

JUNIOR SHOOTERS

Making A Mark

Volume 37 Winter 2019

Special Issue
Gear Guide
for all your
Holiday
Shopping!

Mossberg's Blaze
Bantam .22 LR

Amy's Journey
to the SCTP



SCTP College
Nationals



Zachary Winton
SASP Shooter



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Jack and His 10/22® Carbine

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HOW To Make Shooting Fun.

That "FUN" is the key to enjoying the shooting sports, but how do we do it? The first time a person goes shooting, you have to make sure they understand ALL of the safety rules, whether they are a youth or an adult. The second item is to make sure the firearm, or airgun (to be treated the same as a firearm), is of a size and weight that the shooter can comfortably handle. If it is not, STOP! Think about how you can adapt what you have to a comfortable shooting position. Instead of standing, have them shoot prone, sitting, or from a table (make sure your target choice still works). The next thing is to make sure they can hit the target! If they are not comfortable, and they can't hit the target, you have just had a wasted day and the next time an opportunity arises for them to go shooting, they will probably not be as interested.

Taking a person shooting for the first time requires planning:

the right gun, the right targets, the right distance, the right place, and lots of patience. Remember, safety comes first. Be right next to the shooter at all times and be ready to take over control of the muzzle if it wanders.

I recommend that you start with a BB rifle. The Daisy 499B competition, single-shot BB gun weighs 3.25 pounds and is an excellent starting point for training or competition. There are quite a few BB gun shooting clubs and competitions around the country, especially within 4H clubs.

From there, the new youth shooter can move up to pellet guns and then .22 Long Rifle (LR). Even if you start with an adult, or older junior, start them off with a

.22 LR that is right for their size. When I work with a new shooter, whether they are experienced or not, the .22 LR is best. You can teach stances, grip, function, trigger pull, and sight picture, all without having to worry about recoil and not being able to hold the gun correctly.

Remember, be safe and have them hit the target!



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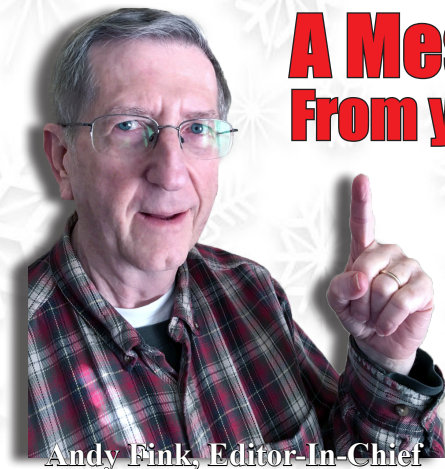
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A Message From your Editor

Andy Fink, Editor-In-Chief

SAFE SHOOTING!

Send in your story!

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Kaitlin Hunt



By Kaitlin Hunt (10)
Kaitlin holding her new Blaze .22 Bantam next to an MGM Targets .22 Spinner.

i am so glad that my family and i have gotten into shooting. shooting is so much fun! i never thought in a million years that i would have a gun that was built just right for me. The rifle i shoot is a Mossberg Blaze .22 Bantam Youth Rifle. This rifle is perfect for me since i am only 10 years old.

i am glad i got a youth rifle instead of a regular rifle. The youth rifle is so much lighter than a regular rifle. The Mossberg Blaze Youth Rifle is only 3.66 pounds. Most of the gun is made of polymer and only a couple of components are made of steel. The barrel length is 16.5," but the total length of the gun is 34.25." The gun is very accurate



and inexpensive, especially for a semi-automatic rifle. The youth rifle is really good, but like every gun there are some downsides. The

worst thing about the gun to me is that about every 100 rounds fired, you should clean it. if you don't clean the rifle, you may notice it jamming more.

i have several things that i like about the Blaze .22. The first thing is the weight of the rifle. it can be very hard for someone my age to hold up a gun for so long when it's really heavy. it gets really hard to shoot with accuracy when the

nt

gun is too heavy for you. once you hold a rifle out for a couple of minutes straight, you realize how heavy the gun is. Another thing i really like about the gun is that it's a semi-automatic. i can keep shooting my target without having to cock it back. The final thing i like about the gun is that it doesn't jam much at all.

