

Three-Peaks 4-H Shooting Club News

Iron County, Utah
May 2025

Survey Results

A couple of weeks ago I sent an email to all 4-H shooting-sports club parents requesting input related to the future of the Iron County 4-H shooting sports club. I learned a few things, most of which I already suspected:

1. The activities in the winter months apparently are of little interest to responding parents. Interestingly, in the first several years of the club, the youth thought these shooting activities provided important skills to learn – skills that are identical and transferrable to those in other shooting sports. Those parents agreed that they fit the winter months because they can be done indoors. Unpopular topics for today's club parents include air rifle and air pistol.
2. Responding parents say they have a lot of family and other scheduling conflicts. Ironically, most parents prefer the second Saturday afternoon of the month – something which we already do. Some parents confess that they don't even put club activities on the calendar.
3. About 90% of parents who've told me that they want their youth in the shooting club apparently never were really interested. I've removed them from the club contact list. If you're reading this, you're still on the list.

For now, I will continue with the club on the second Saturday of each month with the hope that participation and interest improve.

Last Month

Our April activity was shotgun shooting. Thanks to the [NRA Foundation](#) for the equipment and supplies we used.

Upcoming Activities

The club is sponsoring a two-Saturday Utah Hunter Education Course on May 24 and May 31. This course is open to the public. Find more information and registration at <https://dwrapps.utah.gov/dwrcourses/he/traditional?id=514996>

Our next monthly 4-H Shooting Sports Club activity will be muzzleloader-shooting on Saturday, May 10 at 2 PM. You may bring your own black-powder gun (muzzleloader) and ammo if you have them. The club's black-powder guns and ammo will be available at no charge if you don't have your own.



The location will be the Iron County Shooting Range – look for my dark grey Ford truck and matching dark grey trailer. I'll be at the west end of the Shooting Range.

- June – Handgun
- July – Archery
- August – Rifle
- September – Black Powder
- October – Shotgun, Election, Calendar Planning

Elected officers for this year are:

- President – TBA
- Vice President – TBA
- Secretary – TBA

Note: We haven't had enough participation to have an election this year.

Other announcements:

It's time to register as a 4-H member for the 2024-25 year, please do so right away at <http://4h.zsuite.org/>. If you need help with the process, call the Iron County 4-H Coordinator, Taryn Schroeder (435-586-8132, taryn.schroeder@usu.edu).

The 4-H program offers leadership opportunities for youth at the county level in addition to within our shooting club. If you are interested, call Taryn Schroeder (435-586-8132, taryn.schroeder@usu.edu).

The Iron County 4-H website is <https://extension.usu.edu/iron/>.

The State 4-H calendar is online at <http://utah4h.org/htm/calendar/>.

The state wildlife calendar is online at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/index.php/discover/wildlife-calendar.html>.

Purchases of hunting licenses and hunting equipment include taxes levied by the Pittman-Robertson Act. This tax provides about \$3.5 million per day to fund wildlife conservation and other related activities. - <https://tinyurl.com/y8wt5ec3>.

I encourage membership in the NRA. Each NRA member should encourage everyone they know to join. Get an instructor's discount on NRA memberships today at <https://membership.nra.org/recruiters/join/XR016818>. Membership benefits include your choice of three magazines (*American Rifleman*, *American Hunter*, and *America's First Freedom*), \$1,000 in firearms insurance, \$10,000 accidental death insurance, and discounts on rental cars and hotels. Youth members also get a subscription to *InSights* magazine. The most important reason to join, however, is that your membership helps give the NRA the horsepower it needs

to fight the ongoing battle against gun control. If it weren't for the efforts of the NRA, there would be no 4-H Shooting Sports program.

As always, I remind our shooters to practice their shooting skills regularly, both live shooting at the range and dry-firing at home.

- Always follow the NRA rules of gun safety
- Handle firearms only with parental permission and adult supervision
- When dry-firing, always ensure your gun is empty and never have any live ammunition in the same room
- Always concentrate on the fundamentals of shooting – make good shooting form a habit
- You can download targets from the club website - www.three-peaks.org

The NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program is designed to be self-paced. It is a good way to develop your shooting skills in shooters of all ages – and get some nice awards. I encourage all club members to use this program with their parents. Go to <https://mqp.nra.org/> for more information.

Please share this letter with your parents and interested friends.

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