sporting clays- most often 12- or 20- gauge models. It's fast paced, making it popular for shooters looking for variety and a quick, efficient round. 5-stand offers a variety of targets in a confined space making it a great way to get comprehensive shooting experience without needing the large space of sporting clays courses.

Scoring: Each hit counts as one point, with the referee keeping score. If you miss, reset your focus and prepare for the next shot—staying calm is key.

Move to the Next Station: After completing your shots at a station, open and unload your shotgun, then move to the next stand in order. Repeat this process until you've completed all five stations (or stands).



5-Stand Course



**The information on the following pages is to supplement your
Level 1 Shooting Sports Shotgun Discipline Training.**

This is not a complete Lesson Guide.

**All 4-H Shooting Sports Leaders must be certified through the State
Training Team in order to Lead a 4-H Shooting Sports Club.**

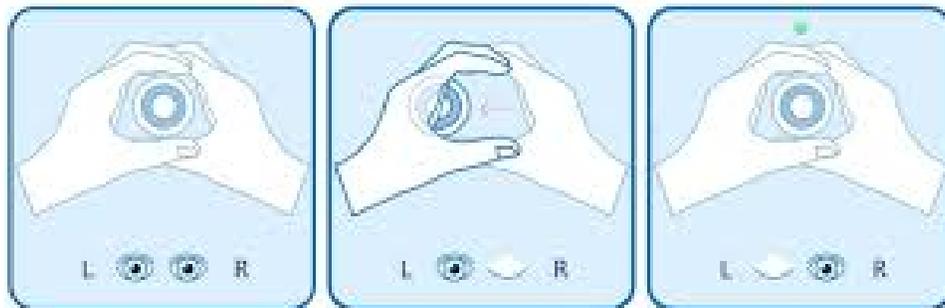
**Please call you county 4-H Program Coordinator for more information on
becoming a Utah 4--H Shooting Sports Instructor.**

**If at any time, information in this guide conflicts with the National 4-H
Shotgun Rules or Shotgun Instructor Manual, please use the National
Standards as your guide and make the Utah 4-H Shooting Sports
Coordinator aware of the discrepancy.**

Thank You

Lesson 1 - Supplemental Activities

- Determine your eye dominance.
 - Step 1- Stretch your arms in front of you and, by placing your thumbs and forefingers together, make a triangular opening around the center of your visual field. Try to keep your hands out at about a 45° angle or “flat” relative to your eyes.
 - Step 2- Keep both eyes open and center the triangular opening between your thumbs and forefingers on some distant object. It doesn't matter what the object is – just make sure it's some meters away and not right in front of you.
 - Step 3- Next, close your left eye. If the object in the center of your triangle remains centered – that is, if it doesn't disappear or otherwise change position – then your right eye is dominant because it's the only eye still open. In contrast, if the object moved or disappeared behind your hands, then your dominant eye is your left eye. Basically, this test takes advantage of our natural and instinctual positioning.



- Name six range commands (listed on page 3) that the leader will use at the range.
- Describe the action to take when you hear the words "ceasefire"
 - Immediately stop firing.
- Demonstrate the safety practices to follow when picking up a shotgun and when passing it from one to another person.
- Acknowledge them and say a word you both know that means "I got it."
- Demonstrate safe range and shooting procedures.
- Watching surroundings.
- Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.

Lesson 1 - Supplemental Activities

(continued)

- Explain "gauge"
 - Shotguns are classified by gauge, which is a measure related to the diameter of the smooth shotgun bore and the size of the shotshell designed for that bore. Common shotgun gauges are 10-gauge, 12-gauge, 16-gauge, 20-gauge, and 28-gauge. The smaller the gauge number, the larger the shotgun bore.
- Explain what you should do when you see a shotgun or another firearm in public or at a friend's house.
 - Ask nicely to put it away.
 - Treat all guns as if they were loaded.
 - **NEVER PLAY WITH IT!**
- Define "ethics" and "sportsmanship"
 - Hunting ethics is a term that defines the true standards, conduct, and moral judgment of a sportsman.
 - Sportsmanship refers to fair, respectful, and gracious behavior in a sport or contest.
- Identify the basic parts of a shotgun:
 - Stock- allows shooter to control the shotgun.
 - Action-consists of a firing mechanism, trigger, and safety.
 - Muzzle-the front end of the gun, which the bullet comes out of.
- Start off getting familiar with your shotgun while unloaded and the safety is on.
- Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
- Help a leader plan a club meeting.
- Determine what the Pittman-Robertson Act is and how is it important.
 - The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, also known as the Pittman-Robertson Act, has been in place since 1937 and is a key funding source for wildlife management, habitat, conservation, and hunter education programs for state wildlife agencies.
- Help set up and clean up (pick up more shells than you shot).
- Help watch for safety.

