

2026 Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports State Tournament

Hunting and Wildlife Event Rules

****NOTE: PLEASE BE SURE TO REVIEW THE "GENERAL INFORMATION" PAGES FOR GENERAL TOURNAMENT RULES. CONTACT YOUR COUNTY 4-H OFFICE IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A COPY OF THIS INFORMATION.**

Number of Individual Entrants Per County: Each county may enter a maximum of **9** contestants. Counties may register three (3) participants per division. The maximum number of participants for 2025 is 100 participants.

Age Division Determination: Age on January 1st the year of the tournament

Individual Hunting and Wildlife Contest Divisions:

Beg. Ages 8-11
Jr. Ages 12-14
Sr. Ages 15-19

Event Description

Wildlife Identification event includes wildlife identification and management and wildlife management techniques and/or scenarios. Participants will be asked to identify specimens or parts of specimens including skulls, furs, wings, feathers, antlers/horns, tracks, scat, or other signs.

All specimens selected for the competition can be hunted or trapped somewhere in Michigan and will be composed of mounted or tanned hides; depending on availability. Animal tracks may be original or molds made from prints. Other wildlife signs may be real or reproductions.

Wildlife identification and management questions may consist of true/false, multiple choice, matching, short answer, fill-in-the-blank, ranking alternative choices, or any other objective testing method the officials may choose.

Course

The course will include at least 15 specimens and/or questions pertaining to Michigan wildlife and will require identification, analysis, or interpretation.

Time Limit

Participants will move through the course expeditiously without undue delay. Participants will be timed as they move through the course. In the event of a tie, participants will be placed according to their time.

The Hunting and Wildlife event must be completed by 1:00 p.m. Participants should plan accordingly to ensure that they meet this deadline. If you are participating in a shooting event and your relay is later in the day, please plan to complete the Hunting and Wildlife event **before** your main shooting event. Participants will not be able to begin the Hunting and Wildlife event past the deadline.

Resources

At the 4-H Shooting Sports Tournament, all hunting skills events will be based on the content of the following resources:

- 4-H Shooting Sports Hunting Leader Manual, Revised April 2013
- 4-H Shooting Sports Member Manual, New, April 2013
- Contact your state 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator to obtain a copy of these manuals.
- NRA Hunters Guide: <http://materials.nrahq.org/the-hunters-guide.html>
- Federal Cartridge Company wildlife guides:
View and download these wildlife guides posted under "Hunting Skills" from the National

Championships website: [http:// 4h.unl.edu/4hssnationalchamp/rules-forms](http://4h.unl.edu/4hssnationalchamp/rules-forms).

- Illustrated Guide to Upland Game Birds
 - Illustrated Guide to Ducks, Geese and Swans
 - Illustrated Guide to Small Game and Furbearers
 - Illustrated Guide to Big Game Animals
 - “Be Expert with Map And Compass” by Bjorn Kjellstrom
 - “Animal Skulls” (North American) by Mark Elbroch
 - “Field Guide to Eastern Birds” by R.T. Peterson
 - “Field Guide to Mammals” by Burt C. Gorssenhider
- Field Guides may be purchased through the Houghton Mifflin Company, Wayside Road, Burlington, MA 01803, or by calling 1-800-225-3362.
- Current Michigan Hunting & Trapping Digest, may be downloaded at Michigan.gov, Department of Natural Resources.
 - Additional digests for special projects include: Antlerless Deer Digest, Black Bear Digest, Elk Digest, Fall Turkey Digest, Public Hunting on Private Lands Digest, Spring Turkey Digest, and Waterfowl Digest. All may be downloaded at Michigan.gov, Department of Natural Resources. These digests will only be used when focusing on a special project or study.

This is a state-level hunting skills evaluation. Any Michigan species covered in the listed resources may be included in the competition, including any game or fur-bearing animals. Competition will only include **legally harvested game** species found in the listed resources.

Prohibited

- Cell phones / electronic devices
- Reference materials – notes, handouts, cards, books, etc.
- Written, taped, or transcribed information and reference materials
- Coaching at any time during the event

Medals

Medals will be presented to the top three participants in the individual divisions receiving the highest scores. In the event of a tie, participants will be placed according to their time. Five participants must be registered in any given division before awards are presented.

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