

January 5, 2026

Dear 4-H Shooting Sports Member,

Shooting Sports in Santa Fe County has growing leaps and bounds and we have an excellent group of volunteers that are committed to providing better resources and expertise for our members. There are a couple of requirements that pertain to all shooting sports members for the 2025-2026 4-H year. These requirements are described below.

**Family Fee:**

There will be an annual fee of \$20 per member enrolled in any shooting sports project. This fee will go toward providing equipment for our members including targets, clays, team shirts, etc. This fee will be collected by your club leader with your other general insurance and dues. **This fee will be collected regardless of whether a member chooses to compete.**

**Mandatory Meeting:**

In an effort to provide more support to our 4-H Shooting Sports members there will be a mandatory meeting for any new members that wish to compete in any county/district/state level 4-H shooting competition. This meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, January 15, 2026, in Santa Fe at the Extension Office.**

During this meeting we will be introducing new members to our county wide shooting sports project leaders. We will also be sharing the rules for our county and district contests as well as contest details. And of course, we want to be able to answer any questions you may have pertaining to these projects.

Our goal with this meeting is to connect our new members with all the resources and opportunities available to them. We feel that Shooting Sports can be a daunting project area, and we would like to build a more organized county structure for our members and leaders. Returning members who have attended a mandatory meeting in previous years are encouraged but not required to attend this year's mandatory meeting.

**Safety:**

Safety is a critical component of all Shooting Sports disciplines. It is the responsibility of each member to approach Shooting Sports projects with safety in mind. Safety includes engaging in safe practices while participating in a Shooting Sports project, but also includes having appropriate firearms, ammunition and equipment. Since some safety requirements vary by discipline and specific range rules, all members will be required to meet with their project leaders at the appropriate range prior to their first practice for a safety briefing. It will be the

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responsibility of the project leaders to review with the member general firearms safety rules, range rules, and to evaluate firearms/bows, ammunition and other equipment to ensure they are functional and meet discipline requirements.

**Practice Requirements:**

Any member that wishes to compete in any county/district/state level 4-H shooting competition will be required to attend at least **THREE** organized shooting practices for each discipline you compete in. A complete list of all discipline coaches and practice schedule will be coming shortly. Practices will be offered in both the southern and northern part of the county as often as possible with several opportunities to attend. If a member is unable to attend a practice it will be their responsibility to contact a coach and discuss the alternatives.

Practices will be required so that we can ensure a safe shooting environment during the contests. Practices are also a great way to provide members an opportunity to be part of their shooting team as well as a chance to socialize with their peers and learn to work with other adults. They are important part of our 4-H shooting program and are highly valued.

**Enrollment Deadline:**

Due to the above stated requirement, the deadline to enroll in a shooting sports project will be **January 15<sup>th</sup>** (the same day as our mandatory meeting). You must be enrolled in a shooting sports project in order to participate in any competitive 4-H shooting event.

**Raffle Tickets:**

Each shooting sports member is required to sell 5 raffle tickets as part of their participation (not selling your tickets does not mean the money is not owed). The raffle is to help the shooting sport program pay for range fees for practices and our county competition. Money will be due to a shooting sports coach no later than May 8, 2026 and the drawing will be on May 16, 2026. If a check is going to be written, please have it made out to Santa Fe County 4-H.

Again, these requirements are mandatory for all members that wish to participate in ANY 4-H shooting competition. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the extension office.