



SAFE USE OF GUNS



Name _____

Age (as of January 1 of current year) _____

County _____

Club name _____

Advisor _____



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



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Special thanks to contributors to previous editions of Safe Use of Guns, upon which some of this content is based: Bob Carlson, Dennis Elliott, Dr. Bob Horton, Margaret Spletzer, and Paul Zumfelde.

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Wood background created by Asierromero, Freepik.com. Safety drawings and icons on page 26 created by Freepik. Photos on pages 3, 11, 19, 20, 22, 24, 28-31, 33, 36-38, 44 are provided by OSU Extension. All other photos are from thinkstock.com.

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10/17-2M-XXXXX

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Notes to the Project Helper

Congratulations! A 4-H member has asked you to serve as a project helper. You may be a parent, relative, project leader, friend, club advisor, or another person important in the 4-H member's life. Your duties begin with helping the youth create and carry out a project plan, as outlined in the Member Project Guide. This is followed by helping the youth focus on each activity, providing support and feedback, and determining what was done well, what could have been done differently, and where to go next.

As a project helper, it is up to you to encourage, guide, and assist the 4-H member. How you choose to be involved helps to shape the 4-H member's life skills and knowledge of the importance of safety around guns.

Your Role as Project Helper

Your contributions are critical to delivery of the 4-H program, which is committed to providing experiences that strengthen a young person's sense of belonging, generosity, independence, and mastery. Your interactions should support positive youth development within the framework of these Eight Essential Elements (Also known as the Eight Key Elements):

1. A positive relationship with a caring adult
2. An inclusive environment
3. A safe emotional and physical environment
4. Opportunity for mastery
5. Engagement in learning
6. Opportunity to see oneself as an active participant in the future
7. Opportunity for self-determination
8. Opportunity to value and practice service to others

For more information on the Eight Essential Elements, please refer to the *Ohio 4-H Volunteer Handbook* available online at ohio4h.org. On a practical level, your role as a project helper means you will strive to do the following:

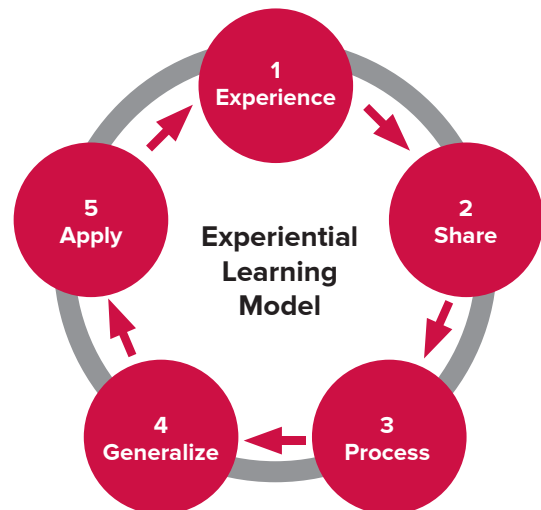
- Guide the youth and provide support in setting goals and completing this project.
- Encourage the youth to apply knowledge from this project book.
- Serve as a resource person.
- Encourage the youth to go beyond the scope of this 4-H project book to learn more about shooting sports and the safe use of guns.

What You Should Know About Experiential Learning

The information and activities in this book are arranged in a unique, experiential fashion (see model). In this way, a youth is introduced to a particular practice, idea, or piece of information through an opening (1) experience. The results of the activity are recorded on the accompanying pages. The member then (2) shares what he or she did with the project helper and (3) processes the experience through a series of questions that allow him or her to (4) generalize and (5) apply the new knowledge and skill.

What You Can Do

- Review the Learning Outcomes (project skill, life skill, educational standard, and success indicator) for each activity to understand the learning taking place. See the inside back cover for the Summary of Learning Outcomes.
- Become familiar with each activity and the related background information. Stay ahead of the learner by trying out activities beforehand.
- Begin the project by helping the learner establish a plan. This is accomplished by reviewing the Member Project Guide.
- After each project area is completed, conduct a debriefing session that allows the learner to answer the review questions and share results. This important step improves understanding from an experiential learning perspective.
- Help the learner celebrate what was done well and to see what could be done differently. Allow the learner to become better at assessing his or her own work.
- In the Member Project Guide, date and initial the activities that have been completed.



Pfeiffer, J.W., and J.E. Jones, Reference Guide to Handbooks and Annuals. © 1983 John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Reprinted with permission of John Wiley & Sons, Inc.