Mossberg has made a wonderful rifle for young people like me to get into shooting. You can't beat this gun for the price and all it has to offer. This has been a great rifle for me to start shooting. i would highly recommend the Mossberg Blaze .22 Youth Rifle. ©



Mossberg Blaze Bantam Youth .22 with standard 10-round magazine.

Kaitlin shooting her Mossberg Blaze Bantam .22 off-hand. The first semi-auto rifle she didn't have to struggle to hold up.

MOSSBERG BLAZE BANTAM .22 THE BEST OFF-HAND SEMI-AUTO FOR SMALL YOUTH



SIG SAUER

By: Dave Furney and Andy Fink

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It is a CO2-powered airgun and shoots a standard .177 pellet. The claimed velocity of up to 430 fps uses the alloy pellets from Sig Sauer.

If you want to practice with a full-size airgun that functions like the real thing, this is the way to go. Shooting costs are a fraction of those using regular ammunition. This can be used indoors with the proper backstop for winterlong practice. ©



P320 M17 air pistol.



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P320 M17 air pistol. Magazine is shown with CO2 cartridge and Sig Sauer pellets.

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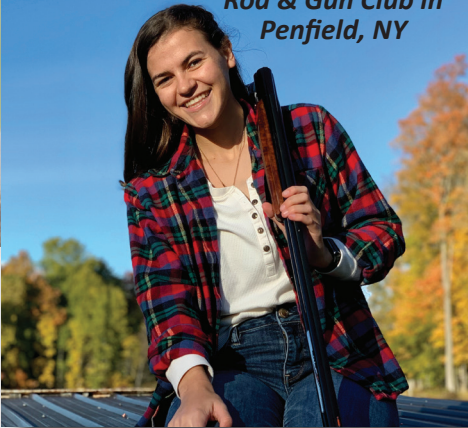
Amy Cawley

Amy's Journey to the SCTP



By Bob Broderick
With: Kevin Cawley

*Chillin' on the trap
house at Outlet
Rod & Gun Club in
Penfield, NY*



Amy Cawley is a typical 16 year old from Western NY. She is an Honors Student at Webster Thomas High School who studies hard, spends time with her friends, and keeps a very busy social calendar. She is also very passionate about shooting sports. "My family has always traveled together to watch my brother shoot in competitive skeet events. During those years I was more interested in playing soccer than shooting guns," Amy recalls. Unfortunately, injuries led her to hang up her cleats and find another way to channel her competitive spirit.

It was around this time that her father, an NRA Certified Instructor, helped her high school start a trap team affiliated with the High School Clay Target League. At 14, Amy jumped in, practiced hard and finished the first two seasons as the Female Division Champion for the Conference.

This past season she also finished in fourth place in the Female Division at the New York State High School Tournament, and a respectable 162 out of more than 1,800 competitors at the Nationals for the High School League in Mason, Michigan.

This past summer Amy was practicing at her home club, Outlet Rod & Gun Club, and met a family that was involved in the Scholastic Clay Target Program. She was excited to learn that their team, A & B Clay Busters shot trap, skeet, and sporting clays, with the opportunity to shoot some Bunker Trap and Olympic Skeet as well. Amy was introduced to the Team's head coach, Bob Broderick, and after spending some time together both Amy and Bob were happy to have her join the team. With the SCTP season just getting started there have only been a few practice opportunities, but Amy definitely connects well with Bob's teaching style. If she just chipped a target or missed it completely, Bob would ask what adjustments she thought she should make, offer a little guidance and she would try again, often getting a solid break on the second or third attempt. "This opportunity to shoot multiple disciplines at a higher level has already helped

me improve as a shooter. I am looking forward to the spring and summer competitions and can't wait for the Nationals in Marengo, Ohio in July."

