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## BB Gun Project

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All beginning rifle and pistol shooters start out by learning safe gun handling skills in our BB Gun program. We utilize the Daisy Shooting Education 10-Lesson Guide. Our youth use a Daisy Model 499B Competition BB gun (not anything like a Daisy Red Ryder) to practice the safety skills learned, as well as learn and hone marksmanship skills. This platform lays a strong foundation for youth to move into other disciplines such as air rifle and smallbore rifle. Many of our youth go on to participate in competitive shooting.

In 5 meter BB Gun competition, shooters compete individually by age as well as in teams composed of five members and two alternates. In competition, shooters are scored not only on their shooting ability, but are also tested on their gun safety knowledge and rules of competitive shooting. Shooters compete in four separate positions: prone, standing, sitting, and kneeling. Each shooting position and the written test are weighted equally, each worth 100 points for a total possible score of 500. Montgomery County 4-H Shooting Sports members typically compete in two to three matches per year. The BB Gun competitive age range is 8 years to 15 years (cannot turn 16 years old before National match in July).

Montgomery County 4-H Shooting Sports (MC4HSS) members have excelled in the discipline of BB Gun over the past several years, winning numerous individual and team awards at the local, state, and national level. Our club typically sends two to three teams to the Texas State BB Gun Championship each year. Members of this project work hard to earn one of the coveted top seven spots that qualifies them to compete on our club's top team at the State Match. This would be the most likely team to score high enough to earn an invitation to attend the Daisy National BB Gun Championship Match. Daisy Nationals is an invitational match, meaning a team cannot compete unless they earn an invitation by placing in the top 3 teams at a qualifying state match. Once an invitation to Daisy Nationals is earned, these team members would be invited to join our club's Travel Team. MC4HSS has regularly qualified to send a team to the Daisy National BB Gun Championship Match each summer in Rogers, Arkansas. BB gun project members proudly represented Montgomery County at Daisy Nationals in 2022 and placed 17<sup>th</sup> (out of 53 teams) with two members also winning individual medals.

Over the years, the club has also had several members who started out in the BB gun project go on to compete in Collegiate Shooting Sports rifle programs at NCAA schools.