Member Project Guide

Welcome to the *Safe Use of Guns* project! You are about to learn the basics of gun safety. If you are interested in guns, you must learn about safety first—when handling guns, when on the range, and when transporting or storing them. When using a gun, your safety and the safety of those around you must always be your highest priority. **Safety is the single most important issue as you learn about guns.**

Safe Use of Guns is for youth of any age with little or no experience in shooting sports. Information about rifles, shotguns, and pistols is included. A parent, guardian, or a responsible adult approved by a parent or guardian must supervise. This project should be taken only once. It can easily be completed within one year.

Members who complete this project and who want to learn more are encouraged to work with an Ohio 4-H certified shooting sports instructor. Please contact your county Extension office to see if a shooting sports instructor or club is available in your area.

Check your county's project guidelines (if any) for completion requirements in addition to the ones on the next page, especially if you plan to prepare an exhibit for the fair.



SAFETY PLEDGE

It bears repeating: When using a gun, your safety and the safety of those around you must always be your highest priority. Safety is the single most important issue as you learn about guns. Read the pledge below. After discussing gun safety with your project helper, sign and date below.

I PLEDGE that safety will be my guiding principle when I am around guns. I will handle guns with extreme care and will use a gun only under the supervision of a knowledgeable adult. I promise to follow these rules for safe gun handling:

1. Keep the muzzle in a safe direction.
2. Keep the gun unloaded and the action open until ready to use.
3. Keep my finger off the trigger until I am ready to shoot.
4. Use appropriate ear and eye protection.

Finally, if I find a gun or see someone handling a gun without the supervision of adult, I will leave immediately and contact an adult.

Signature of 4-H Member: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Project Helper: _____ Date: _____



Project Guidelines

Step 1: Complete **all eleven** activities and **all** of the Talking It Over questions.

Step 2: Take part in **at least two** learning experiences.

Step 3: Become involved in **at least two** leadership/citizenship activities.

Step 4: Complete a project review.

Step 1: Project Activities

Complete **all eleven** activities and **all** of the Talking It Over questions. The More Challenges activities are optional. As you finish activities, review your work with your project helper. Then ask your project helper to initial and date your accomplishment.

Activity	Date Completed	Project Helper Initials
PROJECT AREA: Basic Safety		
1. Safety M.A.T.T.E.R.s		
2. Eye Dominance		
Talking It Over		
PROJECT AREA: Get to Know Guns		
3. History of Firearms		
4. Ammunition and Parts of the Gun		
5. Action Types		
6. Taking Aim		
Talking It Over		
PROJECT AREA: Safe Gun Handling		
7. Breath and Trigger Control		
8. Shooting Positions		
9. Range Firing		
Talking It Over		
PROJECT AREA: Equipment		
10. Know What You Need		
11. Care and Storage		
Talking It Over		



Step 2: Learning Experiences

Learning experiences are meant to complement project activities, providing the opportunity for you to do more in subject areas that interest you. What are some learning experiences you could do to show the interesting things you are learning about? Here are some ideas:

- Attend a clinic, workshop, demonstration or speech related to gun safety or shooting sports.
- Help organize a club meeting based on this project.
- Attend shooting sports camp or go on a related field trip or tour.
- Prepare your own demonstration, illustrated talk, or project exhibit.
- Participate in county judging.



Once you have a few ideas, record them here. Complete **at least two** learning experiences. Then, describe what you did in more detail. Ask your project helper to date and initial in the appropriate spaces below.

Plan to Do	What I Did	Date Completed	Project Helper Initials
<i>Demonstration</i>	<i>Showed club members the safety equipment necessary for shooting sports</i>	<i>5/5/YR</i>	<i>S.W.</i>



Step 3: Leadership and Citizenship Activities

Choose **at least two** leadership/citizenship activities from the list below (or create your own) and write them in the table below. Record your progress by asking your project helper to initial next to the date as each one is completed. You may add to or change these activities at any time. Here are some examples of leadership/citizenship activities:

- Teach someone about gun safety.
- Help another member prepare for his or her project judging.
- Host a workshop to share tips about safe use of guns.
- Encourage someone to enroll in a shooting sports project
- Arrange for a speaker knowledgeable about shooting sports to visit your club.

Plan your own leadership/citizenship activity.

Plan to Do	Date Completed	Project Helper Initials
<i>Shared information with club members about the Ohio 4-H Shooting Sports Program and how to enroll.</i>	6/12/YR	S.W.