Lesson 2 - Supplemental Activities

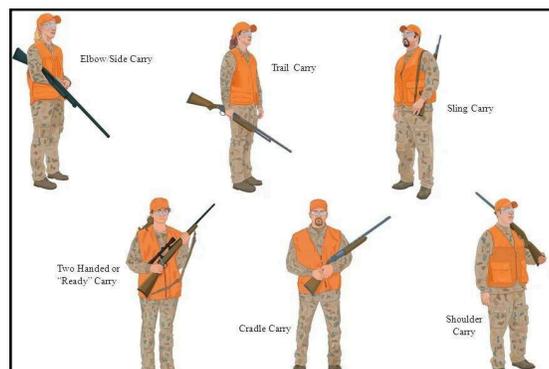
- Give five examples of when you should unload.
 - When not in use.
 - Finished shooting.
 - Storage.
 - Handing it to someone.
 - When crossing a fence or there is an obstacle that needs crossing.
- Describe ethical and unethical shooting practices
 - Not being respectful to those around you.
 - Being a good example.
 - Making fun of someone who is struggling to hit the target.
- Explain the different actions and their function of them.
 - *Double barrel or break action:* They get their name because they use two different barrels instead of one like a pump action or semi-auto shotgun. These types of guns will have a hinge between the barrel and stock that allows them to “break” open to expose the breach, allowing a shooter to load the shells. There are two types of these double barrel shotguns; side-by-side and over-under.
 - *Pump:* load the shells into a tube that runs below the barrel and then “pump” the fore-end back and forth to load the first shell into the battery. These guns function by manually sliding or “pumping” the action in order to eject a spent shell and chamber a new round.
 - *Semi-Automatic:* Each time the trigger is pulled on one of these shotguns, a single shot is fired, the shell is ejected, and a new shell is chambered. These shotguns use the recoil of the shot in order to automatically eject the empty shell and cycle the next round. Because of this, these guns have a much higher speed of shooting when compared to other shotgun types. Using this gas-operated system, semi-automatic shotguns will also produce noticeably less recoil than other shotguns.
 - *Single shot:* break action shotguns are similar to double barrels, with the exception of having a single barrel to shoot from.
- List three actions hunters can demonstrate to present a positive public image.
 - Cover game from sight when traveling home from a hunt.
 - Clean up before going into town.
 - Present a professional image in public when talking about hunting/conservation
 - Don't drink and hunt.
 - Eat game that is taken.
 - Take tasteful photographs.
- As a club write a paragraph on put on a news site about your experience in Shooting Sports.



Lesson 3 - Supplemental Activities

- Post flyers about your Shotgun Club
- As a youth, help your leaders write a paragraph about safety and post it to your local 4-H social media.
- Demonstrate how to carry a firearm with someone around you in the different positions.
- Explain different shotgun targets and talk about them.
- What does Trigger control mean?
- The act of moving the trigger and firing the gun without disturbing aim.
- Demonstrate how to zero a shotgun.
 - To zero a shotgun, you'll adjust the sights or the bead to ensure your point of aim (POA) aligns with your point of impact (POI). Using a small tool can help with any necessary adjustments to the sights.
 - When aiming, focus on your target and align the bead with it. If your shot grouping is low, you may need to raise the bead or adjust your stance.
 - Make sure to fire a final group of shots to confirm your zero. Remember, your zero is specific to the distance you are shooting, so adjust as needed for different ranges.
- Participate in range clean-up.

BEFORE SHOOTING, MAKE SURE EACH YOUTH HAVE EYE PROTECTION!



