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# The 2007 Junior World



*By: J. Makiver*  
*Courtesy of the National Skeet*  
*Shooting Association (NSSA)*

California sub-junior shooters Emily Shubert and Richard Riddle nodded in agreement on Sunday afternoon when Coach Larry Sifers summed up the 2007 Junior World Championships saying, "Great kids, great shooting, great management, and great targets—a wonderful weekend for the kids."

On August 2–5, 2007, the Minuteman Sportsman's Club in Burlington, Massachusetts hosted 120 young shooters, coaches, and parents from around the country and Canada to compete in the 2007 Junior World Skeet Championships. Aaron Benton and Ian Smingler were part of a New York squad that arrived early on Wednesday. "We need to get as much practice as possible," they said. "The competition will be extremely tough this weekend." Parent Lou Riddle from Bonsall, California agreed. "The integrity these young people have as shooters is incredible. While they love to have fun and behave as kids, they're anxious to compete to the best of their abilities and be successful."

The Junior World is structured in a concurrent competition format without any regard to traditional classes. The three concurrents Sub Junior, Junior and Collegiate all have groups - sub-junior (juniors who have not reached their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday,) junior (junior who has not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday,) and collegiate (a full-time undergraduate in an accredited university for up to five years.) With in each concurrent there are Classes I, II, and III based on the individual's target average. The main events include doubles, 12, 20, 28, .410 and HOA. The HOA Championship consists of combining competition events using all four gauges for shotguns – 12, 20, 28, and 410 bore results are added together where the top score out of 400 is the HOA Champion.

Thursday's preliminary C of C event allowed shooters to get warmed up and the kids didn't waste any time posting some great scores. Collegiate Chris Cook (Arizona) broke the only 100 to win collegiate champ while Adam Linetty (Pennsylvania) won runner-up and Eric Desatoff (California) took third. The C

# Skeet Championship



of C event is the Champion of Champion event and is considered a preliminary event – it does not get added into the HOA score of 400.

Adam Linetty is a recent Bucknell graduate with a B.S. in Biology. He begins work this fall for a Philadelphia biotech company and hopes to attend dental school in a couple of years.

Virginia juniors Taylor Ricketts, Ryan Tribble, Wayne Kidd, and Arizona's Scott Usry posted 100s. After a great shoot-off, Kidd emerged as junior champ with Usry runner-up and Ricketts third. Sub-juniors Cameron Coggins (AL) and Cory Pinney (CO) led their concurrent with 99s and won sub-junior champ and runner-up respectively. Lady champions were Talia Borg and Abby Leeder.

## Doubles

By the conclusion of the doubles event, the scoreboard, meticulously maintained by Barbara Bozard and George Morse, was covered with great scores throughout the concurrent

groups. Three perfect 100s were posted by juniors Brian Foley, Carter Wehrheim, Taylor Ricketts, and two by squadmates Eric Desatoff and Chris Cook. It wasn't until the second box that Foley won junior champ and Ricketts junior runner-up, while Cook swiped an early victory from Desatoff to win collegiate champ.

Another exciting shoot-off featured Devin Cody, Jaker Jacobson, David Kamp, Kyle Taylor, Adam Benkendorf, and Courtney Coggins for a junior third win. Devin and Jaker only had to clear the last pair at four to run the box when the second bird narrowly slipped by Devin. Jaker need the pair for the victory and he nailed them without hesitation! Congratulations! In a similar shoot-off Ian Smingler and Mike Snider appeared to have the box wrapped up in a shoot-off for collegiate third when Mike lost the last bird on four and Ian won it!

## 12-Gauge Event

On Thursday evening, Eric Desatoff had a feeling that Talia Borg was going to run her first 12-gauge straight on Friday.

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“Talia’s 12-gauge scorecard is littered with 99s,” said Eric. “Including one from last year’s Junior World. She’s really been working at focusing on the target. In fact, she’ll even focus on anything that resembles a target. For example, red flashing train-track crossing lights,” grinned Eric. And sure enough, Talia came through and posted her first perfect 12-gauge score and won lady junior champ and junior I-4 (Junior I-4 is a Junior shooter who has not reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and is shooting in Group I based on average and in fourth place based on score.)

Thirteen other perfect 100s joined Talia’s which set the stage for some exciting shoot-offs. Collegiates Mike Blades (Nova Scotia), Mike Snider (Georgia), and Chris Cook met on the shoot-off field to establish collegiate places. Chris dropped on the return trip to Station 4 and the two Mikes kept hammering away until that dreaded

last pair on station 4 (there are eight stations in skeet shooting.) Blades dropped the second bird opening the door for Snider. Snider stepped onto the station, called for his pair and crushed them to claim collegiate champ.

Another noteworthy collegiate shoot-off involved Bo Bozard (Florida) and Aaron Benton (New York) when their 99s tied for collegiate I first and second. While the two have been friends for a couple of years, Aaron really wanted to make sure Bo enjoyed his Junior World New England experience this summer. To that end, as Aaron followed Bo through the first box, he was dismayed when Bo lost a couple of birds. “It saddened me when Bo dropped those birds.” Aaron recalled later. So in the spirit of Yankee hospitality, he just stepped up to the station and lost one too. What a nice guy! Apparently, however, Bo didn’t read the circulated memo on Yankee



hospitality. When the second box began, Bo followed Aaron and when Aaron missed on Station 4 it seemed pretty clear (at least to Aaron) that Bo would return the favor. Well, it didn't exactly turn out that way because Bo just raised his gun and ink-balled the pair! The friends shook hands and enjoyed a good laugh.

The junior shoot-off field was much busier as eight shooters squared off—Patrick Steinert (Pennsylvania), Ron Dodson (Virginia), Wayne Kidd (Virginia), Ryan Tribble (Virginia), Alik Miller (New York), Taylor Ricketts (Virginia), Talia Borg (California) and Bradley Bilicki (South Carolina). On the fourth trip to Station 4, Miller won junior champ, with Dodson hanging on to win runner-up and Ricketts third. Tribble and Dodson also won the two man junior event with a perfect 200x200!

Sub-juniors Cameron Coggins (Alabama), Robert Horton (Georgia) and Cory Pinney (Colorado) met to settle their 99s. After some fine shooting, Robert placed sub-junior third while Cameron and Cory appeared to be heading to a second box when that dreaded last pair on 4 cost Cameron a bird. Now it was up to Cory to break the pair and take home sub-junior champ. He stepped onto the station, paused for a second, dropped in two shells, called for the birds and smoked them!

