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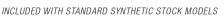


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### **Representing the Shooting Sports**

Did you know you are a representative of the shooting sports? Yes, I mean YOU! The person who is reading this.

What you do on and off the range, in competition, and how you conduct yourself in public has a direct and immediate impact on how people, both non-shooters and shooters, view the shooting industry, shooting sports, shooting businesses, and all people who like to shoot.

If you get mad or upset at a shooting match, or do not handle firearms in a safe manner, it is noted by someone. If you're boisterous and overly superior manner is upsetting to some people, it is noted. If you exhibit unsportsmanlike conduct when you lose, or your gun jams, or you do not help with stage preparations and setting targets, it is noted. If you talk about killing animals without regard to laws, conservation, humane harvesting

of animals, and the benefits that hunting has not only to hunters but to all the public lands and animals that inhabit them, it is noted.

All these negative attitudes not only poorly reflect on you, but also on our shooting industry, and, even more importantly, on our continuing fight to keep our Second Amendment.

Positive Results

On the other hand, a friendly demeanor, a helping hand, an encouraging word, safe gunhandling, good sportsman-like conduct, and a respect for not only your rights but the rights of others, can produce huge positive results! I wish we could present these attributes to others all the time, even when talking with people who may be anti-gun. We need the support of new people who are not gun people and the

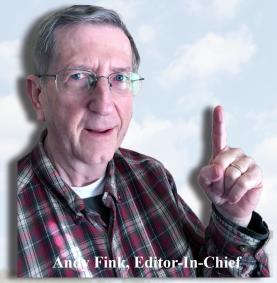
### A Message From your Editor

means to change perceptions of people who do not approve of firearms, our shooting sports, and the shooting industry. Positive examples are what we need. This is true NOW and in the future.

Next time you go shooting or talk about firearms or the shooting sports, think about how you want to be remembered: as a bigoted, unsafe individual who is not trusted and people don't want to be around, or as a good person who just happens to own a gun.

YOU CAN MAKE A

**DIFFERENCE!** 



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### Publisher Junior Sports Magazines, Inc.

Tel: 208-629-8967, publisher@juniorshooters. net 7154 W. State St. # 377, Boise, ID 83714

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Editor-In-Chief Andy Fink
Associate Editor Kenny Durham
Art Director Dawn Fink
Established Contributing Authors

Serena Juchnowski (Jr.), Tanner Hardy (Jr.), Joseph Murray (Jr.), Jenna Fees, Ashley Rumble (Jr.), James de Lambert (Jr.), Ricky Marston (Jr.), Ben Moody (Jr.), Bryson Smith (Jr.), Steven Shults (Jr.), Tyler Savell (Jr.), Brody Loftin (Jr.), Tristan Woodbury (Jr.), Cameron Burke (Jr.), Brock Lueddke (Jr.), Jessica Weekly (Jr.), Macey Tadlock (Jr.), Hunter Horvath (Jr.), Bryson Smith (Jr.), Joe Murray (Jr.), Jack Moody, Kim Moody, Randy Irish, Scott Dye, Dave Furney, Larry Haley, Mike Sacks, Jennifer L.S. Pearsall (NSSF), Bill Dunn

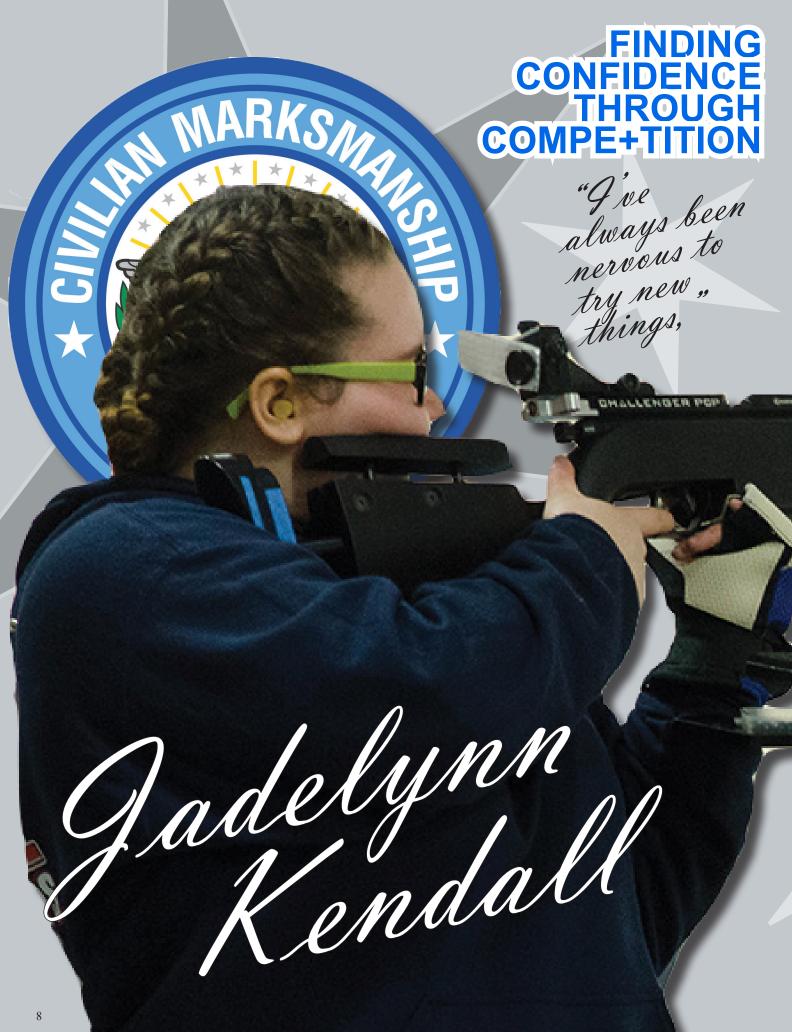
(NSSF), (SCTP) Tom Wondrash, Brian Lueddke Marketing & Sales Andy Fink