Lesson 4 - Supplemental Activities

- Invite someone to the club and help them participate.
- Host an election for club officers—President, Vice President, Secretary.
- Describe the firing line.
 - The line of positions from which gunfire is directed at targets.
 - It shows the shooting where to stand and not go in front of.
- The Importance of Proper Alignment.
 - No matter which shotgun sighting system you use, proper sight alignment is critical to hitting your target and reducing the risk of shooting in an unsafe direction.
 - With bead, fiber-optic, and electronic sights, focus on the target while keeping the bead or dot in your peripheral vision. This lets you quickly "point and shoot" at fast-moving, close-range targets.
 - When using an iron sight, center the front post in the rear notch, with the tops level with each other. Keep your focus on the front sight to increase accuracy for stationary or longer-distance targets.
- Sighting In Your Shotgun.
 - Before practicing or heading out for a hunt, always sight in your shotgun to verify your point of aim aligns with the point of impact.
 - Here's an easy five-step process.
 - Use the same ammunition and choke you'll be using during the hunt.
 - Place a target at a known distance, typically 25-40 yards.
 - Fire three rounds, aiming at the same point on the target each time.
 - Note where the shots are grouped on the target.
 - Follow the manufacturer's instructions to adjust your sight's windage and elevation based on the average of your grouping. (Since you cannot move a bead sight, you must change your point of aim to compensate.)
 - Then, repeat steps 2-5 until your point of aim is the same as your point of impact.



Lesson 5 – Supplemental Activities

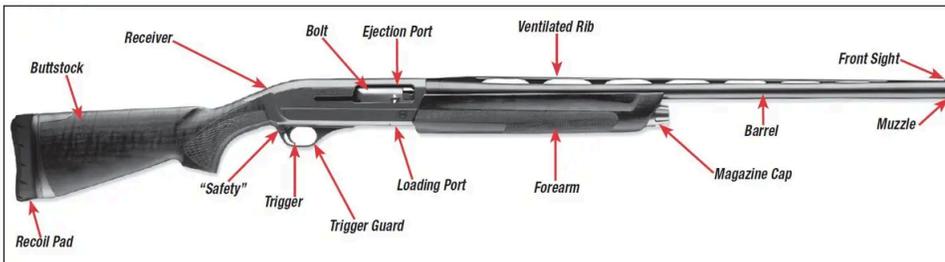
- Describe your 4-H club understanding of the Second Amendment.
 - A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State. The right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.
- Explain a what Hunting Plan entails:
 - Tells where and with whom you are hunting and when you expect to return. It also should contain specific directions on your route to your destination and any alternate destination you may have if bad weather changes your plans. Be sure to include your cell phone number and cell phone carrier. Law enforcement officials can work with the carrier to locate your position using your cell phone even if you are injured and cannot answer.
- Describe how is best to store your shotgun and ammo:
 - Do not store your guns in gun cases or pistol rugs. The linings are actually quite absorbent and will tend to pull moisture from the air into the material and literally surround your gun with moisture.
 - Do not store your guns in the original cardboard or plastic box. Again, the cardboard will absorb moisture as will gun boxes with soft or formed foam cutouts. Best to keep the box elsewhere for transport to the range or for use when selling your gun at a later date.
 - Do not store your guns in holsters. Whether nylon or leather or Kydex, it's best to store your handguns in a rack in your safe. Again, we don't want anyway for moisture to surround our guns.
- Cleaning your guns:
 - Lubricate the gun.
 - Place in a safe that is dry, dark, and cool.
 - After the guns are clean, use a rag or wear gloves to handle the gun when placing it in the safe. You don't want oily, salty fingerprints on the gun or wood stock.
 - Place handguns in a rack so each gun has a place and they are not banging against each other.
 - For those with over-crowded safes or fancy wood stocks, you may want to consider storing your guns in gun socks.



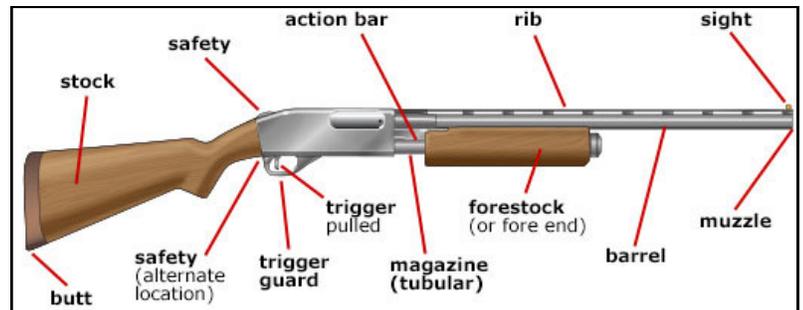
Lesson 6 – Supplemental Activities

- Define "ethics" and "sportsmanship."
 - Hunting ethics is a term that defines the true standards, conduct, and moral judgment of a sportsman.
 - Sportsmanship refers to fair, respectful, and gracious behavior in a sport or contest.
- Identify the basic parts of a shotgun.
 - Stock
 - Ejector
 - Trigger Guard
 - Safety
 - Front Sight
 - Barrel
 - Muzzle
- What does misfire, hang fire, and squib mean?
 - Misfire is a failure to discharge the bullet.
 - Hangfire will occur when the cartridge discharges fully after a significant delay.
 - Squib loads involve the ignition of the primer, powder charge, or both.