Kate Haas (Texas) won lady collegiate champ, Borg lady junior and Abby Leeder (Texas) lady sub-junior.

### **20-Gauge Event**

Two juniors from Virginia, Taylor Ricketts (Junior Champion) and Wayne Kidd (Junior Runnerup), ran the only 100s in their concurrent 20-gauge event, while fourteen 99s tied for third, including one from Lucas Takahashi from Armonk, NY. Prior to the Junior World, Lucas had not shot a registered target since the 2005 Mini-World. Instead, he focused on lacrosse and academics which paid off as he'll be a freshman at Penn State this fall.

The Junior concurrent generally has the most participants and this year more than 60 juniors were competing to win. The 20-gauge was a fun shoot-off and close to 100 spectators gathered to watch these fourteen kids. One of these spectators was Cameron Coggins who easily won sub-junior champ with his lone 99.

Eventually emerging from all the smoke and dust was our smiling junior third winner Ryan Tribble. Steinart and Dodson took JRI-1 and JRI-2 respectively. Lucas hung tough and won JRI-6. Great shooting by everyone. Jenna McLean (Texas), Borg and Leeder were the lady concurrent champions. Once Ryan won this monster shoot-off, Coggins walked over to the sub-junior shoot-off field to watch his friends compete. Matt Bartosch (Pennsylvania) won sub-junior runner-up while Cory Pinney (Colorado) took third. Richard Riddle (California) and Nick Boerboon (Minnesota) won SJI-2 and SJI-3, while Bakersfield California's Emily Shuford and Boston native Matthew Grabski won SJ3-2 and SJ3-3.

Fourteen-year-old Emily Shubert is excited to enter the 9th grade at Bakersfield High School this fall. She can't wait to see her friends, play the tuba, and represent her school on the swim team. After all, she needs the rest after diving into skeet shooting this spring and shooting more than 2,000 tournament targets this summer.

Coach Larry Sifers is pleased with Emily's progress. "Emily's a super young lady and has had an incredible summer shooting skeet," remarked Larry. "She's having a memorable Junior World, shooting her first registered 25-straight in the 28-gauge, winning shoot-offs and having fun





with her mom and sister." (Emily shot a brilliant 97 in the 28-gauge event and won sub-junior third and sub-junior lady champ!).

"I enjoy traveling and meeting new friends," said Emily. "I practice at the Poor Boy skeet range and won D1 in the 20-gauge at the California State Shoot. I also enjoy hunting doves and ducks with my dad." Not long ago Emily took her first elk from 190 yards while on a hunt in New Mexico.

Emily has a lot in common with Tiffany Davis, a 16-year-old from Sloatsburg, NY, entering 11th grade. Tiffany shot her first registered targets in July, and according to her father Wayne, she's already posting scores in the 90s! She won D1 in the 28-gauge at the Lobster. Like Emily, Tiffany enjoys hunting birds and can't wait for the fall pheasant season. She shoots at the Monroe-Chester Sportsman's Club and enjoys ultimate fighting in high school.

Sisters Haley and Shanan Foster from Ada, OK, were sporting their new Boston Red Sox caps during the Sunday shoot-offs. "We took our first ever subway ride yesterday," Shanan exclaimed. "We went to Fenway and watched the Red Sox win! It was awesome." They posted some awesome scores too, with Shanan and Haley winning junior lady champ and runner-up with a 99 and 97.

As the .410 event approached, all eyes were on the HOA championships and everyone knew a strong .410 score was critical for success. Collegiates were led by Snider 299, Bozard and Cook 298, and Desatoff 297.

Bo, a sophomore majoring in Business at Flagler College in St. Augustine, Florida., was pleased with his shooting this weekend, but this would be only his fourth .410 event of 2007 with a .9500 average. "In the spring of 2006, an industrial accident left me without the use of a hand and as a result I missed the whole shooting season," said Bo. But medical science is a wonder and the therapy successful because Bo crushed a 100 that afternoon and won both the .410 and HOA collegiate championship. Chris Cook's 396 won collegiate runner-up and .410 collegiate third.

Good friends Taylor Ricketts and Ryan Tribble won HOA junior champ and runner-up with 397 and 396, although Ryan's victory didn't come easy as he had to shoot off against the .410 sub-junior champ Tucker Biedenbarn from Boerne, TX. This was the fourth Junior World for Taylor and Ryan and they're looking forward to 2008.

Cameron Coggins broke 98 in the .410 and won HOA and .410 sub-junior champ while Bailey Glenewinkel (TX), Emily Shuford and Abby Leeder won .410 sub-junior lady champ, runner-up and third. HOA lady champions include Jenna McLean (collegiate), Talia Borg (junior) and Abby Leeder (sub-junior).

The Minuteman Sportsman's Club was proud to host the 2007 Junior World Championships, and the volunteer efforts of the following people made it a success: Kerry Muzyka, Barbara Bozard, Jean Voutas, Maureen Siemen, Laura Grabski, Cookie Welsch, Robbie and Mark Muzyka, Dean Lynch, Nick Morrione, Charles Grabski, Angelo Troisi, Al Hersch, Jim Bridges, George Morse, Bob Webb, Howie Altman, Carl Hensch, Russ Lebel, and Bill Batty.

Start planning today for the 2008 Junior World Shoot to be held at the Stockton Trap & Skeet Club in Stockton, CA. Mr. and Mrs. Louis Riddle are part of a large group of parents, coaches and friends that are diligently preparing to make the 2008 Junior World the best ever! Please go to [www.2008jrworld.com](http://www.2008jrworld.com) for more information.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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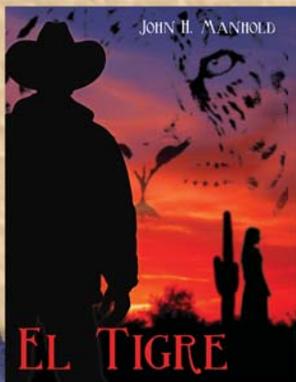
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# MOUNTED

## And How I Got Started

By: Morning Dove

**B**orn in Georgia, my family moved to New Mexico when I was just three years old. My older brothers, Tombstone Tim and Pawnee Pete are both about ten years older than me. When my dad, Sierrita Slim, and brothers would practice shooting, I wanted to shoot too, even though I was only two years old! My dad was an instructor in law enforcement and found a safe way to let me shoot balloons with a .22 pistol. He says it was one of those "Don't do this at home" sort of things! But it was fun and even my mom, Sweetface would shoot with us.

