Information on Certified Coaches in the Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Program

Questions are often asked concerning certification as a ‘coach’ in a local 4-H Shooting Sports program. A few of the most common questions are answered in this document and listed by topic heading.

Coach Certification

- A 4-H Certified Coach must be currently enrolled as a 4-H volunteer and have an updated YPS background check on 4-H Connect. Enrollment annually is required to maintain certification.
- A 4-H Certified Coach must be 4-H certified in the specific discipline (shotgun, rifle, pistol, archery) in which a project is being conducted. A 4-H Certified Coach may be trained and certified in multiple disciplines.
- Certification is only acquired at this time through a 4-H Shooting Sports Coach Training run either by the State 4-H Natural Resources Program Office or one of the 12 District Extension Offices.
- Trainings occur around the state in various locations and throughout the year.
- Trainings are 12 hours long or longer and typically run through a weekend.
- Only one discipline certification (archery, pistol, rifle, shotgun) is obtainable per participant per training.
- Equivalent certifications through other entities (NRA, USA Shooting, USA Archery, etc.) are not allowed to replace 4-H Coach Training at this time.
- 4-H Coach certification is transferrable across the state.
- 4-H Coach certification is transferrable from other states with the approval of the State 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator.
- 4-H Shooting Sports Coach Certifications include 4-H Certified Coach and Assistant Coach.

Minimum Age

- A volunteer must be 21 years of age or older to be a 4-H Certified Coach.

Assistant Coach Certification

- Assistant Coach Certification is offered to those 14-20 years of age who attend 4-H Shooting Sports Coach Training. This certification changes to a 4-H Certified Coach certification on the date of the holder’s 21st birthday. A replacement certificate may be requested by contacting the State 4-H Natural Resources Program Office.
Presence of a 4-H Certified Coach

- A 4-H Certified Coach must be present at the time of any shooting practice and must remain on the range within control of the shooting practice. Non-certified volunteers may assist at the coach’s discretion but cannot act without the certified coach present and in control. Assistant coaches are also able to assist the coach but also cannot act without the certified coach present and in control.
- Any 4-H Shooting Sports project must have at least one 4-H trained and certified coach in each of the disciplines (archery, pistol, rifle, shotgun) offered within that local project. This includes home based projects.

4-H Certified Coach at a Shooting Event

- 4-H Certified Coaches are not required or obligated to attend competitive events involving their discipline or local 4-H membership. Attendance at these events and chaperoning 4-Hers at these events is on a volunteer basis only.

Re-certification

- There is no recertification requirement for a 4-H Certified Coach. If a coach has been inactive for a period of several years, a county may require attendance to additional training.