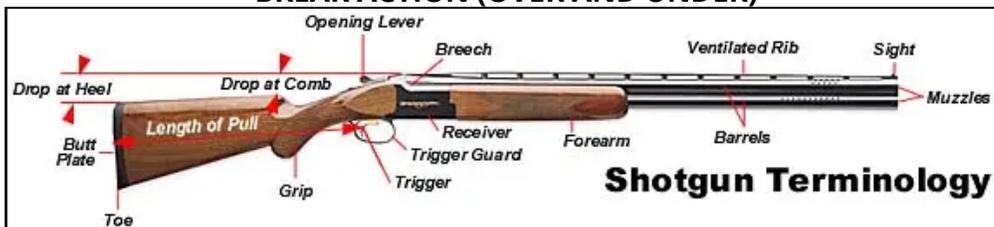
SEMI-AUTO



PUMP



BREAK ACTION (OVER AND UNDER)



Shotgun Terminology

Lesson 6 Supplemental Activities

(continued)



- List three ways shotgun and ammunition should be matched and how to know.
 - On the barrel of the shotgun, it will tell the gauge of the gun and the ammo will be matched with the gauge of the gun. On the barrel's side and the ammo's head stamp for gauge.
 - The ammunition box will tell the proper gauge as well.
 - Match the box and the headstamp for proper ammunition.
- Explain different types of bullets.
 - *Birdshot shotshell* is a (usually) plastic outer hull filled with tiny metal pellets of various sizes, ranging from FF (.23" in diameter) on the larger end of the spectrum to #12 shot (.05") on the smaller end.
 - *Buckshot cartridge* is constructed similarly to birdshot, except that the pellets are much larger in size and there are far fewer of them. While a typical shotshell of #8 birdshot contains hundreds of tiny, lead pellets, a common "double-aught" (00) buckshot load might contain only 8 or 9 .33" lead balls. Buckshot is so named because it was designed for hunting larger game, such as deer (buck).
 - *Slug cartridges*, instead of small, round lead pellets, contain a single, large metal bullet loaded in a plastic hull and are typically used for hunting large game or for defense.
- The length of the cartridge refers to the chamber or the length of the cartridge hull AFTER FIRING. 3" cartridge will measure a little less than 3" before firing. After firing, the hull opens up to let the shot out, and measures approximately 3".
- You should always use a shell that is the same length or shorter than the chamber of your shotgun. If your gun has a 3-inch chamber, you can safely use shells that are marked 3" or 2¾".



Rank Advancement



The shooting sports program teaches young people essential life skills, boosts self-worth, promotes conservation ethics, and fosters effective environmental stewardship. The curriculum is designed for all participants and includes advancements that help youth:

- Learn about shotgun equipment
- Improve their shooting skills
- Advance based on their abilities and efforts
- Gain recognition for their achievements.

WHAT ARE RANK ADVANCEMENTS?

Rank advancements serve as benchmarks throughout the 4-H experience, with each youth's journey being unique. Progression depends on age, personal development, and prior achievements. Skills should be demonstrated in different contexts to maximize learning. Youth engaged in multiple disciplines can maintain separate advancement books.

TO INCORPORATE RANK ADVANCEMENTS:

Complete them in order. It should take multiple years to pass off all levels.

Senior youth are allowed to pass multiple ranks annually.

Ensure that skills passed off at each level have not been used previously. Members may use the same requirements when passing off multiple disciplines.

Volunteers from chartered 4-H Shooting Sports clubs or 4-H staff can sign off on all ranks.

Contact your county office for more information on becoming a 4-H Shooting Sports leader and available resources.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Youth will receive recognition for each rank that is completed and an award for completing all five ranks

Note to Club Leaders:

Please ensure that the information taught to youth is current and accurate as you oversee rank advancements.