General E-mail: Info@juniorshooters.net
Advertising Information: Advertising@juniorshooters.net
Letters to Editor: articles@juniorshooters.net
Article Submission: articles@juniorshooters.net
Editor-In-Chief: publisher@juniorshooters.net

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At first glance, Jadelynn Kendall looks like any other air rifle competitor. She carries her equipment into the range, sets up her gear and takes the firing line, just like all of the other members of her Marion High School Army JROTC sporter rifle team. Only her second year in the sport, she's still learning the ropes.

"I've always been nervous to try new

things," she said.

Despite her fears, the 15-year-old from Indiana has come a long way. Her high school years were preceded by days of hardships and growth, but her teammates those around her have helped to give her the confidence to stand strong both on the leg she was born with and on the prosthetic she conceals beneath her clothing.

Because though appearing the same on the outside, Jadelynn is actually unlike anyone else. She is equipped

with a powerful character that, despite being constantly given extra challenges through her disability, allows her to take on the world one step at a time.

When she was only five years old, Jadelynn's leg was damaged in a horrific accident. Doctors and nurses worked hard to save it, but they were unsuccessful. They had to amputate. The loss of part of her body and the addition of a new prosthetic leg to fill the void left young Jadelynn in a new world of both physical and emotional struggles.

"There's been a lot," she said. "Most of it was relearning everything that I had already learned to do. That was hard. But once I got the hang of it, it

was okay."

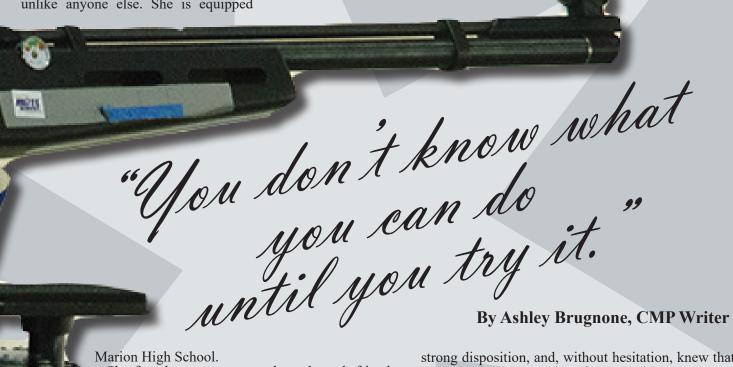
"Accepting the fact that it's not going to come back was hard too," she admitted. "But once I accepted it, I felt a lot better."

The acknowledgement within her

mind allowed the rest of her body to move forward as well. She discovered activities she enjoyed and clung to them – refusing to let a small physical difference set her back.

She grew to love swimming and became a member of a team for a few years, where she would swim without her prosthetic. The experience taught her balance as she stood on the starting block, with only one leg, to begin a race. Jadelynn has also tried volleyball to test her athleticism.

While she worked to understand her new life, others around her had to do the same – and some cowardly refused to. Jadelynn admitted that she was bullied in school because of her prosthetic and had to move around before she discovered a school where she could be accepted. That's when she found



Marion High School.

She found encouragement there through friends and adult leaders. She is currently a member of her school choir, and she takes a Chinese class that's led by an instructor who, according to Jadelynn, makes learning fun.

And, of course, she joined her JROTC air rifle team through a bit of happenstance and the compassion of a leader within the school who is driven to reveal the true potential of all of his students.

While out playing for Cadet Challenge, a physical fitness test for students in the program, an instructor pulled her to the side and asked her about her leg. According to Jadelynn, he said to her, "Well, why aren't you on my marksmanship team?" She found that she didn't really have an answer, so she listened to what he had to say.

The man was Lt. Col. David Farlow – coach of the JROTC rifle team. He recognized Jadelynn's

strong disposition, and, without hesitation, knew that he wanted her courage to be a fixture on his team.

He explained their first meeting, saying, "When I mentioned it to her, she said, 'I have a prosthetic leg,' and I said, 'So? Don't let it be an excuse.' And she took the challenge."

He went on, "I don't believe in limitations. Shooting is a sport that she can shoot in and do well. She can overcome the adversity that she has."