Amy regularly shoots registered ATA events in New York and Ohio, as well as two winter traveling leagues for trap and sporting. She is a member of a local Scout Venture Crew which focuses exclusively on shooting sports, and often helps with instruction whenever a shotgun is involved. She attended an NRA Shotgun Coaches School taught by Olympic Trap coach Les Greevy and is now an NRA and ATA Level I Junior Shotgun

*Coach Bob: "What
was your sight
picture, Amy?"*



Coach. Amy is a strong advocate for shooting sports both inside and outside of her school community.

When Amy is not shooting, she is busy with service organizations such as Rotary International, National Honor Society, Link Leadership, and Lutheran Youth Ministries. She is also student liaison to the school board. Her favorite is Best Buddies, a multinational organization that creates one-on-one friendships among individuals with and without developmental disabilities. Amy has been the Webster Thomas Chapter President for the past two years, and during that time increased participation from 3 people to more than 50, garnering special recognition from the Best Buddies National Organization. "Following high school, I plan to study Occupational Therapy, hopefully at a university with a shooting team. My long-term goal is to do missionary work and become a pastor." ©



Hanging out with her "Best Buddy" Brandon

Amy is in love with her new SKB shotgun



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Blayne Brockman



SCTP Has Made a Difference in My Life

By: Blayne Brockman (15)

My name is Blayne Brockman. I am 15 years old and live in Ohio. I have a younger brother Grayden Brockman who is 11 and also shoots skeet and sporting clay on our SCTP team, Buckeye Elite. He has been shooting for two years now. My dad Roger also competes in Skeet and Sporting Clay. My mom Lila is very supportive. I got into shooting and SCTP when I was around 12 years old. It all started when my dad took me to shooting camp. At first I didn't want to give it a try. When I broke my first target it was the best thing ever. I think that was when I became hooked.

I struggle with ADHD and shooting has helped me with my concentration. The SCTP tournaments have also helped me with my social skills. Speaking clearly and making eye contact is difficult for me. This sport has helped me gain confidence and meet new friends.

I enjoy the SCTP not only because of shooting but the learning experience and working with my coaches and other youth on SCTP teams. I have a great relationship with my team mates and they understand my disorder and are always willing to help me and be a good friend.

Every year I look forward to shooting season. Setting my goals. Working hard and just being part of my SCTP team. Every year I have progressed and it makes me feel good about myself. This year I accomplished two of my goals. I shot my first 25 straight in skeet at the National SCTP Championships then turned around and shot another 25 straight to make my first 50 straight. My numbers and skills keep getting better each year.

I have to honestly say that the SCTP has helped me find my place and has given me many options for my future. ©



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WHY JOIN?

**By Tom Wondrash
SCTP National Director**

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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

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.....

SCTP

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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!

SCTP College National Championships are a Huge Hit!

By Tom Wondrash



It appears that moving the 2019 SCTP College Nationals up by 1 week made a huge difference! Athletes had a chance to compete in some of the best weather seen yet since the conception of the College Nationals! Temperatures in the 60's and lots of sunshine made things quite enjoyable and the athletes had a great time!

791 Registrations by 27 College teams from 14 states made their way to the Cardinal Shooting Center in Marengo, Ohio this past weekend. These teams competed





MEET DAY

HAWKEYE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



SCTP COLLEGE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

OCTOBER 18-20

MARENGO, OHIO



in Bunker Trap, 5-Stand, Singles Trap, Skeet and Sporting Clays. This year's competition seen 4 divisions including a 2-year college division, added just last year!

Taking the top spots in the HOA division and overall SCTP College National Champion was Martin Methodist College from Tennessee. Martin beat out Lindenwood University of Missouri by just 1 target!! Other Division I finishes were University of Alabama taking 3rd place overall and Bethel University taking 4th.

Top HOA finishes in other divisions seen Division II Champion Fort Hayes State University of Kansas in the drivers seat with Emmanuel College of Georgia taking 2nd place and Clemson University of South Carolina in 3rd.