SHOTGUN: Level 1 Rank Advancement

Safety - (Complete all requirements)	Date	Initials
Name six range commands. These are safety commands that the leader may use at the range.		
What word do you use to release sporting clay?		
Demonstrate the safety practices to follow when picking up or receiving a firearm and when passing it from one to another person.		
Explain what you should do when you see a firearm in public or at a friend's house.		
Determine your eye dominance.		
Natural Resources Conservation and Use (Complete 3)	Date	Initials
Start a shooting journal.		
Name and describe 2 big game animals. Record them in your journal.		
Name and describe 3 waterfowl. Record them in your journal.		
Name and describe 4 upland game species. Record them in your journal.		
Name and describe 5 furbearing species. Record them in your journal.		
Sportsmanship, Ethics and Responsibility (Complete 1)	Date	Initials
Name 3 reasons for game laws.		
Complete a state sponsored hunter education course,		
Youth Leadership (Complete 4)	Date	Initials
Organize in a community, park, roadside, campground, or stream clean-up.		
Tell one or more friends about the things you are learning and doing in shooting club and invite them to come.		
Demonstrate that you can ask for help.		
Encourage other members when on the field shooting.		
Demonstrate that you can help clean up after club meetings.		
Lead the Pledge of Allegiance at clubmeeting		
Lead the 4-H Pledge at club meeting		
Work with your leader to come up with your own personal Leadership goal.		

SHOTGUN: Level 1 Rank Advancement (Cont.)

History - (Complete 1)	Date	Initials
Research and report an early 1900s history of the use of guns in harvesting meats and furs. Share with your club.		
Identify the types of firearms or archery equipment used by the early Native Americans in Utah. Record your findings in your journal.		
Shotgun - (Complete All)	Date	Initials
Demonstrate safe shotgun handling practices and procedures.		
Point and name the three major parts of a shotgun.		
Explain "chamber".		
Participate in the at least 6 4-H club meetings/practices for shotgun.		

SHOTGUN: Level 1 Rank Advancement

This rank covers the very basics of handling and safety. This rank should be easily achieved by all ages, 8 - 18.

By signing this form, I am verifying that the 4-H Shooting Sports Member has completed these requirements in a satisfactory manner and is ready to move on to the next level.

Shooting Sports Member _____

Club Leader _____

Phone _____

County 4-H Coordinator _____

Phone _____

Date Completed _____

SHOTGUN: Level 2 Rank Advancement

Safety - (Complete All)	Date	Initials
Give five examples of when you should unload firearm.		
Demonstrate how to carry a firearm with someone in the different positions around you. Front, Back, Left and right of you.		
What are some of the most important safety rules when stepping onto the shooting range.		
What does "dead bird" mean?		
Describe two things that are a must for protection when shooting.		
Natural Resources Conservation and Use - (Complete 3)	Date	Initials
Identify 5 five wildlife and their tracks. Record in your journal.		
Identify 3 waterfowl by their wing patterns. Record in your journal		
Explain what habitat means. Record in your journal.		
Identify and describe 3 birds of prey. Record in your journal.		
Identify 5 forest plants, trees and wildflowers. Record in your journal.		
Sportsmanship, Ethics and Responsibility - (Complete 1)	Date	Initials
Research and report on why hunting licenses are important in modern game management and wildlife conservation.		
Make a collage showing ethical shooting practices. Present it to your club.		
Report on the need for daily and possession limits in game laws for waterfowl.		
Youth Leadership - (Complete 4)	Date	Initials
Lead the American Flag Pledge		
Lead the 4-H Pledge		
Demonstrate your ability to work in groups for a group project.		
Demonstrate your ability to communicate effectively and encourage others.		
Run for club officer- and help keep others informed of meetings.		
List 10 people you consider leaders in your journal. Describe what you admire about each of them.		

SHOTGUN: Level 2 Rank Advancement (Cont.)

History - (Complete 1)	Date	Initials
Describe the general history of firearms in the 1860s.		
Report to your 4-H club on the history of hunting in your area of the state.		
Shotgun - (Complete All)	Date	Initials
Describe the protective equipment used when shooting a shotgun.		
Explain the term "misfire", describe the proper way to deal with one, record this in your journal.		
Name the 5 components of a shotgun shell.		
Demonstrate how to match the ammunition to the shotgun.		
Participate in Utah 4-H Top Shot Series Shotgun Event or State Shooting Sports Contest.		

