

# **Colorado 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador Program Guidelines**

Colorado 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassadors represent 4-H and specifically 4-H Shooting Sports for public relations purposes at special events such as donor/supporter functions and with the general public, peer groups, 4-H groups, community service groups, schools and media contacts. They serve as spokespersons for the 4-H Shooting Sports program, helping to make 4-H and the 4-H Shooting Sports programs more visible. The ambassador's further develop their skills in leadership, public presentation, citizenship, community service, public relations and team building.

## **PURPOSE, GOALS, OBJECTIVES**

The 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador program will provide a venue for 4-H Teens to:

1. Represent 4-H and specifically 4-H Shooting Sports for public relations purposes at special events; at donor/supporter functions and with the general public, peer groups, 4-H groups, community service groups, schools and media contacts.
2. Serve as spokespersons for the 4-H Shooting Sports program at their respective levels of participation – national, regional, state, county.-helping to make 4-H Shooting Sports programs more visible.
3. Further develop their skills in leadership, public presentation, citizenship, community service, public relations and team building.
4. Assist in maintaining relations with 4-H Faculty and Extension Administrators as well as past, present and future program donors and supporters.
5. Continue and expand their involvement in 4-H Shooting Sports beyond the shooting skills and competitive levels.
6. Stay actively connected with the 4-H Shooting Sports program as they enter their collegiate years and further into adulthood.

## **PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS**

By being selected as a Colorado 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador, you will be representing over 82,000 4-H youth from across Colorado. What you say and do is very important. Remember, you never get a second chance to make a good first impression. As an Ambassador you will meet with donors who are CEO's of companies or organizations and you always need to put your best foot forward. The way you dress, the way you talk and act are very important when you are serving as an Ambassador.

- You are expected to be on time, so plan to be early to any event.
- You need to respond promptly to any emails or phone calls from the Program Coordinator and your chaperon for the event.
- It is very important that you send thank you notes immediately following the event. You will be given names and addresses so that you can fulfill this obligation.
- You may get tired at events, but you always need to be cheerful and ready to respond positively to everyone.
- Ambassadors serve at the will and pleasure of the Colorado 4-H Shooting Sports Committee and can be removed for misconduct or not following the rules.

## BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

A goal of the 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassadors program is to provide opportunities for youth to build character. 4-H Shooting Sports supports the Character Counts six pillars of character:

**Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship.** In order to ensure that the 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassadors program provides positive environments for all individuals to learn and grow, 4-H participants agree to abide by these expectations of behavior.

**I will be Trustworthy.** I will be worthy of trust, honor, and confidence. I will be a model of integrity by doing the right thing even when the cost is high. I will be honest in all my activities. I will keep my commitments by attending all sessions of the planned event. If I am not feeling well or have a schedule conflict, I will inform my chaperon or a person in charge. I will be in the assigned area (e.g., meeting room, building, dorm) at all times. I will not have persons of the opposite sex in my room without an ambassador chaperon being present. The 4-H Shooting Sports program does not permit dishonesty by lying, cheating, deception or omission.

**I will be respectful.** I will show respect, courtesy and consideration to everyone, including myself, other ambassador participants and those in authority. I will act and speak respectfully. I will treat program areas, lodging areas and transportation vehicles with respect. I will not use vulgar or abusive language or cause physical harm. I will appreciate diversity in skills, gender, ethnicity and ability. The 4-H Shooting Sports program does not tolerate statements or acts of discrimination or prejudice.

**I will be responsible.** I will be responsible, accountable, and self-disciplined in the pursuits of excellence. I will live up to high expectations so I can be proud of my work and conduct. I will be on time to all program events. I will be accountable by accepting responsibility for my choices and actions. I will abide by the established program curfew. I will be responsible for any damage, theft or misconduct in which I participate.

**I will be fair.** I will be just, fair, and open. I will participate in events fairly by following the rules, not taking advantage of others and not asking for special exceptions.

**I will be caring.** I will be caring in my relationships with others. I will be kind and show compassion for others. I will treat others the way I want to be treated. I will show appreciation for the efforts of others. I will help members in my group to have a good experience by striving to include all participants.

**I will be a good citizen.** I will be a contributing and law-abiding citizen. I will be respectful to the environment and contribute to the greater good. I will not use any illegal substances such as tobacco, alcohol and drugs.

## DRESS CODE

Ambassadors are expected to dress in a manner befitting young men and women. Modesty, neatness, well groomed and practicality will be the guiding principles.