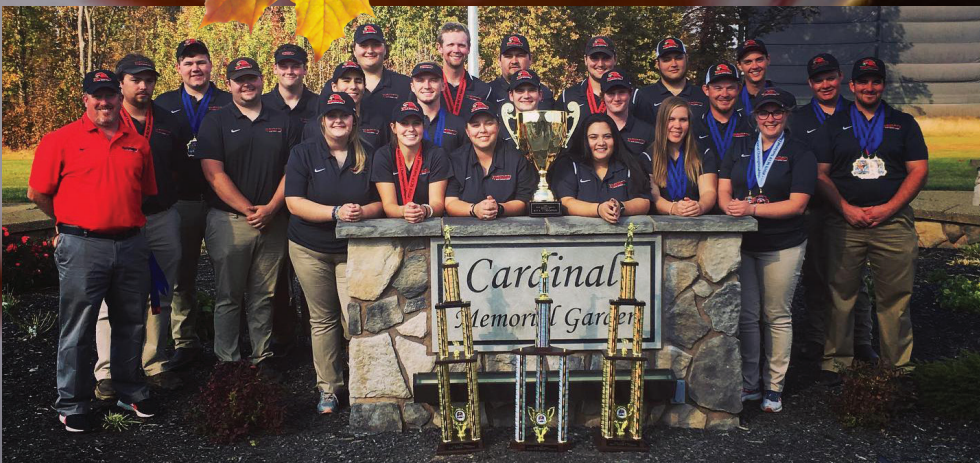
Division III finishes seen Hillsdale College of Michigan easily handling the Champion spot with Liberty University of Virginia and Purdue Trap and Skeet team from Indiana taking 2nd and 3rd respectively!

The newest Division added just last year is Division IV. This includes our 2-year colleges and is growing

quickly due to the ability for them to compete at the state/local level as well as the National Level! This years Champions, Hawkeye Community College of Iowa outlasted 2nd place finishers and 1st time competitors at the SCTP National Championships, Indian Hills Community College also of Iowa!

"Overall, we had a great tournament at this years SCTP Nationals!" said Tom Wondrash, SCTP National Director. "We moved the tournament up by a week this year as a result of responses received from the college coaches that attended last year and it made a huge difference! Temperatures in the 60's and low 70's were a welcoming change from the last several years temps in the 30's and low 40's with rain and snow at times! There was some great competition by the many more teams and athletes that attended this years tournament! We look forward to next year."

The SCTP plans on hosting several Regional competitions this upcoming year and College teams will be welcome to attend as well! ☺



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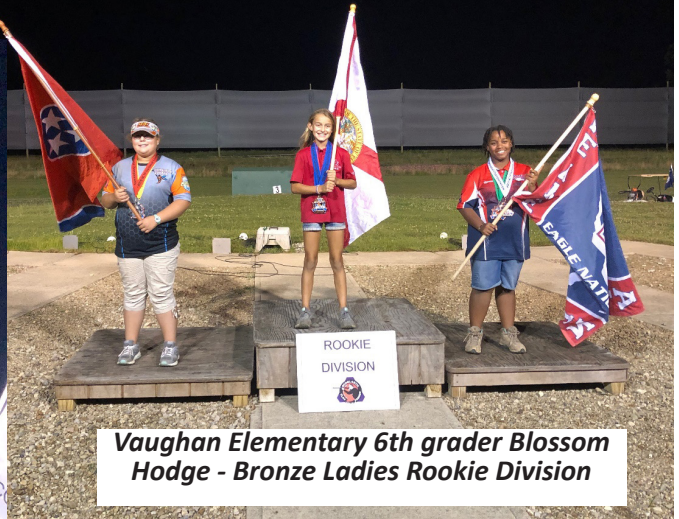
ALLEN EAGLES

By Jason Anderson

Departing seniors: Robert Beach, Trevor Christensen and Kaleb Carper



*High School National
Ferraro, Grant Stel*



Vaughan Elementary 6th grader Blossom Hodge - Bronze Ladies Rookie Division

The Allen Eagles Competitive Shooting Team competed in Marengo, Ohio from July 13 to 20 against 2,343 athletes from 32 states. This was Allen's seventh time representing the state of Texas at the Scholastic Clay Target Programs American Team Nationals. The Eagles took first place in 2014, 2015 and 2017, runner-up in 2018 and this year won the National Championship with an aggregate score of 2,746 out of 3,000 combined targets in the trap, skeet and sporting clays categories.