Since then, Jadelynn has flourished as a member of the air rifle team. She has made new friends and loves traveling to different areas of the country from match to match. Now in her second year as a sporter shooter, she recently had the chance to go to Georgia for the first time and take a tour of the south – also trekking through Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky.

On top of getting to see more of the world, she has also now seen more of the good in people of the world as a member of a group of peers that has been supportive of her from the start.

"They're really comfortable with me being around, which makes me feel more a part of the team," she said.

Jadelynn's newfound confidence has even made her more open to talking about her amputated leg, cracking jokes about about it with her teammates. She makes everyone laugh, trying her best to bring smiles to those around her with her humor.

"We like to think that JROTC at our school, it's a family. And, family doesn't necessarily always get along, but family sticks together," said Lt. Col. Farlow. "And so, we stick together. She has a leavening affect on our team. She's just a gentle spirit."

Her will has allowed her to learn quickly in the three-position air rifle sport. She admits that the standing position has been difficult for her, especially with a recent knee surgery on her good leg that left her unable to perform the kneeling position during JROTC Regionals at Camp Perry in February. But, with fortitude, she still competed – firing in the standing position twice instead.

Coach Farlow explained how he stayed optimistic with Jadelynn during the match, saying, "She was really disappointed that she wasn't going to be able to shoot in a kneeling position [at Regionals]. So I said, 'Just beat them in the standing.' She's a young shooter, still developing. But, she's a great kid."

"It takes a lot of practice to shoot," Jadelynn said. "It's something you really have to work at to be able to do."

Along with intense effort and practice, Jadelynn knows a reliable coach is essential for success. With his down-to-earth rapport with his athletes and his ability to really listen to them, Jadelynn confessed that her coach is an impressive figure in her life who has helped her to reach where she is today.

"He's so funny, and he cares about his cadets. He treats you well," she said. "He does funny things, and it makes us laugh. He'll always make you feel better when you're in a bad mood."

Farlow said he's going to try to move her into precision next year, when she's a junior. If she likes it, she can keep moving up in her abilities and maybe even one day join the Paralympics.

"There are opportunities for her," he said.

"I'm thinking about it," Jadelynn said as she laughed.

Though she has struggled in her life from an early age, Jadelynn has found the strength to stand and to not let unfortunate circumstances keep



Jadelynn joined the team after being approached by coach and mentor, Lt. Col. David Farlow.



A current sporter athlete, she has interest to move on to precision and possibly even the Paralympics.

her down. She has set an example for others who may also have an ailment by showing them that with a little bravery and the determination to get the most out of life, anything is possible. And, along with perseverance, having a strong community around you is just as important.

"You don't know what you can do until you try it, and just because you have a disability, you shouldn't just not try it. You should try it and see if you like it."

Farlow said of his remarkable athlete, "She has the spirit of a champion. She doesn't let anything bother her. She's very hard working, and she's the most pleasant young lady. She's just a joy to have on the team."

As for her future, Jadelynn will try

to keep up with her shooting career, but what she's really passionate about is going to college to learn more about prosthetics. With her personal experiences and resilience, she wants to be able to provide others in her situation with everything her prosthetic has given her since she was five years old – support.

"That's the plan," she said, with a smile.

The Civilian Marksmanship Program is a federally chartered 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation. It is dedicated to firearm safety and marksmanship training and to the promotion of marksmanship competition for citizens of the United States. For more information about the CMP and its programs, log onto www.TheCMP.org.



(Above) During the JROTC Service Championships at Camp Perry, Jadelynn had to shoot the standing position twice because of a recent surgery unrelated to her prosthetic.



# By Cameron Burke (19) The Blue Ridge PRS match was my final match of 2017. It was held at the Blue Ridge Ranch in Benge, Washington. The match was extra special because it was my last match as a junior member of the Junior Shooters magazine's longrange team. I now will become an assistant Junior Shooters coach. Junior Shooters has taught me many things about shooting, firearm safety and integrity, and I made some

great friends along the way. I have carried those attributes with me to college where I have had opportunities to share what I learned with others.

This match was also the last match I was able to shoot as a junior using one of the Junior Shooters team Ashbury rifles. I was fortunate enough to shoot the APO 6.5 Creedmoor during my career as a long-range Junior Shooter. It was a great gun not only to learn on, but it also allowed me to become very competitive using it. It was accurate and up to the challenges each match handed out to me. The guys at APO were great to work with and I was very proud to shoot their rifle. My rifle was capable of 1/4" MOA.

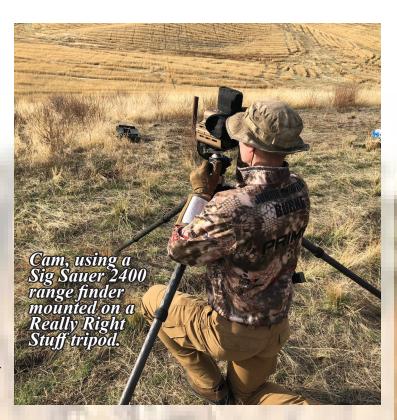
The Blue Ridge match was also special to me because it was the first large PRS match my dad and I competed in head-to-head in the same division. It was fun bantering back and forth over who did better on each stage as we went through the two days of shooting. We had so much fun competing against each other that the squad even got involved, laughing and joking with us. Oh, and by the way, I beat my dad!

