

## Friday Night General Session replaced with Online Training

The National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee has developed a consistent set of high-quality training materials for use with the 3-4 hours of Youth Development and Risk Management component associated with Level 1 Instructor trainings nationwide. The National Committee has implemented an online training capability which eliminates the requirement for our instructor candidates to arrive at the training location at 3:00 PM on Friday afternoon. The previous requirement to miss work on Friday has been a significant impediment to our ability to train many volunteers. The VA Shooting Education Committee has also adopted this considerable improvement to our training program and will exclusively utilize the online training for all future Instructor Certification sessions.

The online training consists of an introduction and four modules:

- Module 1, What is 4-H?
- Module 2, Introduction to 4-H Shooting Sports
- Module 3, Creating and Implementing a High-Quality Program
- Module 4, Assets Coverage through Risk Management

The online program takes about four hours to complete but is designed so that the instructor candidate can complete the course over more than one session. The program costs \$21.27 which can be paid by credit card when the candidate registers. 4-H Units or Clubs can purchase coupons to be used by their instructor candidates using unit credit cards or by invoice. To order and pay for coupons (also called Gift Cards) please e-mail: Shannyn Robertson at [shannyn@zingbooks.com](mailto:shannyn@zingbooks.com) (877) 567-6305 who will arrange payment by credit card or send an invoice.

The online course is very easy to navigate for people with some degree of experience with computers. For people that have never had the pleasure of online training there may be some degree of difficulty. Those individuals may need a little help from VCE staff or other 4-H Club members. There is also a live chat feature that offers expert help. Please see the accompanying document "Guide to Online Modules Zsuite - National Shooting Sports v1" which contains instructions for using the online course.

For each Instructor Certification session, a deadline will be set for instructor candidates to complete the online training. This deadline will initially be set for the Wednesday night before the Instructor Certification begins on Saturday morning. This deadline allows event organizers a very short window to complete required registration activities. Instructor candidates that have not completed the training before the deadline will not be permitted to participate in the Instructor Certification and will not receive a refund since resources will have been expended based upon the expectation that that person would have attended the session. It is imperative that all instructor candidates complete the course by the deadline.

The VA 4-H Shooting Education Council's decision to adopt the online training developed by the National Committee was based upon the consistency of the training, needs of people who have difficulty missing work on Fridays, and the desire to adapt to the needs of newer generations of instructors. Virginia-unique policy and safety issues will still be covered during the Saturday and Sunday sessions.

Please contact Lynn Wheelless at [lynn.wheelless@gmail.com](mailto:lynn.wheelless@gmail.com) or call (757) 778-1078 if you have any questions.