SHOTGUN: Level 2 Rank Advancement

This rank covers the very basics of handling and safety. This rank should be easily achieved by all ages, 8 - 18.

By signing this form, I am verifying that the 4-H Shooting Sports Member has completed these requirements in a satisfactory manner and is ready to move on to the next level.

Shooting Sports Member _____

Club Leader _____

Phone _____

County 4-H Coordinator _____

Phone _____

Date Completed _____

SHOTGUN: Level 3 Rank Advancement

Safety - (Complete All)	Date	Initials
Describe how is best to store your firearm and equipment		
Name different types of hearing protection.		
Name different types of eye protection.		
Demonstrate the 10 principles of firearms safety.		
Serve as a First Shot Fundamentals Coach to a new club member.		
Natural Resources Conservation and Use - (Complete 2)	Date	Initials
Define the cycle of life in wildlife. Record in your journal		
Describe the difference in Wildlife Refuge and Wildlife Management Area.		
Define carrying capacity.		
Identify 5 careers associated with wildlife, competitive shooting, or hunting.		
Sportsmanship, Ethics and Responsibility - (Complete 1)	Date	Initials
Name 3 reasons why hunter should always ask permission to hunt on private lands.		
Name 6 rules that are a part of a hunter's code of ethics.		
Youth Leadership - (Complete 4)	Date	Initials
Recruit a new club member. Help them through their first year.		
Work with a leader to plan and conduct a meeting.		
Work with other youth and teach a shooting technique.		
Plan and help run a county shooting event.		
Plan and conduct a wildlife skill a thon or bowl locally.		
Serve in a club leader position or serve in a leadership position in your community.		
Write a story for local newspaper		
Help post about events going on in club on social media.		
History - (Complete 1)	Date	Initials
Explain the difference between calibers in America and European terms.		
Show the difference between caliber and gauge with drawings or a demonstration.		

SHOTGUN: Level 3 Rank Advancement (Cont.)

Shotgun - (Complete All)	Date	Initials
Describe and shoot a round of trap, skeet		
Define the difference in a rifle and shotgun.		
Explain the importance of a consistent gun mount and its effect on pattern placement.		
Give a talk about sequence, what occurs from when you pull the trigger to when the shot charge exits the muzzle.		
Demonstrate how to properly clean a shotgun.		
Describe four chokes and their function		
Draw and label a diagram of the basic shotgun components.		
Explain what it means to pattern your shotgun.		
Participate in the State 4-H Shooting Sports Contest for shotgun.		
Work with your leader to come up with a substitute requirement for shotgun skills appropriate for Level 3.		

SHOTGUN: Level 3 Rank Advancement

By signing this form, I am verifying that the 4-H Shooting Sports Member has completed these requirements in a satisfactory manner and is ready to move on to the next level.

Shooting Sports Member _____

Club Leader _____

Phone _____

County 4-H Coordinator _____

Phone _____

Date Completed _____

SHOTGUN: Level 4 Rank Advancement

Safety - (Complete All)	Date	Initials
Name 3 major safety range rules for participants and spectators.		
Demonstrate how to safely load two types of firearms.		
Assemble a first aid kit and demonstrate its use.		
Demonstrate how to read a compass.		
When do you need to wear protective gear?		
Demonstrate how to read a map.		
Help set up and clean up. Help watch for safety.		
Natural Resources Conservation and Use - (Complete 1)	Date	Initials
Explain the difference in 4 different species and their requirements for space and habitat. Record in your journal.		
Name 5 winter foods for deer in your area and record them in your journal.		
Sportsmanship, Ethics and Responsibility - (Complete 3)	Date	Initials
Tell why Theodore Roosevelt and Aldo Leopold were important to hunting and wildlife conservation.		
Write a paragraph on why some people do NOT hunt.		
Explain what Sportsmanship has to do with hunting.		
Define sportsmanship and ethics. Record in your journal.		
Youth Leadership - (Complete 4)	Date	Initials
Make a poster using imagines, words or both defining good leadership skills.		
Show leadership skills by helping to plan and conduct a service project related to wildlife or shooting sports.		
Demonstrate your ability to work independently.		
Demonstrate self-responsibility and self-motivation.		
Design and print a promotional poster for 4-H Shooting Sports. Display it for the public.		
Arrange a speaker to come and talk to the club.		
Keep a shooting journal and see how you improve over a year.		
History - (Complete 1)	Date	Initials
Give a report on the scope of shotguns in the 1900s in Utah.		
Visit a gun show and write your observations in your journal.		