Attention to details is crucial, so here are some tips for both men and women. Make sure you have:

- clean and polished conservative dress shoes
- well-groomed hairstyle
- cleaned and trimmed fingernails
- minimal cologne or perfume
- no visible body piercing beyond conservative ear piercings for women
- well-brushed teeth and fresh breath
- no gum, candy, or other objects in your mouth
- minimal jewelry
- no body odor

Finally, check your attire in the rest room just before your interview for a final check of your appearance -- to make sure your tie is straight; your hair is combed, etc.

Ambassadors are not to wear torn (intentional or otherwise) or sloppy clothing. Tank tops, muscle shirts, bare midriffs, low necklines, sundresses, and tight or otherwise revealing clothing will not be allowed. This applies to all spandex fashions. T-shirts with negative, outlandish, disrespectful messages or pictures will not be allowed. Ambassadors are to have no visible tattoos.

Ambassadors may wear shorts and skirts of modest style and length. Shorts, skirts and skirts may be no shorter than 3” above the knee. Females - Blouses/shirts must be tucked in when low-rise slacks/jeans/skirts/ are worn. Males – Casual or dress slacks should be worn with shirt tails tucked in. All footwear should be clean, neat, shined and appropriate no flip flops.

Blazers should be cleaned and pressed and ready to wear at appropriate occasions.

When serving as a Colorado 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador, you need to remember that you are representing the 4-H Shooting Sports youth to the public and you need to make the best impression possible.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

1. Must be 15 years of age but not over the age of 18 as of January 1 of the current year.
2. Must have an academic record of 2.5 GPA or higher.
3. Must be currently enrolled in 4-H, a member in good standing, and currently participating in the 4-H Shooting Sports program.
4. Must be willing and able to take limited time off from school (2 – 3 days per school year)
5. Must be willing to meet in the summer.
6. Must be willing to travel.
7. Must be willing and able to attend the Colorado 4-H Ambassador training and selection program held in December 2011.
8. Must be aware that a limited number of Colorado 4-H Ambassador Candidates will be selected for participation in the teen ambassador training & selection program.
9. Colorado 4-H Ambassador terms shall be 2 years. Initial terms may be staggered to allow for program continuity.

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

1. Meet the Colorado Eligibility Requirements
2. Complete the Colorado 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador Application that includes the basic application; the individual 4-H member resume; the member's 4-H shooting sports essay and all required signatures for participation.
3. If selected for participation in the Colorado 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador training & selection program, youth must attend the 2011 December meeting.
4. The Colorado 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador training & selection program will include: Personal Interviews; Public Presentations by the ambassador candidate; training sessions and participant evaluation.
5. During the Colorado training & selection program, participants will have opportunities to demonstrate individual character, personal appearance, poise, manners, demeanor, public relations skills, leadership skills, and public speaking skills.
6. Youth will also be evaluated on:
  - General knowledge of firearms, archery and the shooting sports
  - Overall 4-H participation, leadership, public speaking skills, & community service
  - Shooting Sports participation
  - Leadership & community involvement outside of 4-H

## **TRAINING**

Training and Colorado Ambassador Selection will be conducted by a committee appointed by the Colorado 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator and could include:

- Colorado 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador Coordinator
- Colorado 4-H Assistant Director
- Colorado 4-H Shooting Sports Committee Members
- Association/Industry Representative
- Extension Agents
- Current Colorado 4-H Shooting Sports Teen Ambassadors

## **GUIDANCE & SUPERVISION**

County 4-H Extension Agent  
Colorado 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador Coordinator  
Colorado 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator

## **ACTIVITIES**

Each Colorado 4-H Ambassador must attend four of the following activities:

International Sportsman Expo – Denver – January  
Leadership Development Conference – Denver – January 29-31, 2011  
One State 4-H Leader Training Workshops – Varies Locations & Times  
Colorado 4-H Shooting Sports Campout – Victor – June  
State 4-H Conference – Fort Collins – June  
Two Days at State Shooting Sports Contest – Pueblo/Colorado Springs – August/September  
Annual Meeting – Colorado Springs – December

Local Donor/Supporter Functions – Varies Locations & Times  
Specific County Functions – Varies Locations & Times

## **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

Ambassador Him/Her Self

Club, County, & State

Expenses covered by State Committee budgets for State Ambassadors attending functions at the request of the State Committee.

## **RECOGNITION & REWARDS**

A) 1 Shooting Vest

B) 3 Long Sleeve Shirts

C) Publicity in Local Newspaper/Media Outlet

## **Adult Leader Advisors**

4 Adult Leaders Advisors will be selected. One in the southwest, southeast, northwest, and southwest.

Assist as needed with travel and ambassador program logistics event and activities at the discretion of the State Ambassador Coordinator with the support of the State Shooting Sports Coordinator.