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Cooperative Extension
4-H Youth Development Programs



February 9, 2012

Dear 4-H Shooting Sports Leader,

Your continued support as a 4-H Leader in shooting sports is greatly appreciated. This personal commitment has allowed the Wisconsin 4-H Shooting Sports program to experience tremendous statewide growth in recent years. Supporting your volunteer role and keeping you informed of current changes are important to this continued success. One recent change in the conceal carry law has brought about a 4-H policy change that needs to be shared with all 4-H Shooting Sports volunteer leaders.

Policies of the UW System apply to your local 4-H program. Recently, the UW System created policies addressing the conceal carry law. The new policies placed restrictions on volunteers and UW-Extension employees working with the 4-H Shooting Sports program. Therefore, it was necessary to ask for a 4-H policy change.

The following excerpt came from a letter on January 20, 2012, from Cooperative Extension Dean and Director, Rick Klemme.

In response to Wisconsin Act 35, UW System issued General Administrative Policy and Procedure G51, which prohibits the use of weapons by University employees and volunteers. The policy states that this prohibition does not apply to those who have the written approval of the chief administrative officer or his or her designee to carry a firearm or weapon while on duty. I am writing to authorize the carrying of firearms, airguns, bows and arrows by University of Wisconsin-Extension, Cooperative Extension Employees and 4-H Youth Development Shooting Sports Volunteers while acting in the scope of their duties in the Wisconsin 4-H Shooting Sports Program. I am requesting that the following language be inserted in Wisconsin 4-H Shooting Sports Policy:

“As authorized by the Dean of Cooperative Extension, the carrying of firearms, airguns, bows and arrows is allowed by University of Wisconsin-Extension, Cooperative Extension Employees and 4-H Youth Development Shooting Sports Volunteers while acting in the scope of their duties and Wisconsin 4-H Shooting Sports Policy. We expect all guns for 4-H shooting sports to be carried openly in designated areas.”

The letter issued by Dean Klemme has now addressed this policy and authorizes volunteers and Extension staff to carry shooting sports equipment necessary for conducting shooting sports programs. Please note the *carried openly* wording in the policy above. This means while acting in your 4-H Shooting Sports Leader role, even if you have a conceal carry permit, ***you are not authorized to carry concealed.*** This letter requires no action on your part. Both your local UW-Extension office and the State 4-H Shooting Sports Management Committee are jointly notifying 4-H Shooting Sports Leaders statewide of the policy change with this letter.

In the future, new 4-H Shooting Sports volunteers attending 4-H Shooting Sports Certification Workshops will be informed of this policy change as part of their certification training.

Thank you for your valuable contribution to 4-H Shooting Sports.

Provided on behalf of your local 4-H Youth Development Educator and the State 4-H Shooting Sports Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doug Thompson".

Doug Thompson, Coordinator
Wisconsin State 4-H Shooting Sports