SHOTGUN: Level 4 Rank Advancement (Cont.)

Shotgun - (Complete all)	Date	Initials
Give a presentation on clay targets and their manufacturing.		
Set specific goals related to your shooting skills and develop a plan with your leader to accomplish these goals. Record in your journal.		
Name five different gauges and how to identify them.		
Demonstrate your knowledge of shot sizes and their uses.		
Identify two faults in shooting that cause inaccuracy.		
Demonstrate your proficiency in detecting and correcting shotgun shooting errors.		
Participate in the State 4-H Shooting Sports Contest for shotgun.		

SHOTGUN: Level 4 Rank Advancement

This rank is for 4-H youth that has been involved with Shooting Sports for at least 3-4 years. The requirements do not need to be completed within the same year (unless they are repeats from previous years) but have to be completed within 3 years of the time the youth is seeking to obtain this level. All other levels 1-3, must be done to complete this rank.

By signing this form, I am verifying that the 4-H Shooting Sports Member has completed these requirements in a satisfactory manner and is ready to move on to the next level.

Shooting Sports Member _____

Club Leader _____

Phone _____

County 4-H Coordinator _____

Phone _____

Date Completed _____

SHOTGUN: Level 5 Rank Advancement

Safety - (Complete All)	Date	Initials
Describe what is most important in a survival kit.		
Demonstrate how to build a fire and put it out.		
Demonstrate what to do for frostbite.		
Explain Hypothermia and how to prevent it.		
Describe 3 main arterial pressure points and how to stop bleeding.		
Natural Resources Conservation and Use - (Complete 3)	Date	Initials
Define wildlife conservation. Record in your journal.		
Name winter foods for geese.		
Name winter foods and where to find them for elk.		
Write a paragraph answering this question: " Do we need wild game anymore?"		
Give a talk about what it would be like if things never died.		
Sportsmanship, Ethics and Responsibility - (Complete 2)	Date	Initials
Describe to your 4-H club your understanding of the Second Amendment.		
Organize and run a game in your local shooting club like Annie Oakley.		
Describe what the Pittman-Robertson Act is and why it is important.		
Youth Leadership (Complete 4)	Date	Initials
Participate in a county or state 4-H ambassador program.		
Promote the 4-H Shooting Sports program by writing an article or letter to the editor for local paper.		
Make a social media post about your involvement in your local 4-H shooting sports club.		
Organize and run a game in your local shooting club,		
Do a portfolio (cover letter and resume) and put in a local and state contest.		
Help keep the score at a shooting sports activity in your club or at an event.		
History - (Complete 1)	Date	Initials
Give a presentation on the history of ammunition for shotguns.		
Give a presentation on the history of the 4-H Shooting Sports in Utah.		

SHOTGUN: Level 5 Rank Advancement (Cont.)

Shotgun (Complete 7)	Date	Initials
Report on advantages and disadvantages of steel shot and why it is used to hunt waterfowl.		
Describe the safety precautions to use when the same person is using several gauges of shotgun and shot shells.		
Describe the basic of clay target flight.		
Demonstrate to a young club member how to shoot a moving target using the fundamentals of shotgun shooting.		
Demonstrate how to use a spring manual trap.		
Give a demonstration on how to properly care for, store, and transporting a shotgun.		
Give a lesson on the history of a shotgun.		
Give a lesson on the history of trap, skeet, and sporting clays.		
Participate in the State 4-H Shooting Sports Contest for shotgun.		

SHOTGUN: Level 5 Rank Advancement

This rank is for 4-H youth that has been involved with Shooting Sports for at least 4-5 years. These youth are ready to move on into the world of adulthood. These youth have developed life skills that will permanently help them with various careers in their future. This is the highest level and hardest to reach. The requirements do not need to be completed within the same year (unless they are repeats from previous years) but have to be completed within 3 years of the time the youth is seeking to obtain this level. All other levels 1-4, must be done to complete this rank.

By signing this form, I am verifying that the exhibitor mentioned has completed these tasks in a satisfactory manner.

Shooting Sports Member _____

Club Leader _____

Phone _____

County 4-H Coordinator _____

Phone _____

Date Completed _____