Activity 1

SAFETY M.A.T.T.E.R.s

Words in **bold** throughout this book are defined in the glossary.

Safety should always be your first consideration when dealing with a firearm. All aspects of handling firearms, including their use and storage, are a safety priority. Because there are countless options for **action, safety, ammunition**, etc., it is of utmost importance to fully understand all aspects of the firearm before shooting it.



LEARNING OUTCOMES

Project skill: Completing a gun safety checklist

Life skill: Being responsible

Educational standard: SHAPE S4.M1.6: Exhibits personal responsibility by using appropriate etiquette, demonstrating respect for facilities and exhibiting safe behaviors.

Success indicator: Completes a gun safety checklist

What to Do

If there is a firearm in your home, complete the following gun safety checklist with your parent or guardian. If there is no firearm in your home, find a responsible adult who does have a firearm and go through the checklist with him or her. You should be the one actually completing the checklist, though.



Gun Safety Checklist

Date

Location (for example, "my home")

1. Type of gun (if more than one, circle all that apply): rifle shotgun pistol
2. Intended use (circle all that apply): hunting target protection collection

Check off the questions with "yes" as the answer.

YES

- | | |
|--|--|
| 3. Is the gun unloaded? | |
| 4. Is the ammunition stored in a separate place? | |
| 5. Is the ammunition locked? | |
| 6. Is the ammunition in a box that identifies it accurately? | |
| 7. Is the gun stored in a locked case or gun safe? | |
| 8. When handling a gun, do you always keep your finger out of the trigger guard? | |
| 9. Is the gun stored in such a way that children cannot reach it? | |
| 10. Is the gun checked thoroughly before being used or stored? | |
| 11. When the gun is removed from the case or gun safe, is the action opened immediately? | |
| 12. When the gun is removed from the case or gun safe, can you always state "I know this gun is not loaded"? | |
| 13. Do you handle every gun as if it were loaded? | |
| 14. Are all guns brought into the home unloaded? | |
| 15. Do you always carry the gun in such a manner that the muzzle is always pointed in a safe direction? | |
| 16. Is the whole family aware of the gun(s) in the home? | |
| 17. Have you or the person who uses this firearm read the operator's manual? | |
| 18. Can you make sure the bore is clean and free of any obstructions without looking through the muzzle? | |
| 19. Are the metal parts of the gun free of rust? | |
| 20. Are all the metal parts of the gun free of heavy grease? | |
| 21. Does the action work freely? | |
| 22. Does the safety function properly? | |
| 23. Are you certain you carry only the proper ammunition for the gun you are using? | |
| 24. Is the gun always unloaded before being transported and always kept unloaded during the trip? | |
| 25. Is the gun always in a locked case or always boxed (for a new gun) when removing it from or placing it into a vehicle? | |



Background

An easy way to remember the safety rules of firearms is to use the acronym *M.A.T.T.E.R.*

MUZZLE: Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. A safe direction is dependent on where you are. Make sure you know the rules of the range.

ACTION: Always keep the action open until you are ready to shoot.

TRIGGER: Always keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.

TARGET: Know your target and what is beyond.

EYES AND EARS: Always wear eye and ear protection.

RESPONSIBILITY: It is your responsibility to be safe when handling a firearm.

The ideas in M.A.T.T.E.R. are also part of the Rules for Safe Gun Handling from the Ohio 4-H Shooting Sports program:

1. Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
2. Always keep the gun unloaded and the action open until ready to use.
3. Always keep your fingers off the trigger until to shoot.
4. Always use appropriate ear and eye protection.

These are the same ones you discussed before signing the pledge. Very similar to M.A.T.T.E.R., right? No matter how you do it, make sure you find a way to learn these rules and remember how to be safe around guns.



Resource

Check out the Eddie Eagle website at eddieeagle.com. The site includes a video, stories, and games that show what to do if you ever find a gun: Stop. Don't touch. Run away. Tell a grown up.



Did you know?



The American National Safety Institute (ANSI) creates quality and safety standards for products such as protective eyewear. Safety glasses are labeled as Z87 or Z87+. That means they significantly reduce the risk from impact, radiation, moisture, and dust.

More Challenges

After talking to your parent or guardian, make a gun safety list especially for use in your home. Share it with everyone who lives with you to make sure they understand all the items on the list.

Check here if you complete this challenge.