"Depth is an important factor in Allen's success."

TRIUMPH

SCTP NATIONALS



2019 National High School HOA Champions



Skeet Champions - Joseph Stelmach, and Thomas Keele

But, more so is the fact that we shoot all disciplines year ‘round,” Head Coach Jason Anderson explained. In the High Overall category, it is beneficial to be well-rounded. The category is calculated based on each school’s top five scores in trap, skeet and sporting clays. Many of the other teams only shoot trap, while Allen has talent in all three.

“This is a marathon that you’ve been conditioning for. Some of you have worked for this for five or six years. Never quit. If you stumble, pick yourself up and get right back on pace. Lean into it when you cross the finish line,” Head Coach Anderson advised the team at the beginning of the week.

Allen shooters Joseph Ferraro, Thomas Keele and Grant Stelmach claimed the High School Skeet National Championship with a

combined score of 590 out of 600 targets. Stelmach shot a score of 199, placing fifth overall in the Skeet Senior Varsity Division. Ferraro shot a 196, taking third in the overall Skeet Junior Varsity Division. In sporting clays, varsity shooters Robert Beach and Grant Stelmach, and junior varsity shooter Nick Welch won the silver medal, despite a challenging course and rain.

Stelmach also placed ninth overall in the Senior Division with perfect rounds in both skeet and trap, leading to a combined score of a 565 of 600 for all three events. Beach placed seventeenth in the Senior Division with a combined score of 557 of 600 for all three events.

In the coveted High Overall High School team category, Allen was in a tight race with the Falcons of Central High School in Salem, Wisconsin. In the end, personal best performances from several of Allen’s athletes helped move the Eagles to the top of the podium with a 31 clay win over the Falcons. Allen also claimed the National Championship for Bunker Trap in the Open

Division with athletes Beach, Stelmach and Welch. The junior varsity squad of Joseph Ferraro, Brandon Martin and Nick Welch brought home the bronze for Skeet Doubles Junior Varsity Squad.

The future is optimistic for the Eagles, as Allen’s Intermediate Advanced Level squad of Dylan Little, Owen Lyons, and Tyler Stelmach won second place in Skeet and fourth place in Sporting Clays. Allen’s youngest shooter, Blossom Hodge, placed third overall in Skeet and fifth overall in Sporting Clays in the Ladies Rookie Division.

Allen shooters Robert Beach, Kaleb Carper, Trevor Christensen, Dylan Little, and Nick Welch were named to the Texas Scholastic Clay Target Program All State Team.

Kaleb Carper, Thomas Keele, Dylan Little, John Lyons, and Nick Welch were named to the National Rifle Association and SCTP All Scholastic National Team for excellence in both marksmanship and academics. Senior Kaleb Carper earned a \$1,000 SCTP scholarship. ©



SCHOLASTIC ACTION SHOOTING PROGRAM



SASP teams can compete in both pistol (centerfire and rimfire) and rimfire rifle matches.

SASP uses the discipline of speed 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.



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.

Questions?

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FAST FACTS



JOIN 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

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262.894.4284
rleach@sssfonline.com





Zachary



Over the past year, as a participant in the Scholastic Action Shooting Program, I have developed nerves of steel: the ability to stay calm, even during pressure-

filled situations. As a competitor in Texas Youth Action Shootout, not only do I need to safely and accurately shoot a pistol or a rifle in the fastest time possible, but I must stay calm and focused during competition, despite the crowd watching, despite the timer situated just over my shoulder, and despite my coach analyzing my every move. The four stages I shoot are completed in a less than 45 seconds total. There is no room for error.