We moved to New Mexico when I was three years old and that's when I started riding horses with my family. By the time I was seven years old I had begun shooting in local SASS matches with the Rocky Flats Rangers and the Seven Rivers Regulators. That's also about the same time I started riding barrels and poles at the 4H play days so I could learn to ride well enough to take my own horse when we went camping in the mountains. Soon after that, when I was about eight years old my dad started taking me to work cattle with him on the Flying H ranch. He wasn't sure I was big enough but I kept bugging him so he took me! The ranch is in some really rough and rocky country and we ride horses up and down some hills I don't think I could walk up by myself!

Now we get to the real fun...Mounted Shooting! When I was 10, Pecos Pistolero started a Mounted Shooting club near us and brought Alan Eggleston of the Double E Ranch ([www.ranchgeldings.com](http://www.ranchgeldings.com)) to town for a clinic. I made my dad take us and we both liked Mounted Shooting right away! When my dad asked me if I wanted to start Mounted Shooting I said "Absolutely!" I'm totally horse crazy and love to ride horses and shoot too. Mounted Shooting is even more enjoyable than action shooting for me because it puts the two things I like most together, riding and shooting! I guess that's why it's the fastest growing equine sport in the world!

Since I was only 10 years old when we started Mounted Shooting, I didn't actually shoot in competition. You see the only cartridge riders are allowed to use is .45 Colt for safety reasons. The match directors supply the ammunition to make sure they know what's in it. In action shooting people bring their own ammunition, but with spectators all around the outside of the arena watching us shoot they have to be really sure that there is nothing in the blank cartridges except black powder. The blanks are certified to break balloons every time at a distance of 10 feet but never at 20 feet. It's actually the burning powder embers that break the balloons when we don't miss! It's not easy to hit the balloons every time when you're riding on the back of a 1,000 pound horse galloping around the arena at 30 mph! You really have to concentrate! With the balloons far enough from the edge of the arena we can ride around and no matter what angle we shoot from, if we're close enough to break the balloons we're too far away from the edge of the arena to hit anyone in the crowd. The powder is all burned up before it can reach that far! Because the guns have to shoot .45 Colt ammunition, all the guns are full-sized and it's hard to work the action one handed when your hands are small (one hand holds the reigns). That's why when you are under 12 years old you ride the same patterns as the adults but only use a toy gun and don't have to break the balloons. The under 12 class is called "Buckaroos" in Single Action Shooting Society (SASS) Mounted Shooting and "Wranglers" in the Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association (CMSA).

Once I turned 12 and started shooting I was in the Junior Division which is where I am now. Even though the caliber is big and the guns have big frames you can still find pistols that have smaller grips like mine. I use bird's head grip pistols from Taylor's & Co., Inc. The grip has no "hump" on the back strap so I can put my hand where ever I need to in order to cock the hammer. My hammer spurs are turned down too so it's easier to reach with my small hands (It's OK to use modified hammers in Mounted Shooting). When I turn 16, I'll move into one of the adult Lady divisions. Until then I can still win the top Ladies' buckle if I beat all the women in the match. I've done that at the 2006 and 2007 SASS New Mexico State Championships and it's really fun to beat adults when you're a just a kid. I hope they don't mind too much because I want to do it again sometime! Once in the adult divisions they separate riders into Divisions 1 through 5 (SASS) and 1 through 6 (CMSA & MSA) depending on how often you win. The more you win, the faster you move up to a higher Division.

Just like at the action matches, Mounted Shooting matches have the nicest people at them. That's a big part of the fun we have as

# SHOOTING



Photo Courtesy of:  
Mark Quigley

SPRING 2008

a family. There are other families with kids that do Mounted Shooting too. Maybe even a higher percentage of the Mounted Shooters come with the whole family than that of the action shooters. I don't know for sure, but it seems like that. We have one family in New Mexico that has four generations of Mounted Shooters in it! They all come to the matches and almost all of them ride and shoot! Like many of the people we know from Mounted Shooting, the Bishop family members are all really nice and fun to be around from the Wranglers all the way up to the Senior Divisions. You even get to ride and shoot with famous people like Mr. Jim Rogers (who invented Mounted Shooting), his wife Lilly and Outlaw Annie too! Even when they're famous they are still nice!

There is no other sport like Mounted Shooting. None! Sure, you can have fun shooting with your family and friends if you Cowboy Action Shoot. Sure, you can ride your horse a lot if you do some other equine sport and at some of them you can gallop your horse around the arena. But Mounted Shooting is the only sport where you can ride as fast as you can and shoot single-action pistols at the same time! There is even a rifle class so you can shoot a pistol and a rifle in the same stage! So if you like horses and shooting you really need to come on out and watch us. If you ask politely and know how to ride, you can probably get someone to let you ride their horse and borrow their guns to give it a try. But it's so much fun that if you try it you'll like it! You can find local clubs at [www.sasnet.com](http://www.sasnet.com) and also at [www.cowboymountedshooting.com](http://www.cowboymountedshooting.com). Give it a try...come on...you can do it, at least come and watch a match or practice. Mounted Shooting is so much fun it might change you forever! I hope to see you at the arena sometime! Check out my website at [www.morningdoverides.com](http://www.morningdoverides.com).



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# THE AR-15

## FOR JUNIOR HIGH-POWER COMPETITION

BY: SARAH BOWERS

**O**ur primary question in this article is to discuss whether the AR-15 is a good choice as a competition rifle for juniors. We also want to determine how accurate this particular rifle is with four different loads of ammunition.

The AR-15 is essentially a semi-automatic civilian version of the M-16, which is currently being issued to our military. I can tell you from past experience that Bushmaster's AR-15 is a perfect fit for juniors involved in competitive shooting. It's lightweight and easy to handle, and it's simple to adjust for your personal preferences. You can also use this rifle in more than one competitive category, including service rifle, sporting rifle, and long-range competitions, etc., making it a good all-around high power rifle to have in your gun case.

The AR-15 helped me score high enough to progress to the NRA Sharpshooter Qualification Level at the High Power Service Rifle 800 Aggregate in 2006. Later in 2006, the Bushmaster AR-15 and I took home the Idaho State Service Rifle Championship in the junior's category. The rifle performed very well for me in these competitions, leaving me free to concentrate on accuracy. Did I mention how much fun I was having at the same time? The Bushmaster AR-15 is a blast to shoot, and I'm particularly proud to be using the same rifle our service men and women are carrying.