One of my favorite things about shooting long-range matches is meeting other shooters. I almost always leave each match learning something new. Our squad was full of





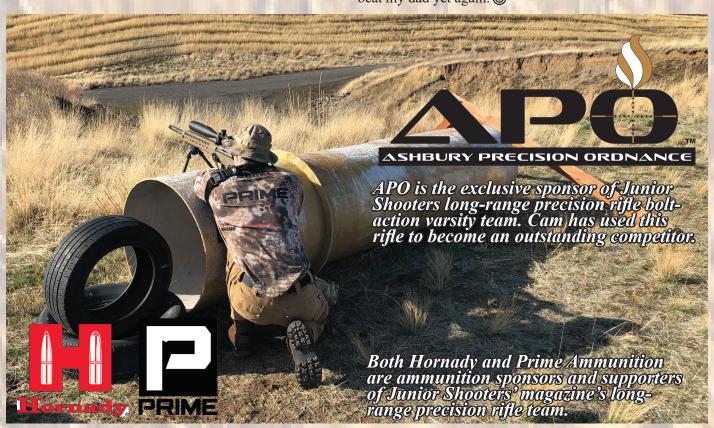
a lot of good shooters and great people from Idaho, Oregon, California, and even Canada. Two of the people we were squadded with were representatives from Really Right Stuff (RRS). They make amazing tripods and tripod heads used for long-range shooting and photography. The guys from RRS were great to shoot with and were actually prototyping some new equipment that they generously offered to us for use during the match. I have personally used an RRS tripod and head to shoot from at multiple matches and they worked great. On each stage of this match, we used our tripod with an RRS Arca-Swiss clamp to quickly change from our spotting scope to our Sig Sauer 2400 rangefinder, allowing us to quickly identify and range targets. It worked flawlessly! At this match, RRS was a stage sponsor and all competitors got to use and abuse their equipment on their sponsored stage. The tripods provided a very stable platform to shoot from



when using a barricade was not an option.

The match directors, Jake Vibbert and Sean Johnson, did a great job designing the course of fire for the match. It was challenging and fun. We engaged targets out to 1,200 yards, and if you have ever shot a match in Washington, you know the wind conditions can be treacherous. The extra velocity my Prime ammo provided was a huge advantage for cutting the wind. It is amazing how faster ammo changes your ballistics.

I definitely plan to shoot this match again and can't wait to beat my dad yet again.









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Members of the SCTP National Team gathered in Tucson, AZ last month just prior to the USA Shooting Spring Selection Match for some fine-tuning before the competition. Head Coach Terri DeWitt and Assistant Coach Joe Buffa worked with team members making minor adjustments where needed but mostly providing some major encouragement. "The days just prior to a competition is not the time to be making big changes," stated Coach

Terri, "Joe and I were there to put some polish on their performance. And that's all they needed these athletes were ready to perform."

And perform they did. Congratulations go to AJ Nomina, Madelynn Bernau, and Heather Broski for finishing top six in their respective Junior categories and earning the chance to compete in those finals. When all was said and done, Maddy not only captured the Junior Women's silver medal but secured her place on the 2018 World Championship Team going to Changwon, Korea later this summer.

"I would also like to thank Coach Tom Slaughter for bringing some of the Arizona Outdoor Sports, Inc. athletes to train with us. We really enjoyed

having them and we look forward to seeing those young athletes on a future SCTP National Team," said Coach Terri.









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# SCHOLASTIC CLAY TARGET PROGRAM

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We hope that you and your school or club team will consider being part of the largest youth clay target program in the world, the Scholastic Clay Target Program!





It's not just a theory ... it's what you and your team make when you win the CZ-USA Wingshooting USA NexGen contest!

SCTP members create a photo and caption illustrating the theme "teamwork" ... then use teamwork to spread the word. Win a trip to Flint Oak and appear on Wingshooting USA TV with host Scott

Linden and shotgun world-record-holder Dave Miller of CZ-USA, or win a shooting clinic for your whole team with Dave Miller!





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- Coach Training....most of the SCTP coaches are certified Level I NRA/USAS/CMP Shotgun Coaches
- Shooting year that runs from September 1st through August 31st.
- Athletes from 4th & 5th grade through college can participate in our program.
- State, Regional and National Championships in both American and International disciplines.
- Competitions in Trap, Skeet, Sporting Clays, International Skeet, Bunker Trap and Olympic Doubles.