These nerves of steel have carried over into the classroom at school, and at home. As any high school student can attest to, when it comes to taking a mid-term exam, presenting before you peers, or sitting the dreaded SAT, you must remain calm. Not only have I learned to stay calm, I've learned to focus directly on the task at hand. Whether it is Speed Trap on the range, a Chemistry lab at school, or chores at home. When I focus on the end result and avoid distractions, my competition times improve and I win medals; homework is completed sooner and more accurately and I earn A's in class; and the grass is mowed faster and I can return to playing basketball.

It was not so long ago that I moved to Texas after living 10 years overseas. I had to move to a new home, start a new school, and make new friends. SASP gave me the opportunity to discover a group of friends, my teammates, who enjoy the challenge of Steel Targets as much as I do. It's taken nerves of steel to make friends, learn how to shoot competitively, and make Texas my new home. As a direct result of my involvement in SASP, I am completing my final certification to become an NRA Apprentice Pistol Instructor, so that I can encourage other youth to join our program. Not only is it fun, but the skills you learn along the way are invaluable. ©



Zachary far right leaning sport pistol at the OTC in CO.

Zachary at a match with a Texas A&M safety officer.

Zachary training at the US Olympic training Center with his coach and another SASP shooter.



Zachary Winton

SASP SHOOTER

By Zachary Winton



Zachary at the SASP Junior Olympic Development Camp



Zachary and the Lone Star Shooters

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★ Project ChildSafe Celebrates 20 Years

By Jennifer L.S. Pearsall,
NSSF Director,
Public Relations

This year marks the 20th anniversary of NSSF's Project ChildSafe® program, which has increased awareness of safe firearms handling and storage practices among millions of gun owners, helped reduce accidental firearms deaths to historic lows and become an indispensable firearms safety education resource for partners in every state and the U.S. territories.

"The No. 1 objective of Project ChildSafe has always been saving lives by urging gun owners to store their firearms responsibly when not in use, and giving them the tools to do it," said NSSF CEO Steve Sanetti.

Those tools include educational materials and more than 38 million free gun locks that have been distributed by a network of thousands of partners from law enforcement, fish and wildlife agencies,

conservation groups, firearms retailers, gun ranges, the faith community, tribal organizations, Boy Scouts of America chapters, 4-H and other groups nationwide.

Project ChildSafe has made a meaningful impact on safety nationwide. Annual reports from the National Safety Council show fatal firearms accidents are trending toward the lowest numbers since data collection began, and recent reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show fatal firearms accidents represent less than half of a percent of all accidental deaths in the U.S.

Further evidence of the program's value can be measured in the ongoing demand for the gun locks, which currently outpaces supply by almost five to one. Equally compelling are the qualitative assessments from the National Safety Council, GAO and RAND:

In a 2017 report, the GAO concluded that providing free



locking devices positively influenced behavior to store firearms more safely.

In 2018, Project ChildSafe was named a finalist for the National Safety Council's Green Cross for Safety Awards, in the category of "Excellence in Safety."

In 2019, the RAND Corporation (conducting research for the National Institute of Justice), noted that Project ChildSafe is the only program that offers freely available gun locks at a national level, and in the context of the GAO findings, concluded that Project ChildSafe is a "noteworthy component of national efforts to improve safe storage."

Project ChildSafe, which originally launched as "Project HomeSafe" in 1999 in five cities across the country, has marked a number of other successes over the years, some of which can be viewed in annual reports on the Project ChildSafe website under the Resources section.

Joe Bartozzi, who became NSSF's President in 2018, says these results are a good start and certainly not the end of the Project ChildSafe story.

"While we can look back proudly on 20 years of tremendous results, we're also looking to the future and ensuring that the number of accidental firearms deaths keeps declining and that responsible storage is synonymous with gun ownership," Bartozzi said. "I've always been a huge supporter of Project ChildSafe and look forward to continuing that work."