Needless to say, when **Junior Shooters** contacted me to test a brand-new, fresh from the box Bushmaster AR-15, I didn't hesitate to take on the job. My dad and

I met with our coach and friend, Don Curtis, at the Snake River Sportsmen Range in Vale, Oregon, to put the rifle through some basic accuracy tests. Don has been my coach ever since I started shooting, and, with the help of my dad, has taught me everything I know about the shooting sports. Don's credentials as a former member of the Army Marksmanship Unit and coach of the Army Reserve Rifle Team were perfect for the job of testing the AR-15.

The Bushmaster AR-15 model we used for our accuracy test was the XM-15 A3, which has a detachable carry handle, a 1:8 twist barrel and a Bushmaster standard trigger. All firing was done from a bench rest at 100 yards. We started with iron sights using a 69-grain Sierra bullet with Varget powder. The accuracy was very good with that particular load—a group of five was, on average, within 1-½ inches.

We then took off the carry handle and added a Bushnell Banner 4x12 scope. Using an 80-grain bullet, we shot three strings of five shots, letting the barrel cool between strings. The accuracy increased considerably. At 100 yards, we were able to place all five shots in a ¾ inch group. So, apparently, this particular rifle is highly accurate with an 80-grain bullet. At the time of the test, we didn't know the twist of the barrel, so we didn't know why the rifle took so well to the 80-grain bullets. But once we established the barrel twist, it explained why it placed the 80-grain bullets in such a tight group.

**I CAN TELL YOU FROM PAST EXPERIENCE THAT BUSHMASTER'S AR-15 IS A PERFECT FIT FOR JUNIORS INVOLVED IN COMPETITIVE SHOOTING.**



**THE BUSHMASTER DCM RECEIVER – NOTICE THE BUSHMASTER LOGO ON THE SIDE.**

We also tested using both 52-grain, and 50-grain bullets, but the group was significantly larger with those loads, particularly with the 50-grain bullet. Although the heavier bullet produced a smaller group, I would not discourage anyone from using the 50 or 52-grain bullet. In matches, we use the 69-grain bullet for all our 200 and 300 yard shooting, and the 80-grain bullet at 600 yards. But, if you're out shooting coyotes or just target shooting for fun, the 50 and 52-grain bullets work well too.

The factory trigger that came with the rifle is good. It has a little creep, meaning it doesn't pull back smoothly, but a competent gunsmith can change this easily. There are also replacement triggers that you can install yourself. I personally prefer Jewel Triggers because the do-it-yourself installation makes adjusting the trigger to my personal preferences easy. Over all,

the rifle performed very well in our accuracy test. The trigger was even that my only objection, and was just my personal preference. I love the easy change between the iron sights to a scope.

Bushmaster has produced a great AR-15 model, and I highly recommend it for juniors interested in serious high power competition. I also highly recommend showing this article to your dad. Who knows? Maybe you'll find a Bushmaster AR-15 under your tree some frosty Christmas morning!



*Editor's Note: Sarah is a 15-year old who is an outstanding example of the young men and women in today's competitive shooting sports. She competes in air rifle, small-bore rifle, and high-power rifle competitions.*



**SARAH AND HER COACH DON GETTING READY TO SHOOT THE BUSHMASTER DCM FOR ACCURACY.**

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☛ The Competition Front Sight is specially ground on three sides for optimum clarity, and is available in the shooter's choice of two widths (.052", or .062"). It is secured within the front sight base by a set screw to avoid the possibility of any movement once the rifle has been "zeroed."

☛ The 20" Bushmaster Extra Heavy Competition Barrel is a full 1" diameter under the free float tube, and is precision button rifled 1 turn in 8" – right hand twist – 6 lands and grooves. The barrel material is ChromeMoly Vanadium Steel, and the firing chamber is machined to SAAMI specifications. It is lead lapped and hardened to Rockwell C26 to 32. Unlike many other Bushmaster Barrels, this barrel is not Chrome lined.

☛ In the Upper Receiver, the bolt is carefully matched to the barrel extension lugs for precise lockup, maximum strength, and optimum accuracy.

☛ The Lower Receiver houses a finely honed two stage competition trigger that is factory set for a 3.5 lb. first stage and a 1 lb. let-off (second stage). This 4.5 lb. total trigger pull meets CMP/NRA competition regulations.

☛ The handguard set looks like government issue parts, but is actually a Competition "Free Floater" Tube (handguard tube/barrel nut combination). It does not contact the barrel forward of the receiver. A sling swivel is attached to the forward end of the tube to avoid any possibility of deflection or pressure on the barrel that could degrade accuracy.

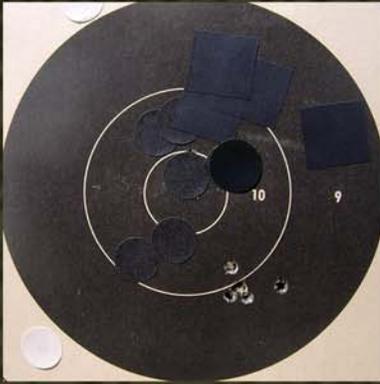
☛ The buttstock has been improved for competition with the addition of a 3.62 lb. lead "Counterbalance Weight" which can be trimmed by the competitor to achieve a comfortable balance and solid feel.

☛ Shipped in a lockable hard case with operator's safety manual, two 10 round magazines, chamber checker range safety device, black web sling, and break-in/maintenance instructions specific to the DCM Competition Barrel.

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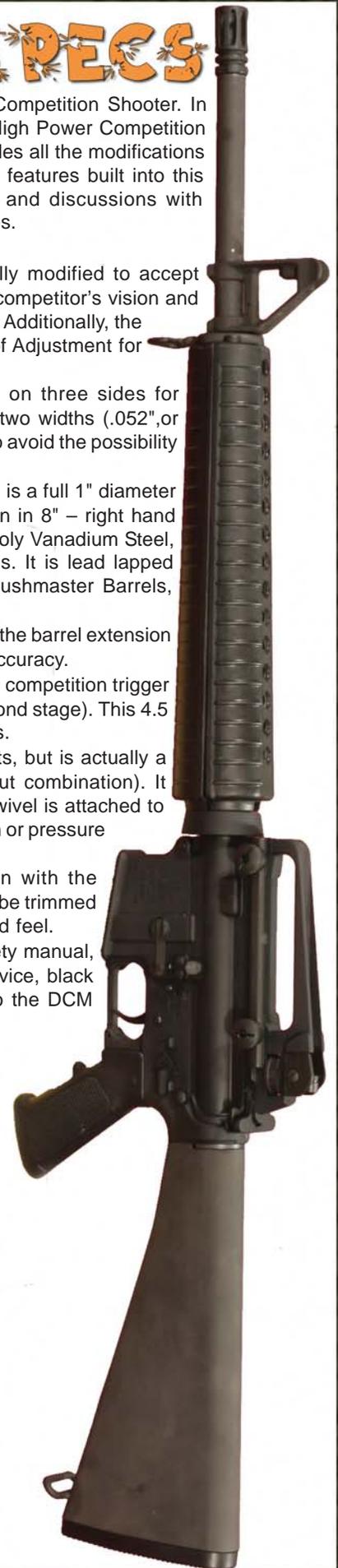
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<b>80-GRAIN</b>	<b>3/4"</b>	<b>1-1/4"</b>
<b>52-GRAIN</b>	<b>1-1/3"</b>	<b>1-1/3"</b>
<b>50-GRAIN</b>	<b>2-1/4"</b>	<b>2-1/4"</b>



