



Oregon State
University

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Chapter Presidents
Oregon Hunters Association

November 15, 2019

RE: Oregon 4-H Shooting Sports Yearly Summary

It was a banner year for the Oregon 4-H Shooting Sports Program. On behalf of the program, I wish to thank the Baker, Bend, Capitol, Columbia County, Emerald Valley, Hoodview, Malheur, Mid-Willamette, Pioneer, Tillamook, Willowa, and Yamhill Chapters of the Oregon Hunters Association that played a significant role in 2018 – 2019 4-H year. Together, the \$13,550 in contributions made it possible for the program to carry out its mission to provide youth with the comprehensive education, life-long recreational pursuits, and healthy competition so important to their positive development.

In brief, the 4-H Shooting Sports Program enrolled just over 1,800 youth, nine to 19 years of age, in club based projects that focus on Archery, BB, Hunter Education, Muzzleloading, Pistol, Rifle, Shotgun, and Western Heritage. Four hundred fifty certified 4-H Master Shooting Sports Instructors mentored these youth. The program trained 88 new Instructors in 2018 and 2019. Sixty-nine are already been trained for the upcoming year. My goal to enroll 5,000 youth by 2025 is within reach.

The Mail-in Tournament season provided nearly 800 youth a good warm up to the state contest. Of these youth, approximately 500 received an invitation to participate in the 2019 Oregon 4-H State Shooting Sports Championships. Three hundred accepted invitations.

The state contest completed its 8th year in 2019. Hosted by the Albany Rifle & Pistol Club and the Albany Gun Club, this highly anticipated annual event provides juniors (9 to 11), intermediates (12 to 15), and seniors (16 to 19) with a slightly more rigorous competitive environment. Youth competed in up to two disciplines. Each discipline is comprised of two courses of fire. Several Champions, Reserve Champion, High Point, and Medallions were awarded the top expert shooters. Twelve youth from the 2019 contest accepted invitations to participate in the 2020 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships held in Grand Island, Nebraska. The program is 1/3 the way to sending its full complement of 36 youth. It will get there.

At the national level, Oregon represented itself well in 2019. Kasie Stahlnecker (Yamhill) left the competition with memories for a lifetime. She finished 56th out of 82. As the lone representative from Oregon in Smallbore Rifle, she demonstrated great sportsmanship and marksmanship. The shotgunners held steady during the week and finished 21st out of 30 teams. Parker Deforrest (Yamhill) finished 43 out of 117. Mitchell Pimentel (Umatilla) who finished 55th out of 117 followed him. Kory Constantine (Clatsop) finished the week 86th out of 117. Lucy English (Yamhill) completed the competition 101 out of 117.

Oregon Compound Archers took to the stage 3rd in the nation out of a highly competitive 24 states. Cole Gomes (Wallowa), in his second appearance at nationals, came in 16th in the nation out of 104 archers. He was followed by Hunter Harris (Jackson) in 23rd. Matthew Ebner (Douglas) stood in 24th place. Brandon Bailey-Baird (Klamath), also in Grand Island for a second time, completed the week in 26th place.

While it is hot and muggy in Nebraska in late June, the Oregon competitors wore their jackets with pride. The Oregon Hunters Association Chapter's names were prominently embroidered on the back for all to see. They looked good decked out in jackets, shirts, and hats.

You can be proud of the youth in the Oregon 4-H Shooting Sports Program. They are thriving. We know they are safe with firearms, excel in discipline, and take self-responsibility seriously. They will make a successful transition to adulthood thanks to your continued support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David J. White".

David J. White, Ph.D. | Associate Professor
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