

2775 Highway 50
P.O. Box 20,000-5028
Grand Junction, CO 81502-5028
December 1, 2011

TO: Shooting Sports Leaders, Members & Families
RE: 2012 Family Hunting/Outdoor Skills Challenge (YHEC)

NRA YHEC and 4-H Hunting/Outdoor Skills Challenge Is Coming To Fruita, Colorado!

... You're Invited ...

The NRA YHEC and 4-H Hunting/Outdoor Skills Challenge (the Colorado State NRA Youth Hunter Education Challenge event and 4-H Hunting/Outdoor Skills State Contest) will be coming to the Horsethief Canyon State Wildlife Area, in Fruita, Colorado on Feb. 18th & 19th, 2012 starting at 7:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m. with registration, orientation from 7:30 a.m. to 7:50 a.m. and contests starting at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday. Registration will be located at the maintenance building with shooting events to be held a short walk away. We will be conducting only one contest that will span over Saturday and Sunday. We are doing this to accommodate the addition of the 4-H Hunting/Outdoor Skills State Contest. We also hope to have additional collaboration with the Division of Wildlife as they may be providing us with training opportunities with their excellent Project Wild curriculum. This event is being co-sponsored by the Mesa County 4-H Shooting Sports Programs.

YHEC is recognized as one of the most comprehensive youth hunting programs anywhere in North America. The YHEC is the NRA's (National Rifle Association) "graduate studies" program in outdoor skills and safety training for young hunters and or outdoor enthusiasts. The program is conducted under simulated hunting conditions to provide the best practical environment for reinforcing and testing a young hunter's skills. From shotgun, rifle, bow and muzzleloader shooting at special targets and sporting clays to wildlife identification, map-and-compass orienteering and much more, YHEC participants (youth and adults too!) get hands-on training in eight skill areas.

The 4-H Shooting Sports Hunting/Outdoor Skills discipline teaches youth a variety of hunting heritage related skills and decision making abilities. The YHEC and 4-H Hunting/Outdoor Skills programs work hand in hand to promote the American heritage of hunting, outdoor knowledge and appreciation. The goal of all 4-H Youth Development programs is youth development. Developing the skills youth need to be productive and positive adults in our society. Decision making, teamwork, problem solving, being responsible and having high self-esteem are just a few of the many skills 4-H helps to develop.

Would you like to participate this year? If you do, enclosed is a Shooter Information Packet along with the registration form. If you have questions or need more information on the YHEC Hunting/Outdoor Skills Challenge you may call Doug Laes (DougL3@msn.com) at (970) 210-7100, Dennis Quinn (dqfieldservice@gmail.com) at (970) 242-2831 or Jon Kobylarz (kzjinca@bresnan.net) at (970) 434-4897, Billy Johnson (deliveryman_970@yahoo.com) at (970) 245-6282, or the Area Extension Office in Mesa County (970) 244-1834. In addition, the 2012 YHEC information is available on-line at [http:// www.co4hshooting.org](http://www.co4hshooting.org) (Take the “2012 YHEC/4-H Hunting/Outdoor Skills Challenge Event Information” link from the main page). There will be something for everyone from the young to the young at heart at this years Challenge!

We will only be able to handle 100 shooters so space will be limited and on a first-come first-served basis. The cost is \$40.00 per shooter. The deadline to sign up and pay is Monday Feb. 6th, 2012.

ATTENTION ADULTS: We can use help to run the various challenges. If this activity sounds like fun and you would like to help ... let us know! You don't need to know anything about the event to help out! We will teach you everything you need to know.

We are expecting a very good turn this year, so please sign up as soon as possible before the February 6th deadline to reserve your spot. As always, if you have questions or need more information, please call one of the phone numbers above and we will be glad to visit with you.

Sincerely,

Doug Laes
4-H Shooting Sports / Outdoor Education
970-210-7100