# USAMU'S 2007 Army Junior Air Rifle Championship

By: Paula J. Randall

Sixty of the country's best high school shooters came head-to-head and battled it out for the title of National Junior Air Rifle Champion recently at the Pool International Shooting Complex in Fort Benning, Georgia.



**T**he 2007 Army Junior Air Rifle National Championship was conducted at the Pool Indoor Range from August 8-11. The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, with the assistance of the Civilian Marksmanship Program of Camp Perry, Ohio, hosted the Junior Air Rifle National Championship.

On August 8, 15 teams from around the country registered and started training. The USAMU International Rifle Team, which boasts four Olympians including a 2004 Olympic Silver Medalist, conducted the competition and provided marksmanship training and shooting clinics. The U.S. Army sponsored the annual U. S. Army Junior Air Rifle Championship to give Sporter and Precision class air rifle shooters of all levels of ability a unique opportunity to test their marksmanship skills in competition with other junior shooters in their home states and throughout the nation. The championship had two phases, a State Championship postal phase and a National Championship shoulder-to-shoulder phase.

Teams throughout the United States competed in postal statewide tournaments from November through March. The Civilian Marksmanship Program scored the targets and determined the state champions and teams that qualified for the National Championships. The teams that competed in this National Championship and postal state championship for school-age junior shooters were:

**Sporter class** – Flowing Wells JROTC, Arizona; Homestead 4-H Shooting Club, Nebraska; R.L. Paschal High School JROTC, Texas; Ripley High School Army JROTC, Tennessee; Stephen Decatur Navy JROTC, Maryland; West Brunswick High School Army JROTC; North Carolina Zion Benton High School Navy JROTC, Illinois; and Manzano High School Navy JROTC,

New Mexico.

**Precision class** – DuBois Junior Rifle Team, Pennsylvania; Lake Houston 4-H, Texas; MSSEC Timberwolves, Minnesota; Southeast Nebraska Shooting Sports, Nebraska; Texas Community Shooting Club of Kentucky, Kentucky; La Cueva High School Marine Corps JROTC, New Mexico; and Wyoming Antelope Club, Florida.

Three-Position Air Rifle Shooting is the most popular and fastest growing form of shooting sports competition for youth of high school age or younger, according to the Civilian Marksmanship Program. Precision Air Rifle is modeled after Olympic-style shooting and allows the use of specialized target rifles and equipment. Sporter Air Rifle is designed for new competitors or those who desire to compete with a minimum of equipment and expense. In both types of shooting, competitors fire at targets at a distance of 10 meters in three different positions, prone, standing, and kneeling.

The Civilian Marksmanship Program promotes firearms safety training and rifle practice for all qualified U.S. citizens with special emphasis on youth. The CMP operates through a network of affiliated shooting clubs and associations that covers every state in the U.S. The clubs and associations offer firearms safety training and marksmanship courses as well as the opportunity for continued practice and competition.

On August 9, the USAMU conducted Precision and Sporter clinics at the National Infantry Museum and at the range; the clinics covered the prone, standing, and kneeling positions.

On August 11, day two of the competition, the USAMU hosted a Future Soldier Swearing-in Ceremony conducted by Maj. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, commanding general of the U.S. Army

## The Junior Air Rifle Championship Banquet. Major General Bostick with the National winners.



Recruiting Command. More than 35 future Soldiers and their family members from the Atlanta Recruiting Battalion participated.

An awards banquet recognizing the top shooters was conducted at the Columbus Trade and Convention Center (Iron Works) the night of August 11. The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit provided trophies, plaques, and medals to the winners of the National Championship individual and team competitions in Sporter and Precision class. General Bostick was the guest speaker and an awards presenter, other awards presenters were former Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army Joel B. Hudson, who is now the military affairs consultant to the CMP, and Col. John Fenzel III, commander of the Accessions Support Brigade.

R.L. Paschal High School JROTC won the Sporter Team Championship, followed by Homestead 4-H Shooting Club in second place and Manzano High School Navy JROTC in third. The Sporter Individual Champion was Homestead 4-H Shooting Club member Micaela Jochum of Beatrice, Nebraska. In second place was R.L. Paschal High School JROTC cadet Daniel Hilario of Fort Worth, Texas, and Stephen Decatur High School

shooter Matthew Bertino of Ocean Pines, Maryland, took third place.

The winner of the Precision Team Championship was DuBois Junior Rifle Team. Taking second place was the Southeast Nebraska Shooting Sports team and the Wyoming Antelope Club finished in third place. DuBois shooter Emily Holsopple of Wilcox, Pennsylvania, won the Precision Individual Championship. Southeast Nebraska Shooting Sports member Sarah Broeker of Seward, Nebraska, took second place and DuBois participant Michael Kulbacki of DuBois, Pennsylvania, finished third.

At the awards ceremony, USAMU Commander Lt. Col. Frank Muggeo thanked the CMP for helping the U.S. Army with not only conducting competitions like this, but also for helping to run the USAMU's Squad Designated Marksman Program.

"Two-thousand people tried to get here, but only you made it; you proved yourselves," Muggeo told the competitors at the banquet.

Muggeo then introduced General Bostick, calling him the "busiest man in the U.S. Army."

"The Army is happy to sponsor this event; we look forward to



**Future Soldiers Swearing in Ceremony**



**Open training for air rifle competition.**

doing it again," Bostick said. General Bostick admitted that he did not know much about this sport before watching these matches, but added that he was very impressed with the discipline, self-control, precision, coordination, and adherence to safety that it required.

