FIREARMS SAFETY
CLAIBORNE COUNTY
8TH GRADE

OBJECTIVE:
Students will learn the 10 Commandments of Firearm Safety.

Students will learn the basics parts of a firearm and how they work.

Students will learn the basic parts of a cartridge and how it works.

Students will learn how fast bullets travel for a better understanding of a firearm’s energy potential.

When the first line comes up, ask the class to tell you what firearms provide us with. Some will not be serious but try to steer the discussion toward positive answers.

Point out that there are many who want to see all civilian gun ownership abolished. Knowing and practicing safe gun handling reduces unintentional firearm injuries and thus gives the anti-gun crowd less ‘ammo’ for their cause.

SAFETY is our number one concern!

This slide introduces the three main things we are going to be talking about in this lesson. As the three points comes up, each is followed by a humorous picture.

When the first line appears, ask the class what they think the three things everyone needs to know before handling a firearm might be. Again, steer the discussion towards serious answers.

This slide begins the first three of the Ten Commandments of Firearm Safety.

Ask a member of the club to read each one and then ask the class to offer any opinions or ask any questions on each.

In some 4-H clubs you will many students who use firearms and in some clubs you will have very few. So if you are not a shooter, you may want to do some background research before teaching this lesson.
Slides 7-9 of the Ten Commandments of Firearm Safety.

This slide illustrates the different parts of a firearm. Point out the key features:
- **Muzzle**—Where the bullet comes out (don’t point it at anyone!)
- **Trigger**—What fires the weapon (keep your finger off of it!)
- **Magazine or Cylinder**—Where the ammo goes (don’t load it until you are ready to shoot!)
- **Barrel**—Gives the bullet direction (make sure it isn’t clogged!)
- **Safety**—renders the weapon inoperable (don’t trust it!). It is only shown in this slide on the rifle. Revolvers don’t have them and not all semi-auto handguns have them. Treat a safety as an extra measure. By following the other safety rules, you will be safe. A safety is just icing on the cake.

Stress to the class that by following these simple, common sense safety rules, firearms injuries can be (and have been) dramatically reduced.

The pictures include a Cowboy Mounted Action Shooting contestant and a ‘Hello Kitty’ themed AR-15. Shooting is fun!
This slide illustrates the different types of actions normally seen in long guns. The action actually contains the fire control mechanism and controls the cartridge while it is being fired. When we say ‘keep the action open’ this is the part of the firearm we are talking about.

This slide goes over the parts of a cartridge as well as what happens inside a cartridge when it is fired. Note that the rifle and shotgun cartridges are centerfire, that is the firing pin must hit the little circular primer in the cartridge’s base in order to fire. The small cartridge is a rimfire. That means that the priming material is spun into the outer rim of the cartridge’s base and this outer rim must be struck by the firing pin. Stress that primers are pressure sensitive! Hit it with something and it can go ‘Bang!’

Now we talk about the pressure that occurs when a cartridge is fired in a firearm. Stress that due to this pressure, firearms must be in perfect working order in order to be safely fired. Also point out that anything that causes this pressure to increase above normal can cause catastrophic failure of the firearm. Things like a barrel obstruction, the wrong ammunition, or carelessly reloaded ammunition can turn your firearm into an explosive device.

The next few slides talks about bullet speed. Your students will have a better understanding of the destructive power of a firearm if they can better relate to how fast a bullet travels.

What we are actually going to do is convert bullet speed, which is normally expressed in feet per seconds (fps), into miles per hour (mph), which we can all better understand.
Now we are going to walk your students through the math of converting the speed in feet per seconds (fps) of a 9mm handgun cartridge into miles per hour.

Instead of just popping up the answers, have your students try to do the math themselves. I know this is hard when you’re dealing with 8th graders but give it a try.

Each line pops up with a blank. Try to get your students to fill in the blank. The next click will fill in the blank.

In this example, we do the same thing as on the previous slide except with a very common rifle cartridge. The 30.06 (say, thirty ought six), is a classic and very common deer and elk hunting cartridge.

This slide is just a recap of what we have talked about. Please stress each point on this slide.

Point out that we must all be responsible around firearms because the alternative can be serious injury or death!

There are a number of photos that come up at the end.

Just for fun!

Go over the rules for the Demonstration contest that we have in February. These are the last four slides in the presentation.