

2026 New York State 4-H Shooting Sports Championship

September 11-13

CCE- Steuben County -
20 E Morris St Bath, NY 14810
607-664-2300

Coordinator –Anne Zschoche
Email: amz65@cornell.edu

Location:

Bath Rod and Gun Club 7771 Telegraph Road, Bath, NY 14810

Carefully review the General Rules for clarifications. If you have a preferred time, please get your prepaid application in early. All preferred times will go on a first come basis. Get your application in early!

Regular entries, application and fees, need to be received by **August 29, 2026**. Please pay online or send to the address shown on the registration form.

Acknowledgment of risk form, permission and medical release form, and the code of conduct form need to be completed and in possession of your educator per your counties policies.

New York State Championship – Accountability form must also be filled out and mailed to Steuben County CCE

Objective: The state shoot objective is to provide a fun safe environment where NYS 4-H members can demonstrate the skills that they have learned while getting to know 4-H members from around the state. Some matches have been modified for younger participants to reflect age appropriate skill levels. Matches for the senior age levels will be closely aligned with the competitions at the National Invitational (with some exceptions). This will allow senior members to compare their results to the participants at the National Invitational. Non-competitive social events will occur on Friday and Saturday evenings to enhance this experience.

Participants: Participants must be enrolled 4-H members for the current year, in a shooting sports club, and have successfully completed a corresponding 4-H shooting sports discipline. For example: if you solely participated in a 4-H archery program, you should not be competing in the shotgun or any of the rifle events, etc. Also, if you have only shot air rifle do not enter the smallbore (.22 rimfire) rifle events, and if you have only shot air pistol at your club, do not enter the smallbore pistol events. 4-H member's ages are based on their actual age on the first day of the championship. See awards section for ages.

Awards: Awards will be given in each event by the age group entered. All disciplines may not be offered, depending on number of participants.

Events will only take place if there is 5 or more in the age level

A child can choose to move up a level, but not down a level

Age Levels: Hunting, Conservation, and Outdoor Skills: 8-11 (sub juniors), 12 - 14 years old (juniors), 15 – 18 years old (seniors); Archery 8-11 years old (sub juniors), 12-14 years old (juniors), 15-18 years old (seniors); Air rifle: 9-11 years old (sub juniors), 12-14 years old (juniors), 15-18 years old (seniors); Air pistol 12 - 14 years old (juniors), 15 – 18 years old (seniors); 22 Rimfire 12 - 14 years old (juniors), 15 – 18 years old (seniors); Muzzle Loading 12 - 14 years old (juniors), 15 – 18 years old (seniors); Shotgun: 12 - 14 years old (juniors), 15 – 18 years old (seniors).

National match:

The vast majority of participants come to have a great time shooting with other 4-H members from across the state. There are a few who have put in enough time to develop the skills needed to qualify to represent NY at the National Invitational that is held in Nebraska each June / July. In order to qualify you will need to participate in all 3 events for the particular discipline. For example, to qualify for muzzle loader you would need to compete in distance, novelty, and muzzle loading Silhouettes. All events are required to be shot in order to assess your ability to conform to the competition rules and your ability in each of the events. Funding for participation in the National Invitational is determined at the county level. It is best to go to the National 4-H Shooting Sports website to review the particular rules for the event and review the scores from the previous few years. If this is something that your team is serious about, please have your 4-H leader or educator contact us well prior to the event. We attempt to much more closely mimic the national event matches for those who are attempting to qualify. **The Fall 2026 State Shoot will qualify youth for the 2027 National Competition.**

Schedule

See schedule for event times. Times are subject to change. Events may be canceled if there are not 5 or more participants. Three weeks prior to the championship, empty events will be eliminated.

Youth may only participate in one event per time slot.

Registration/Check-in tables will be open: 3:00p Friday in the club house; 7:00am on Saturday in the club house; 7:00am in the clubhouse.

