

## **Manitowoc County Sharp Shooters 4-H Club**

**Situation:** The 4-H Shooting Sports program in Manitowoc County is in its infancy. The program began approximately two years ago when archery was offered as the first discipline. The program has grown, and countywide enrollment in the shooting sports project has nearly doubled in two years. Seventy-five youth are currently enrolled in the project: 54 males (72%) and 21 females (28%). In the Manitowoc County 4-H program there is a difference in youth enrollment by gender: 254 males (40%) and 382 females (60%). There is also a difference in adult volunteer enrollment by gender: 69 males (29%) and 167 females (71%). To achieve parity with regard to gender, the enrollment target for Manitowoc County youth and adult volunteers should be 50% male and 50% female. 4-H Shooting Sports is one of the project areas that typically attracts more males than females. Continuing to build the shooting sports program in Manitowoc County will help to balance the gender inequality that currently exists in the program.

**Response:** 4-H Youth Development Educator, Kevin Palmer, promoted the idea of developing a special interest 4-H club with a shooting sports focus as one way to build the shooting sports program in Manitowoc County. Two adult males and one youth male volunteered to provide leadership for a new shooting sports 4-H club. Palmer worked with the new leadership team to help develop the special interest club.

**Results:** The Manitowoc County Sharp Shooters 4-H Club was chartered in September, 2006 with 12 members. One of the goals of the club was to have two meetings each month, a 4-H club meeting and a shooting sports project meeting. The club currently meets monthly at the Manitowoc County Office Complex and at another designated location each month to conduct a shooting sports project meeting.

**Evidence:** With the regard to gender inequality, the special interest club has been an effective way to attract male 4-H members. In just four months, enrollment in the club has grown to twenty-one members – eighteen male members and three female members.