"These lessons that you learn through sport will make a difference and help you to win in life," General Bostick said. He added that it was "very inspiring to see the ladies and men competing head-to-head against each other."

General Bostick concluded by thanking the Army Marksmanship Unit for conducting the match and clinics.

"The AMU is first rate; there's nothing like it anywhere in the world," he said. "They support the warfighters; they train Soldiers both here and overseas. Never forget that our Soldiers are in harm's way ensuring that we live in a country that is free."

Formed in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to raise the standards of marksmanship throughout the U.S. Army, the Army Marksmanship Unit is assigned to the Accessions Support Brigade of the U.S. Army Accessions Command. The Marksmanship Unit trains its Soldiers to win competitions and enhances combat readiness through train-the-trainer clinics,

research and development. For more information on the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, contact the Public Affairs Office at (706) 545-5436, paula.j.randall@us.army.mil or <http://www.usaac.army.mil/amu/>.

*The Civilian Marksmanship Program is a federally-chartered, non-profit corporation dedicated to firearm safety and marksmanship training and to the promotion of marksmanship competition for citizens of the United States. For more information on the CMP and its programs, contact Christine Elder at 419-635-2141 ext. 1111 or [celder@odcmp.com](mailto:celder@odcmp.com).*



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(706) 545-5436

**Precision finals competition.**



**The Sporter Relay competition.**





# Meet Shannon Draeker

## A 12-Year-Old Smallbore Champion

By: Scott & Shannon Draeker

Her equipment includes a propeller beanie, a sombrero, and a jester cap. Armed with almost as many hats as there are days in a month, Shannon Draeker thought she would become known as “the girl who always has something funny on her head.” Instead, this 12-year-old from southern California is developing a reputation as a rising star in the world of smallbore rifle. A “smallbore” rifle is one which fires .22 caliber ammunition.

At the California State Metric Prone Championship in Modesto, California on October 20-21, 2007, Draeker set four national records for her age group, J3, which includes all shooters through the end of the year in which they have their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. On the first day she defeated all other competitors, of all ages, in the iron-sight match with a record breaking 1,166. On the second day, Shannon came in second overall with a 1,160 for a record breaking two-day aggregate score of 2,326. Shannon’s other records were a 392 in the Dewar (iron sights) and a 387 in the 100 Yard (iron sights). Her performance was good enough to place second overall, and make her perhaps the youngest Junior State Champion in California history.

The Modesto range is set in a rustic, agricultural area of northern California. The range itself is located behind an almond orchard and has a summer camp look and feel. Despite its pastoral beauty, the Modesto range is a challenging shooting environment. The large trees on either side of the range cast shadows that move across the targets as the day progresses, and the wind often gusts unpredictably.

The California Metric Prone State Championship draws top shooters from several western states. The “metric” refers to the international standard A-50 and A-33 targets. These targets have much smaller 10-rings than the more common NRA targets. The 10-rings on the A-50 NRA smallbore target are only 10.4 millimeters across. The Modesto competition consists of three matches a day over two days of shooting. The first match, a Dewar, is one target at 50 meters and a second target at 100 yards. The second match is two targets at 100 yards, and the third match is two targets at 50 meters. On the first day competitors are required to use only “iron” or “metallic” sights. The second day is for “any sights” which means that shooters can use a scope. Most do, as a scope makes it much easier to see the target and wind conditions.

Scoring is based on a possible 200 points per target. Each target has four record “bulls”, or bullseyes. Each bullseye is a series of concentric rings. The inner most ring scores 10 points. The next ring scores nine, and so on. Shooters are allowed an unlimited number of sighter shots and 20 record shots (five per bullseye) per target. A perfect score would mean that all 20 record shots broke the 10-ring. Twenty shots times a maximum 10 points per shot equals 200 points. Each match is two targets, so the maximum possible score for a match is 400 points.

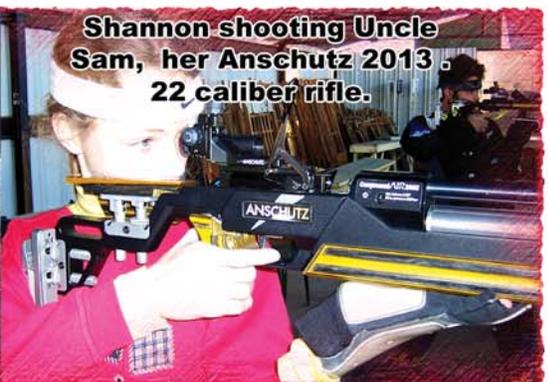
Less than two years ago, Shannon’s only experience with shooting was with an air rifle at a monthly kids’ club. Shannon enjoyed the club competitions, and wanted to do more. Coach Eddie Abalo agreed to take Shannon under his wing, and the rest is quickly becoming history! Eddie has plenty of experience training champion shooters. Three of the four records Shannon broke in Modesto had been held by Eddie’s son, Chris, who now shoots for West Point.

Shannon’s Anschutz 2013, her .22 caliber rifle, is named “Uncle Sam” because the first time she shot it was on July 4, 2006. Uncle Sam remains largely as he came from the factory, with the addition of Anschutz’ 7020/20 rear sight, Centra front and rear adjustable apertures, and a custom made bloop tube which takes her sight radius out to 48 inches, nearly as long as Shannon is tall.

Shannon’s ultimate goal is to compete in the Olympic Games. Unfortunately, the Olympic prone event is currently only for men. Shannon hopes this will change by 2012, but in the meantime she’s added standing with an FWB P700 air rifle to her daily training routine. Women’s air rifle and three-position smallbore are Olympic events.

When she’s not “in the zone” at the range, this homeschooled 7th grader draws cartoons, tends to the family’s pet snakes, and helps look after her three younger siblings.

Juniors interested in learning more about shooting should contact the NRA at <http://www.nra.org> to find a local Juniors Club. If you are in the Modesto area, or would like to learn more about competitions held there, you may contact Steve Fentress online at [s-bfen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s-bfen@sbcglobal.net).





**Shannon, her sombrero and Uncle Sam.**



# TIPS FROM A PRO!

## Shooting Through Ports

Photos by: Robin Taylor

By: Paul J. Benson  
with Taran Butler and  
Robin Taylor

## Doin' The California Stop With Taran Butler

**T**his issue's tip on pistol competition deals with movement, one of the central challenges to United States Practical Shooting Association (USPSA) shooting.