- The SCTP is the "official" youth shooting program to Team USA and USA Shooting.
- Junior Olympic Development Camps (JODC's).... Athletes stay right at the Olympic Training Center!
- Team savings accounts through the Midway USA Foundation....and Endowment funds that we deposit.
- Raffle, new team start-up packages, Banquet packages available through us helping teams raise funds!
- Industry sponsored "special" gun prices for SCTP teams and athletes.
- Industry sponsored "special" ammo prices for SCTP teams and athletes.
- A registration and scoring system for all of our teams and coaches to use and track athletes.
- The SCTP gives out over \$89,000 a year in college scholarships

### By Tom Wondrash SCTP National Director

The SCTP is a National Youth Clay Target Shooting Program focused on "Team"! There is no room for the win at all cost attitude. Much like football, baseball, basketball and track, we help build school/club teams and conferences across the country and have been doing this since 2001 when it started under the National Shooting Sports Foundation!

The SSSF or Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation now implements this program.

to SCTP athletes graduating from high school. Since 2013, the SCTP has given out over \$350,000

- Prizes! Last year alone the SCTP gave out over 30 guns at our national championships!
- 2 year college division for college programs along with virtual shooting opportunities! New in 2017

# · And much, much more.....

# 18 cour encouled a 5-

### Scholastic Clay Target Program

165 Bay Ridge Lane Burlington, WI 53105 Phone: 262-939-6664 www.sssfonline.com

Currently, the SCTP has over 18,500 athletes/coaches across the country participating in our program encompassing 45 states. Our teams are led by certified coaches and we carry a 5-million-dollar Liability policy on ALL of our members!

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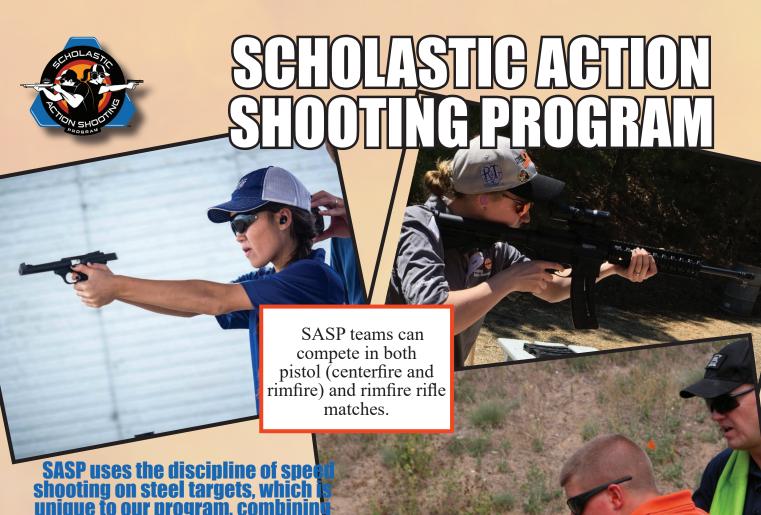
Mono, Top Single, Unsingle, Double Trap, and Combo (Unsingle/Double Trap) models are available. Starting at \$1,040.00 MSRP.

TT-15 DTA 32"

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SASP uses the discipline of specific shooting on steel targets, which is unique to our program, combining the best features of other disciplines to allow athletes to practice and participate in exciting matches with less specialized equipment.

We hope you, your school or your shooting club will consider becoming part of SASP.

### **Questions?**

Rick Leach National Director, SASP N65W7335 Cleveland St Cedarburg, WI 53012-1856 262.894.4284 rleach@sssfonline.com http://sssfonline.org

### **Bill Perkins**

Regional Field Representative, Southwest Region (520) 975-5170 bperkins@sssfonline.com

Sign up for our e-newsletter – Range Time!

SASP teams can compete in matches that are held locally, state, regionally, and nationally, plus we have a virtual match series that runs year-round. SCHOLASTIC ACTION SHOOTING PROGRAM (SASP)

## FAST FACTS





# JOHN-SASP

#### PROGRAM GOALS:

- Teach the safe and responsible handling and use of firearms
- Provide a supportive team-based environment using the shooting sports as the catalyst for teaching life lessons and skills that emphasize positive character traits and citizenship values
- Introduce young shooters to a sport that can be enjoyed for a lifetime, one that offers a level playing field, and one that all family members can enjoy together

### MISSION STATEMENT:

The Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation is an educational-athletic organization that exists to introduce school-age youths to the shooting sports and to facilitate their continued involvement by providing, promoting, and perpetuating opportunities to safely and enjoyably participate and compete in a high-quality, team-based sport led by trained adult coaches focused on enhancing the personal growth and development of their athletes.

### **VISION STATEMENT:**

To continue to be recognized and respected as the leader in the youth development shooting sports programs.

### PROGRAM SPONSOR:

The Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation (SSSF) is the National Governing Body (NGB) for youth speed shooting and the Scholastic Action Shooting Program (SASP). SASP was started by SSSF in 2012.

### PROGRAM SCOPE:

The SASP offers participation in speed shooting using pistols and .22 rifles.

### PROGRAM FOCUS:

TEAMS! The SASP is a TEAM-BASED program, focusing on youth development. Participation in SASP should be fun, and there is no place for a win-at-all-costs attitude.