The awards ceremony will take place on Saturday evening (time dependent on amount of entries) for Friday and Saturday's events and Sunday 30 mins following the end of Sunday's events. (Depends on entries) Please stay for the ceremonies to recognize the hard work by the 4-H members.

Participants should report to their range 30 minutes early if at all possible. If you are running late due to a delay at the previous event have the range officer at that event contact the match director. First time participants are encouraged to speak with the range officer well in advance of the event in order to get a range tour and discuss the event and have time for questions.

Equipment and Firearms Check in – All guns used in events must be checked prior to the start of official competition during or before this one-hour period. This includes ammo where specific ammo is stated in the rules. Equipment certification will start during the check-in period, and stickers may be attached to verify that check in. Spot checks of equipment may take place on the ranges prior to or after any match. Competitors whose equipment does not meet the event standards will be given an opportunity to adjust or to modify equipment to bring it into compliance prior to a second check, unless it is deemed to be unsafe and then it will need to be removed from the range. Equipment failing to meet specifications during on-range spot checks will result in disqualifications. Ask where to report when checking in. It is your final responsibility to know your shooting time and to have taken care of all registration procedures. During check-ins, firearms must be brought to the check-in stations in a case with an ECI (OBI, CBI) in place and the action open. Safe handling is imperative, particular with respect to muzzle control. A site for opening cases will be designated. If equipment is being shared, be sure not to schedule events at the same time for that equipment. Well prior to the match closely review the NGB regulations regarding the bow or firearm. Some matches have very stringent rules about the equipment used. If you have any questions that cannot be answered by your leader, have your leader contact us prior to the shoot. We will be happy to help. If you wait until the match you are taking the risk of not being allowed to shoot.

REASONABLE ACCOMODATIONS

Participants with Physical Disabilities – A participant who because of physical disability cannot fire from one or more of the prescribed shooting positions outlined in these rules, or who must use special equipment when firing, may petition for permission to assume a special position or to use modified equipment or both. This petition will be in the form of a written request from the individual participant to the Match Director outlining in detail the reasons why the special position must be assumed or the special equipment must be used. The petition will be accompanied by pictures of the participant in the

position desiring approval and, if special equipment is required; the picture will show how this equipment is used. The petition and all pictures must be furnished in exact duplicate. The petition must be accompanied by a medical doctor's statement if the physical disability is not completely evident in the pictures submitted. Only a qualified individual with a disability is eligible for reasonable accommodation. An individual with a disability, for purposes of reasonable accommodation, is defined as a person who has a physical impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities.

Filing a Petition for Accommodations:

(a) Each petition will be reviewed by the Match Director. The Match Director may require additional or supplementary statements or pictures. After reviewing the Match Director will issue special authorization to individuals who submit petitions and pictures which have been approved. Such certificates will have necessary pictures attached.

(b) Participants who have received special authorization will be required to carry them when competing and to present the certificate when requested by officials of the match. In the case of a protest involving the position or the equipment used by such a participant, the range officials will compare the position or equipment questioned with the certificate and photographs presented by the participant.

CONDUCT

The New York Invitational State Shoot is a youth event, as such the use of tobacco (including vaping), recreational drugs, and alcoholic beverages, during an event or on the grounds is not permitted. Violation of this policy by a participant is grounds for dismissal from the championship and / or loss of ability to represent the state at Nationals. Non-competitor violators may be asked to leave the grounds.

Dress Code - Participants are expected to dress appropriately for the events in which they will participate. Match shirts, team uniforms or shirts are encouraged, but not required. Both young people and adults should wear attire appropriate for the weather while remaining modest and socially acceptable. All clothing must be 4-H appropriate and follow the 4-H dress code. No open toe shoes (this included crocs). Range officials have the final word concerning the dress code and may announce or address specific cases. All participants and coaches should remember that they may be having photographs taken or being asked to interview for the media. Remember that you represent all of 4-H Shooting Sports. Make it a positive image!

Behavior and Sportsmanship: All participants, instructors, parents, and spectators are expected to demonstrate the highest level of sportsmanship, supporting the objectives and ideals promoted by the 4-H program in general and the 4-H Shooting Sports Programing in particular. All participants, instructors, and observers are expected to conform to the New York State 4-H code of conduct, not only to the letter, but to the intent.