Unlike conventional target shooting, USPSA shooters move constantly. When the timer goes off, they dash through short "courses," blasting targets as fast as safety will allow. Strict safety rules apply, so the person that can move smoothest through the course generally comes up the winner. (Top USPSA shooters will all tell you, "smooth equals fast.")

In USPSA, final scores are based on points earned per second. If someone can shoot the course a little faster than everyone else, with the same accuracy, they win!

California's Taran Butler is famous for his movement. He's a USPSA Limited Grand Master and National 3-Gun Champion, currently sponsored by SV Infinity and Ion Bond. He'll be advising us on how to deal with moving in and out of shooting ports.

### Background

USPSA courses use ports in walls to limit what the shooter can see. It can be quite intimidating for a shooter not to be able to see the targets until actually arriving at the port. Hence, mental preparation is a key to success.

Taran is very fast in shooting through ports thanks in part to extremely smooth technique. I have broken his technique down into three phases: 1) entering the shooting zone, 2) setting up, and 3) exiting the port area. Take a little time to practice Taran's advice and you will see improvement in your scores.

### Entering

Taran approaches the port very quickly. Unlike some shooters, Taran does not focus on a part of the port or a spot on the ground to help him gauge when to stop and begin his set up. He looks for his first target, then attacks the port and target array as a unit. Taran comes in fast but slows down quickly, lowering his butt to help stabilize his shooting platform. In particular, he bends his front leg, using it as a kind of shock absorber as he 'enters' the port.

### Setting Up

As described above, Taran's center of gravity has lowered and his front leg is significantly bent. Taran employs the "California Stop" philosophy. A California Stop happens when a car approaches a stop sign, slows down, and momentarily

pauses at the sign before rolling through the intersection. Taran uses this idea in his shooting. Taran says, "On easy targets, I want to come in and see all of them. I pause just long enough to shred them." Then he moves on to the next set of targets.

Taran observes that, "you should move into the port only as far as you can see all the targets." He suggests that, "shifting your shooting position and head to acquire all the targets is actually slower."

Watching me attempting to do the same thing, he commented, "You are coming in fast, you set your first shot up well, but you're moving your feet to reset your position and acquire the remaining targets." I was losing an incredible amount of time every time I reset my feet. Taran's advice? "Don't do it anymore! It's faster to move only your gun than it is to move your feet and gun."

### Exiting

After he calls his last shot, Taran explodes toward the next shooting position. Taran says, "the key to exiting is the bent front leg. Remember, I lower my center of gravity. I use my front leg to push off." Unless it is a hard shot, Taran never wants to be caught flat-footed.

In summary, Taran says to follow four simple steps:

- Do a California Stop, pause and move on.
- Drop the butt and bend the knee to settle things down.
- Move into the port far enough to acquire the targets, then shred them.
- Push out with the front leg to get the body moving to the next port/array.

Hopefully, Taran's insight will help improve your technique and confidence. As with all shooting advice, what works for one shooter may not work for another. If you have any suggestions, or a topic you want to hear about, email me at [pjbenson45@aol.com](mailto:pjbenson45@aol.com).

United States Practical Shooting Association (USPSA)  
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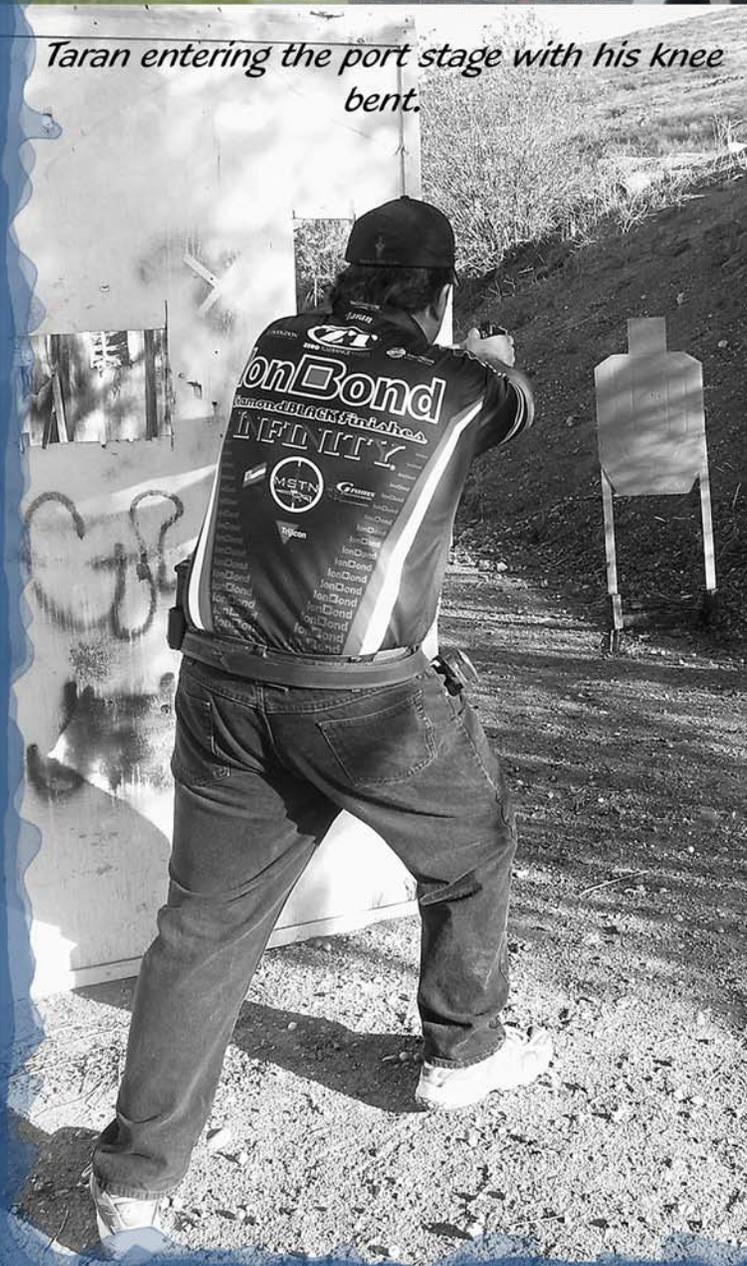


*Using the port to your advantage at the 2007 Limited Division Nationals in Tulsa, Oklahoma.*



*Moving fast, Taran exits the rifle stage.*

*Taran entering the port stage with his knee bent.*



*Setting up - Taran orients on the first target, then swings to shred the others without moving his feet.*



My name is Sarah Hughes, I live in Anchorage Alaska, and I am 16 years old. I began shooting five years ago when I was 11. My older brother Matt was shooting on the youth league at Rabbit Creek shooting park and he thought I would do well, but I would be one of a very few girls in the league. It took some convincing but I finally joined. I began shooting my brother's old Beretta 12-gauge shotgun, but the youth league had several loner guns so kids could find one that fit right. Then a few more girls joined and we began to get competitive, the other girls and I started practicing together and going to local shoots on weekends. I now shoot a Beretta 12-gauge Tenkis 391 and I am sponsored by Fiocchi Ammunition.

