

Top 5 Essentials for Precision Small-bore Rifle Shooters.

The definition of *essential*- absolutely necessary; extremely important.

Let's talk about 5 essentials for small-bore rifle shooters!

1. Safety- safety is the number one priority in 4-H Shooting Sports. Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. Keep your finger off the trigger until you're ready to fire. Keep an OBI (Open Bolt Indicator) in the chamber when you are not shooting your rifle. And always wear eye and ear protection when you're shooting any firearm.
2. Rifle- a fancy rifle doesn't instantly make you a better shooter. But it can definitely help. You should do your research before purchasing a rifle. Price, brand, and size of the shooter are important things to think about. Read reviews on the different rifles and see what will work best for you.
3. Ammo- the ammo you shoot in your rifle actually makes a huge difference. Purchase 3 or 4 different brands and do an ammo trial with your rifle. Shoot groups of 5 with each brand and see what the rifle likes better. Just remember that expensive isn't always better.
4. Other equipment- a shooting mat, spotting scope, offhand stand, and shooting suit are also important. Keep in mind that if you're in the junior division you won't need the offhand stand. But if you're in the junior intermediate, intermediate, or senior division you will. Do some research on equipment to see what will work best for you.

5. Patience and Perseverance- it takes time to become a good, consistent shooter. For the first year or two you need to focus on getting the positions down. Figure out what works best for you. It will be different for everyone. Don't get frustrated and don't give up. But the most important thing to remember is....HAVE FUN!

Written by: Addie Brown- State 4-H Shooting Sports Ambassador.