Knowledge of Rules and Procedures – Where possible, each of the events have been associated with a National Governing Body (NGB). An exception to any NGB rule is noted in the "General Rules". It is the responsibility of each participant and coach to read the NGB rulebook, understand the procedures used in each event, and comply with the rules and standards of the events. Questions are encouraged to clarify any areas of misunderstanding or lack of knowledge. Ignorance of the rules in any event does not obviate their existence. Participants are responsible for knowing the rules of their event and staying within them. Learning the rules of the events is part of the educational process for shooting sports participants.

Event Coaching/Scorers - As a general rule, coaching during sight in period is permitted. However, coaching must never disturb other participants. During shots for score, non-verbal coaching is allowed, but again cannot disturb other participants. Each county is limited to 1 coach per shooter. The coach may remain the same for all events or the coach may change with the event. A coaching line will be established on each range - behind the participant's area and firing line and separate from the spectator area. Except during preparation time, coaches are to stay behind the firing line and in the coaching area. Coaches may physically assist the participant during prep time only. Coaches may not handle firearms or equipment after the match begins nor advance to the firing line unless authorized by the range officer. A coach may set up

his/her own spotting equipment to observe shot placement. Please note that specific coaching instructions may be issued at the range for each event. Coaches may be asked to spot and score for other counties as needed. Range officers will provide instruction as needed for scorers.

Range Protocols

Note: In this section, “firearm” is broadly defined to include all rifles, pistols, shotguns and muzzles loading arms regardless of type or action, including air guns. Range safety protocols will be strictly and vigorously enforced. The Match Director, Range officers, or other event staff may dismiss anyone from the range for unsafe or inappropriate behavior. The score may be forfeited, participant disqualified, or spectators barred.

1. Firearms will be the last piece of equipment brought to the range by the competitors and the first piece of equipment to be removed from the range at the end of the event. When moving among positions, e.g. to different firing points, the action must be open, CBI / ECI in place, and the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
2. All firearms will remain cased until the competitor prepares to take the range and the range officer has declared the range ready. CBI / ECIs will be in place until the shooter is on the firing line and will be replaced in the action prior to leaving the firing line. This does not apply to shotguns where the open actions permit visual observation by range staff.
3. Muzzle loading rifles will have a marked ramrod in the barrel except while loading or firing. Loading will take place at the loading line.
4. No direct loading from bulk containers, cans, bottles, powder horns, etc. is permitted.
 - a . Charges shall be transferred from speed loader or easy loader to the muzzle.
 - b . Capping or charging will take place on the firing line.
 - c . Upon a cease fire, any muzzle loading rifle shooter with a loaded rifle shall kept the rifle pointed down range and raise a hand to signal that he/she has a loaded firearm. The range officer shall issue the command, “Dump it in the hill”, and the shooter shall fire into the berm to clear the rifle.
5. Break action shotguns must be opened immediately upon being uncased with the muzzle(s) pointed in a safe direction until they are placed in the racks on the range. Shotguns must be carried from station to station with the action open and the muzzle(s) pointed in a safe direction.
6. No competitor shall rest the muzzle(s) of the shotgun or any other firearm on a shoe, toe pad or similar device such that the muzzle points in any part of an individual's body.
7. Deliberate shooting or attempting to shoot any living animal while on competitive ranged is grounds for ejection from the event or from the match.
8. Upon Cease Fire or Stop command, all firearms will immediately be placed on the ground or table and move back and await until further commands are given.

Audio headphones, cell phones, or ear pieces are not permitted on the firing line or the field. Once an individual or team is called to compete, ear pieces or headphones must be removed and remain off during the competition.

Eye and Ear Protection Requirement – For all firearm events, eye and ear protection is required. All participants and other persons on or in the immediate vicinity of the firing line, including coaches, range officials and any spectators must wear adequate eye protection (glasses or goggles) and ear protection. The equipment must protect both eyes. For air events, only eye protection is required.