Rabbit Creek Youth league is operated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The league has grown over the years and now has about 100 junior shooters in their program. All the coaches are volunteers and it's a lot of fun. We shoot each week and our scores are kept track of, and we have an awards banquet at the end of the season. The program has several sponsors including Hunter Heritage Foundation and lots of local volunteers. Shooting all winter at night under the lights often in below zero temperatures, I think has made us better shooters, and I really appreciate traveling to warm weather shoots.

A separate program the youth league started was a travel team called the Alaska Shooting Stars Junior sporting clays team. It was started by Tony Monzingo and John Matthews in 1999 and Tony started taking some of the boys to shoots around the United States and my brother Matt was part of that original group. As more girls became interested, we were able to go along and had volunteer moms travel with us.

We were able to apply for several shooting grants through the NRA foundation and we did lots of fundraising with carwashes and we even sold candy bars to try and earn money for travel expenses.

I have attended several training camps like Champs Camp in Texas and the NRA Olympic shotgun camp in Pennsylvania that have helped me gain shooting experience. I also attend a weekly league at Birchwood, another local range. I was also selected to attend the NRA Youth Educational Summit program in our state capitol in Juneau, Alaska, to learn how government works.

Living in Alaska we don't have that many shooters and never have the chance to earn punches or points at an event so in order to earn all American points we have had to travel several times a year to bigger shoots in other states. I have been able to do well enough at those shoots to be named to the All American Lady team this year. We find shoots to attend on the internet and by word of mouth that a lot of people are planning on attending. We plan months in advance as the popular shoots have limited registration and we need to be able to search for the best airfare and get the time off work and school.

Shooting has affected my life in many positive ways. I have learned to set goals and how to obtain them, I have learned you have to be confident and act mature at shoots, often with over 1,000 shooters it's important to be able to gain other shooters respect. I have made friends from all over the country. There is a group of junior shooters that go to most of the big shoots and it's a lot of fun to see them.

Shooting has helped me in my school work as well. I would suggest to other young shooters that they study hard because of all the school that is missed due to travel; you have to be able to keep up with your school work and maintain good grades.

My brother Matt is attending Lindenwood University in Missouri as a freshman this year on a shooting team scholarship. They are four time national collegiate champions and the team travels to shoots all over the country. I was able to visit the school in August, met the coaches and I am looking forward to attending there when I graduate from high school.



# Sporting Clay Juniors in Alaska

By: Sarah Hughes





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9

Tips

# FOR A SUCCESSFUL YOUTH HUNT

BY: BRIAN DOWER - NWTF

The excitement builds well before the hunt, and grows as the Tom drums his way to your setup, getting so close and so loud his calls reverberate against your soul. Still, this excitement is topped by the smile of a new hunter's face as he looks over his quarry and tells his story.

Most of life's lessons can be learned through these stories and by simply spending time in the woods: patience, attentiveness and a respect for conservation and wildlife are just a few things youth can learn in the turkey woods.

Ensuring young people have a good experience in the woods, however, depends on those who take them hunting.

'Mentors play an extremely important role in teaching young hunters ethics, safety and the importance of conservation,' said Rob Keck, CEO of the National Wild Turkey Federation NWTF. 'Without their guidance and involvement, hunting traditions aren't passed on, and could eventually be lost.'

From comfort to safety, the NWTF has compiled nine tips to get you started in the right direction.

- 1 Safety First:** Before taking to the woods, hunters must know how to stay safe. From proper sporting arm handling to identifying their target, make sure your young hunter has the knowledge they need for a safe hunt.
- 2 All in Good Fun:** Young hunters can lose excitement for the hunt easily, especially when the turkeys aren't gobbling. With this in mind, let the youngster decide when it's time to go home.
- 3 Get Cozy:** Make sure young hunters stay warm - or cool depending on the weather - dry and comfortable. Giving them a hunting vest with lots of pockets is a great way to carry snacks, extra clothes, and rain gear. A vest also promotes confidence and makes them a part of the hunt. Visit the NWTF's Turkey Shoppe to get items to outfit your young hunter.
- 4 Practice Makes Perfect:** All responsible hunters pattern their shotguns before taking to the turkey woods, so why wouldn't young hunters do the same? Taking a kid out for practice builds the excitement of the hunt and is a great time to discuss proper firearm safety.
- 5 Feed Me Seymour!** Snacks are a great way to break up a morning hunt. The fresh air of the woods, combined with exercise when hunting can increase the appetite of young hunters. Peanut butter crackers and bite-size candy bars, for example, are a great addition to your snack pack.
- 6 Know the Terrain:** When planning a hunt with a young hunter, make sure the area you're hunting is an easy trek. While most turkey hunters are willing to chase a gobbling bird across Mt. Everest for the slightest chance of getting a shot, carrying a young hunter across rugged terrain could have a less than desirable outcome.
- 7 Just in Case:** Bring the first aid kit. You never know when a fall will result in a skinned knee or elbow. Add insect repellent and sunscreen so you're prepared for any type of situation. Checkout [www.mytopo.com](http://www.mytopo.com)
- 8 Calling All Young Hunters:** Get young hunters involved by allowing them to call. Push-pin, box, or slate calls are the best for beginners. If they are proficient callers, let them call. Or, let them call between setups to practice.
- 9 Continuing Education:** Don't be afraid to point out different types of trees, tracks, and birds you find during your hunt. What your young companion learns in the field on a turkey hunt will likely be remembered long after last week's math lesson.

# MAKING A MARK

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SKB Shotguns	<a href="http://www.skbshotguns.com">www.skbshotguns.com</a>
Starline	<a href="http://www.starlinebrass.com">www.starlinebrass.com</a>
Tactical Solutions	<a href="http://www.tacticalsol.com">www.tacticalsol.com</a>



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Join us. Step Outside with family and friends and show them just how great the great outdoors can be.

Visit [HuntandShoot.org/StepOutside](http://HuntandShoot.org/StepOutside) for more details.



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