### TEAM SUPERVISION:

An adult Volunteer Head Coach leads each team. Volunteer State Advisors provide support for in-state activities and support to their Volunteer Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches. Full-time Directors of Development coordinate the program, and they are assisted by National Coach Trainers and the National Training Team. National Coach Trainers are responsible for coach development and training.

### REGISTRATION FEES:

The registration fee for State Advisors, Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Adult Volunteers is \$30.00. This fee covers the cost of liability insurance and a portion of the cost of a background check. All adults working directly with SASP athletes must be registered with the SSSF. To be covered by SSSF liability insurance, a volunteer must be registered with the National Program.

The membership for each registered athlete, including Collegiate, is \$20.00. The fee covers the cost of insurance and awards. All athletes must be registered by their Head Coach.

### PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY:

Students in grades 6-12 are eligible for the Intermediate and Senior Divisions in the pistol and rifle disciplines. Students in grades 5 and below are eligible for the Rookie Division in the rifle discipline. There is no age limit for those enrolled as full-time students in the Collegiate Division. College athletes must be enrolled and attending an accredited college or university. All athletes must be academically eligible to participate in their school's extracurricular sports program.

### Scholastic Action Shooting Program www.sssfonline.org

N65W7335 Cleveland St Cedarburg, WI 53012-1856 262.894.4284 rleach@sssfonline.com







# SASP By Samantha Engle (20) HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE & COLLEGE SASP By Samantha Engle (20)

As a young child, I had grown up around firearms. Before I was introduced to the Scholastic Action Shooting Program, as it was called at the time, the most experience I'd had with any kind of firearm was a BB gun that my dad gave me when I was about 7 years old. It was because of him that I became interested in outdoor sports, such as shooting. Later he introduced me to different types of firearms and I developed a liking for handguns. I was 13 years old when I started shooting competitively in the action program, after he had encouraged me to give it a try. As a beginner and one of the younger athletes on the team, I was incredibly shy and admittedly not very good. For a while, the only reason I kept with the program was because my brothers were involved in it as well. We had all joined a local team in Michigan; the W.W.C.C.A. Straight Shooters. Starting off, I was by no means shooting competitive scores. Being inexperienced, it was difficult for me to hit the targets and I had little speed and consistency. This would





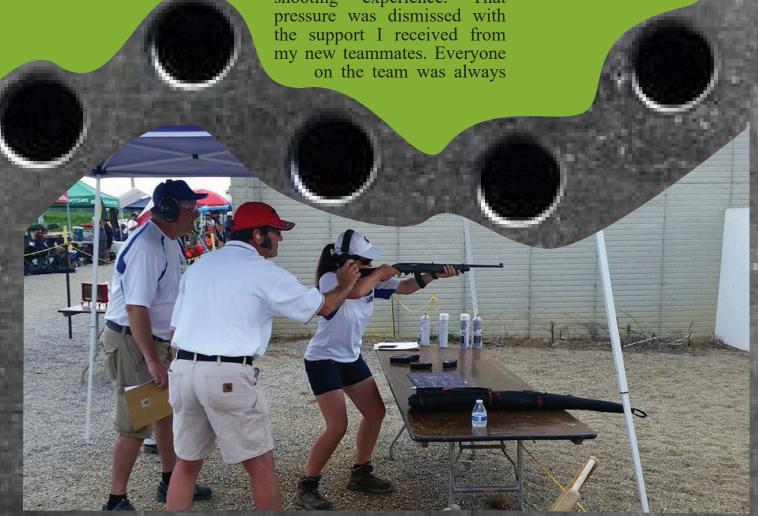
of his time into the team.

I knew I wanted to keep competing and maintain ties with the sport, even after I would leave the Straight Shooters. I began researching organizations and college clubs that competed in the Scholastic Action Shooting Program. I had applied to University of Arizona and Michigan State University, among others that did not have a competitive shooting club or team. Straight Shooters had been competing against the Michigan State University Shooting Sports Club Pistol Team for a few years at local matches. During high school, towards the end of my junior year, I started gathering information on collegiatelevel shooting teams. This was enforced by my encounters with the Michigan State Shooting Sports Club Pistol Team really early in my shooting career during competition. I had been researching Michigan State and due to everything they had to offer, academically and recreationally, made the decision to attend there in Fall of 2017. After announcing my decision, I had started forming connections with members of the team who later invited me to attend practices with them throughout the summer.

Practices with the collegiate team were completely different than what I experienced with the junior team, Straight Shooters. The practices were more intense and challenged me at a new level. I felt as though I had an expectation to live up to having had previous competitive shooting experience. That pressure was dismissed with the support I received from my new teammates. Everyone

encouraging me to do my best and try new things all while teaching me a great deal of new information.

I have been blessed to have moved from one remarkable team to another; both with outstanding, experienced coaches who have invested their time into helping the athletes on their teams. All of the coaches I have had throughout my career have taught me new information and made time for one-on-one practices with me on many occasions.