Service Animals- only service animals are allowed on Rod and Gun grounds. No others will be permitted.

Target & Score review – Coaches and county educators may request to review targets and scores after an event. Due to the wide variation in experience between shooters, we do not release the

scores directly to the participants with the exception of the top score for each event. We understand that this data can be important for coaches and educators to use for quality improvement of their program so we are happy to share this information with them, but please do not share the results until you arrive home. If you gain access to other counties scores, please do not release this information to the youth.

- ♦ **Accommodations:** A few local suggestions will be given. Reservations will be made by individuals or as counties.

Hotels

Microtel Inn and Suites by Wyndam Bath
607-269-8062
370 W Morris St
Bath, NY 14810

Best Western Plus the Hammondsport Hotel
607-224-4120
8440 NY-54
Hammondsport, NY 14840

Campgrounds/Cabins

Hickory Hill Campground (BOGO special weekend)
They have cabins and campers to rent as well
(607) 776-4345-call to make reservations to get the BOGO
7531 County Route 13
Bath, NY 14810

Yogi Bear
607-776-7185
5932 Babcock Hollow Road
Bath, NY 14810

- ♦ **Registration:** Registration forms will be completed on-line. Mail a copy of your confirmation e-mail along with a copy of the complete Accountability form (found on the next page) to the address shown below. Please bring the original accountability form to the match. Match fees are non-refundable. Thank you for your understanding.

Send a copy of registration and accountability form to:

CCE of Steuben County
ATTN: 4-H Shooting Sports
20 E Morris St
Bath, New York 14810

OR

E-mail scanned copy of the accountability form with the e-mail registration to
amz65@cornell.edu

OR

FAX: 607-776-9103
Attention: Anne Zschoche

2026 NEW YORK 4-H SHOOTING SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP - ACCOUNTABILITY FORM

Name: _____ County: _____ Age: _____

Behavior and Sportsmanship - All participants, instructors/parents, and spectators are expected to demonstrate the highest level of sportsmanship, supporting the objectives and ideals promoted by the 4-H program in general and the 4-H Shooting Sports Program in particular. Participants or coaches will render aid and/or testimony if asked to do so by any match official. All participants, instructors/parents, and observers are expected to conform to the state 4-H Code of Conduct expectations or volunteer agreements, and the National 4-H Shooting Sports Program Code of Conduct, not only to the letter, but to the intent.

Knowledge of Rules and Procedures – Where possible, each of the events have been associated with a National Governing Body (NGB). An exception to any NGB rule is noted in the "General Rules". It is the responsibility of each participant and coach to read the NGB rulebook, understand the procedures used in each event, and comply with the rules and standards of the events. Questions are encouraged to clarify any areas of misunderstanding or lack of knowledge. Ignorance of the rules in any event does not obviate their existence. Participants are responsible for knowing the rules of their event and staying within them.

In regard to the Statewide event code of conduct regarding firearms—no youth will possess a firearm without being under the direct supervision of an adult while attending the NYS Championship. Weapons are defined as anything used to cause harm to another which is never allowable.

4-H Participant's Signature _____ **Date:** _____

The participant has knowledge of the event rules and understands the behavior/sportsmanship expectation, has read and signed a state code of conduct form for the NY State Invitational.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date:** _____

The above signed youth and I have reviewed the event rules and understood the behavior expectation for all participants in the NY State invitational.

4-H Shooting Sports Instructor's Signature _____ **Date:** _____

4-H Shooting Sports Instructor certifies the above shooter is a safe shooter, has successfully completed the 4-H requirements for the above discipline(s) registered for and understands the rules associated with each for each discipline being registered. Further I have reviewed the NGB equipment regulations and that the equipment being used meets the standards required.

County 4-H Educator's Signature _____ **Date:** _____

This signature certifies the above shooter is currently an enrolled 4-H member and has all appropriate forms (Code of conduct, health form, and media release) on file with your office.