



# Policy and Risk Management Updates - Virtual Learning

Developing virtual learning experiences for youth in the SS&W Program

Unlike many 4-H programs and projects, 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife in its traditional format, requires face to face involvement. There is an expectation that 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife functions (events, meetings, club practices, etc.), which include the handling or use of firearms or archery equipment, require the physical presence and constant supervision of at least one adult 4-H Shooting Sports instructor who is certified in that respective discipline(s). This brings on greater challenges as we attempt to be creative.

As you plan your SS&W outreach efforts, all virtual learning experiences must follow the established [Minnesota 4-H SS&W Program Risk Management policies](#). In addition, if virtual experiences show the handling of firearms or archery equipment (i.e. proper cleaning of firearms, appropriate shotgun stance, techniques for stringing a bow), the following is required:

- 1) only active, certified SS&W 4-H Instructors can present discipline instruction
- 2) National 4-H Shooting Sports curriculum concepts must be used
- 3) a parent or guardian must be present during the online instruction to make sure concepts are understood
- 4) a parent or guardian must be present when 4-H'er practices those concepts
- 5) County SS&W Coordinator and/or staff need to track parental involvement and proper age requirements

Wildlife virtual learning possibilities are endless! State 4-H Outdoor Adventures and SS&W Programs will feature many challenges and virtual learning opportunities on the 4-H SS&W Facebook page. As SS&W volunteers and clubs work to be creative in program delivery, share ideas and plans for programs and events with [Nicole Pokorney](#), State 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator at pokorney@umn.edu. Hearing what groups are doing helps us all learn!