# SHOOT MORE. SHOOT BETTER.

SYNTECH



AMERICAN EAGLE®









Preparing parts for assembly.



Fitting barrel to receiver.



Installing mag quick release.



Test fitting barrel to stock



Installing scope assembly.



Indexing compensator.



Installing scope assembly and the 4x32 rimfire scope from Sun Optics. This scope worked very well and is not expensive.

# Customizing a 10-22 Rifle at age 11

Final Product.

### By Brody Loftin (11)

I have wanted to build my own 10-22 semiautomatic rifle for the past couple of years. With participation in the Rimfire Challenge Western Championship in Parma, Idaho, I was able to complete this task with the help of my dad, Billy Loftin.

The first year, 2016, was the first year I participated in a large tournament. I received 1st place in my category and won a TacSol competition bull barrel, plus I entered in an event for best shot at 50 feet with a 300 Blackout Winchester with a 12-lb trigger pull. I ended up winning a Gemtech 10-22 silencer from The Silencer Shop.

The second year, 2017, I received 2nd place and ended up winning a laminated wood thumb stock from TacSol. I then got a Sun Optics 4 x 32 scope from Junior Shooters Shooters Club. I had a receiver given to me by my grandpa, Bill Loftin. I also borrowed a Para Ordnance compensator from my dad until my silencer arrives.

My dad assisted me with building my first rifle. It was absolutely a blast! Here are the basic steps of what the process consisted of. After completing the process above, I had the excitement of firing my new rifle. We placed a target on a log with tacks. I was approximately 50 feet away during practice and clicked off each tack individually with no misses. Of course, this was after the scope was sighted. What an achievement. I learned a lot and had a lot of fun!

TIGHTEN COMPENSATOR AND INDEX AS NEEDED.

TO INDEX:
USE WRENCH TO
TIGHTEN TO PROPER
LOCATION.

INSTALL SCOPE OF CHOICE ON SCOPE RAIL.



Getting ready to test.

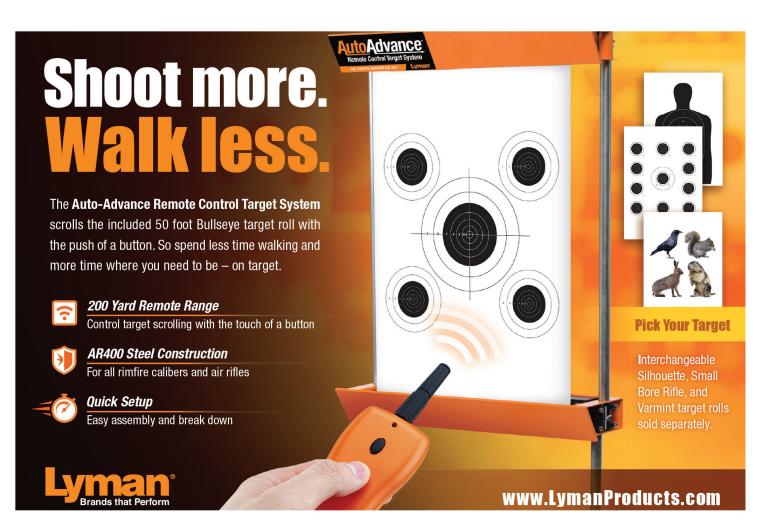
ASSEMBLE RECEIVER WITH 3 PINS AND LUBE.

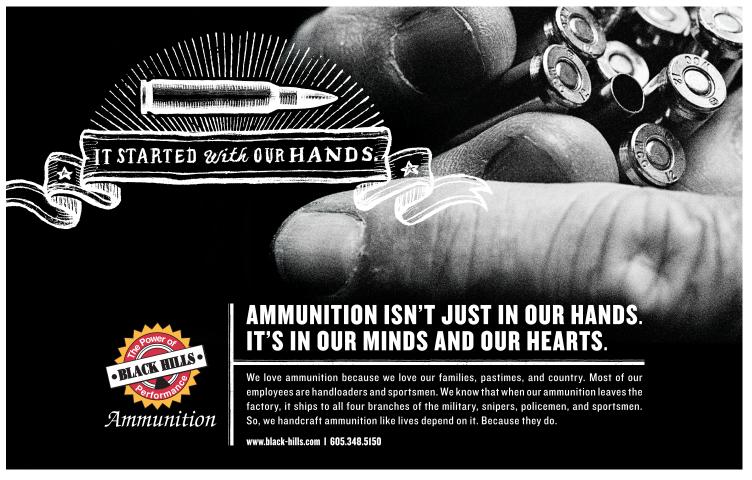
PLACE BARREL AND RECEIVER ASSEMBLY IN STOCK.

TIGHTEN BOLT TO
BOTTOM OF STOCK AND
TO BARREL TIGHTEN
VERY FIRMLY

PLACE INDEX WASHER ON END OF BARREL FOR COMPENSATOR.