That “work” on keeping firearms out of the wrong hands includes building on current partnerships with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the Veteran’s Administration to help address firearms and suicide, and working with other partners to help curb firearms thefts, especially from vehicles. “Nearly two-thirds of all gun deaths in the U.S are suicides, and when you look at crimes involving guns across the country, the vast majority of them involve stolen guns,” Bartozzi said. “The importance of storing firearms responsibly as a means to help prevent suicide and gun crime cannot be overstated.”

It’s also noteworthy that while NSSF is leading the effort with Project ChildSafe, it’s getting plenty of help.

“It’s the support from the entire industry—manufacturers, retailers, gun ranges and hunting and shooting organizations that drives the Project ChildSafe message,” said Bill Brassard, NSSF Senior Director of Communications, who has been

with the program since its inception. “In just the past five years, more than 9,000 organizations have signed on to help Project ChildSafe emphasize the importance of safe storage to gun owners.”

In addition to the firearms industry funding the program over the last two decades, NSSF has been the recipient of numerous federal and state grants, special contributions from industry companies and public

giving to expand Project ChildSafe’s messaging on gun safety. To help the program meet demand for its safety materials in the future, the Project ChildSafe Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charity, was formed to accept donations in support of Project ChildSafe’s firearms safety efforts.

More information about Project ChildSafe can be found at ProjectChildSafe.org or by visiting NSSF.org. ©



There are so many sports to enroll our children in; baseball, basketball, swimming, ballet, dance, and so on. Many of these are seasonal and often as our children grow they lose touch with what they learned in these sports or just lose interest. We have always kept our boys busy in these sports, often running around with our heads chopped off; dropping off one, picking up another, hopping from one game to another or wishing we had an umbrella as the rain soaked the field. And, don't get me started about trying to keep those white pants white! (Thankfully, my wife did that!) As time went on, they just didn't want to play the game anymore. But, they never lost sight of shooting their bows and firearms.

Luckily, we have always been an outdoor family, teaching our children the wonders of Mother Nature; the beauty of family, camping, friends, hunting, and of course, shooting. I can remember so many nights in our backyard practicing with their bows, shooting their BB guns at targets, and lots and lots of hunting. As the boys got older, the guns got bigger!

A couple of years ago, a friend of ours told us about an organization that we might be interested in getting involved with.



By Tom Barney

The organization is the Junior Shooters program. Since we have always been a family that loves shooting and competition, this seemed right up our alley and we are glad we did! This organization has taught us so much! More than just shooting!

As we get more involved with this program, we realize that it offers so much more to our youth than showing them how to shoot. This program teaches them firearm safety (Safety! Safety! Safety! is their primary focus), teamwork, gun positioning, how to respect a firearm, how to respect oneself and others, and they also ready you for competition. Who doesn't like a little competition! It has been so much fun watching these kids compete together representing their team, Junior Shooters, and becoming lifelong friends. It shows in these competitions and the leadership that this program provides.

The Junior Shooters program teaches youth between the ages of 8 and 20. I am a strong believer in getting our youth started early. Knowledge is power! The entire

organization works tirelessly to provide an experience your child will never forget. Andy works very hard to recruit sponsors for the organization and team so that they can hands-on shoot new firearms and equipment. He also is the editor-in-chief of this awesome magazine, *Junior Shooters*. All of the Range Officers volunteer their time to help educate these kids. It truly is one big family!

My son has learned so much being a part of this organization including writing. Yes, writing articles is one of the duties these kids take on. How cool is that? They actually get to see their face in a national magazine and write about what they have learned, how they feel, and their experiences with a piece of equipment.

In conclusion, the Junior Shooters program is for everyone! Getting involved, whether you are there to support your child or to help guide the team, is extremely satisfying, as well as getting to see them succeed at something they love. Watching them grow from their first day with the program to being confident, respectful young humans is, in part, due to the Junior Shooters organization and their sponsors.©



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