# SIGSTISE NA

By Serena Juchnowski (19)

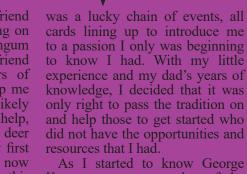
## Hunting, Peanut Butter Cookies, and 82-Cent Chocolate Milk

This time around, I was making a plan. I was also making peanut butter cookies, but I had several months to do that.

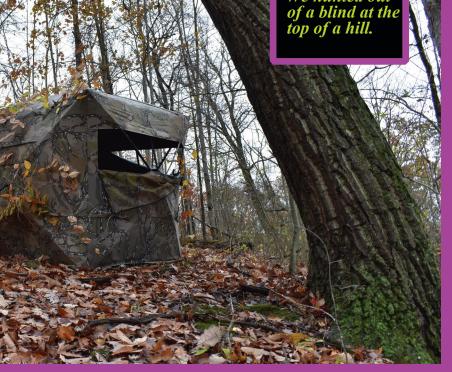
When I first decided to go deer hunting, I made the decision three days before Ohio's 2015 youth gun weekend. I told my dad late at night on a whim; he did not even know I was considering going. While I had significant experience with firearms, I had only hunted twice. Both of those times were organized youth pheasant hunts, planted birds nearly guaranteeing at least an opportunity for

a shot. Luckily, my dad and a friend arranged to introduce me to hunting on some private property in Muskingum County. Both my dad and his friend are seasoned hunters, with years of experience. They were able to help me set up in locations that were most likely to have deer nearby. Even with this help, everyone was amazed that the one deer that walked in front of me on my first day of hunting was a buck that is now on my bedroom wall. Even though this worked out in my favor, I knew that it

We hunted out



As I started to know George Kerg, a younger member of the South Cuyahoga Sportsmen's Association's Junior Rifle Team, I could tell that there were many things he wanted to do, but simply did not have the resources or opportunities to do so. Just as my dad and other hunters have helped me along I wanted to help encourage George and help to get him started. My dad felt the same way and agreed to guide George, a seasoned Boy Scout, on a weekend hunting trip for the 2018 youth deer gun season. I started making plans in June to hunt in Southern Ohio. Though my ideas began in June, it did not all come together until two weeks before the November hunt. While we were willing to tent camp or rough it in the bed of the truck, my dad's friends decided not to use their trailer for bow hunting so they offered it to us for the weekend. After school on Friday, November



Serena Continues....

# IGSTS: CECRCE

By George Kerg (13)

## **My Hunting Trip Experience**

My hunting experience was filled with total ups and downs throughout the entire way. The hike in was brutal to say the least. Not because it was physically challenging, but to try to stay quiet, to not know where I was going, to hold a rifle and keep it out of the rain and wetness all with a pack on, carried challenges that I found difficult.

After we got all through the mud and hills without spotting anything, Mr. Juchnowski, who was my hunting guide, and me went to scout out where we were going to set up the blind. I sat a bit away from him and kept my eye out for deer, hoping to shoot something early in the afternoon. Mr. Juchnowski signaled to me that he had a place for us to stake out and headed over to get my dad and Serena. Together, they set up and put together the blind with the stools in it.

By this time it was about 12:00 PM. I had roughly five and a half hours to see a doe or buck and shoot it before dark. Easy. Or so I thought. I sat there with high energy as an hour ticked by. I look at my phone: 1:00. "Not much longer," I said to myself.

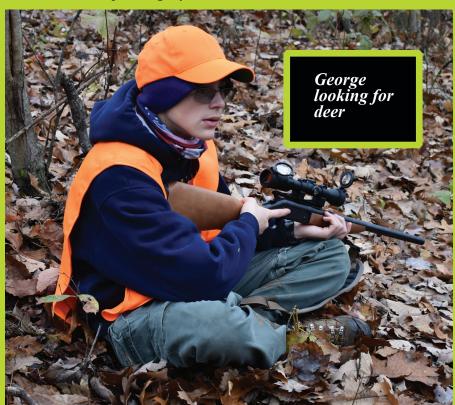
Another hour went by: still nothing. By this time, I had looked through my scope a couple of times trying to imagine how it would feel to see a deer in that moment. Then, Mr. Juchnowski stood up abruptly and pointed down the hill we were on top of. He spotted a feeder that someone had placed probably weeks before we planned the trip.

Through the scope I saw that the small branch it was attached to was bright orange. This indicated that on the ground, there was feed and that was where the deer would likely be standing. From that point on, I watched that spot

intensely as one more hour dripped by. Looking at the time once more, it was only 2:00. It was totally silent and my dad had fallen asleep by this time. Still holding up the rifle on the bipod, I was sweeping the area looking for any sign of life that was present. One more hour passed, still nothing.

By 4:00 my hopes had deteriorated. Everyone had a great time just enjoying nature, but I wanted a deer more than anything. When it hit 5:00 Mr. Juchnowski said that deer are most active at this point. This statement instilled hope back into my system. I am getting a deer, I thought to myself.

Half an hour later, it was too dark to see and so we called it a day. We made our trek back out of the woods; it was a hike to get back to the truck. There will be something for sure tomorrow, I kept telling myself.



George Continues....