

# TRADITIONS

A PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

**AMBASSADORS OF CHANGE**  
The 2015 Y.E.S. Grand Scholarship winners create lasting impacts in their communities

**NATIONAL SCHOOL SHIELD**  
The NRA's latest initiative dedicated to protecting our country's children

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IS THE YOUTH EDUCATION SUMMIT AWESOME?

**A THUNDEROUS  
Y.E.S.!!**

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### A Thunderous Y.E.S.!

The Youth Education Summit is an awesome experience for high-achieving teens, and the class of 2015 took D.C. by storm... literally!

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2015 Youth Education Summit attendee Marisa Laudadio of Mississippi displays her target from shooting at the NRA Range.

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## MISSION STATEMENT

Established in 1990, The NRA Foundation, Inc. ("NRA Foundation") is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that raises tax-deductible contributions in support of a wide range of firearms-related public interest activities of the National Rifle Association of America and other organizations that defend and foster the Second Amendment rights of all law-abiding Americans. These activities are designed to promote firearms and hunting safety, to enhance marksmanship skills of those participating in the shooting sports, and to educate the general public about firearms in their historic, technological, and artistic context. Funds granted by The NRA Foundation benefit a variety of constituencies throughout the United States, including children, youth, women, individuals with physical disabilities, gun collectors, law enforcement officers, hunters, and competitive shooters.



**PHOTO** Patricia Beltz-Moore and 2005 Y.E.S. attendee Logan Metesh, who is now a Firearms Specialist with the NRA National Firearms Museum, take a break from touring Arlington National Cemetery with the 2015 Youth Education Summit.

## **FINDING A HOME FOR MY FATHER'S LEGACY: THE NRA YOUTH EDUCATION SUMMIT**

**By Patricia Beltz-Moore**

*Ambassador Member of the NRA Ring of Freedom Heritage Society*

What words come to mind when you think of teenagers today? Do the words responsible, passionate, civic-minded, respectful and polite rise to the top? They would if you were thinking about the attendees at the NRA's Youth Education Summit.

When I decided to attend and observe the 2015 NRA Youth Education Summit in July, I was looking for a program to continue on my father's legacy. This is important to me because my father was my biggest inspiration in life. I want to honor his values in a way that inspires others to realize their full potential just as his values inspired me.

Life didn't come easy to my father. He was on his own at the age of 14 and had to support himself. This only made him more determined than ever to make his own way. Success came to him throughout his life thanks to hard work and perseverance, and this recipe yielded a strong, self-made man. It also gave him a strong belief in the possibilities of youth, if effort and talent were applied in the right direction. When he passed away, I knew how fortunate I was to call Henry Beltz my dad. Then and there I swore to uphold the values that he instilled in me when I was young.

In a way, my visit to the Youth Education Summit started decades ago in the heart and mind of a small boy who would one day become my father. This boy would grow up to be a model citizen, a productive member of society and a role model to his own daughter. We need to bring up more young people with these values if our society and heritage of freedom are to flourish through the ages. That's our responsibility to the youth of today.

So, with my visit in July, my father's values and legacy will live on forever. I have pledged to create an endowment in his name: *The Mr. Thomas Henry Beltz Endowment for the NRA Youth Education Summit*. This endowment will support the program along with scholarships to deserving youth.

Coming into the NRA through my husband, who is an avid Second Amendment supporter, my first NRA Annual Meeting was in 2009, and I quickly realized that The NRA Foundation funds the very best educational programs in our country. They encourage all youth to participate and attempt to break down any barriers to entry, ensuring that those less fortunate, like my late father when he was a boy, can attend.

After my passing this endowment will be active. It is a joy to know I will be helping our youth with scholarships and life experiences that are in keeping with my father's values—the same values that will shape the leaders of tomorrow. I challenge you now: Think about what you want to do with your life and what legacy you want to leave, The NRA Foundation has a way to help you make it happen.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CREATE A LEGACY THROUGH THE NRA FOUNDATION, CONTACT THE NRA'S OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT AT (877) NRA-GIVE OR [PLANNEDGIVING@NRAHQ.ORG](mailto:PLANNEDGIVING@NRAHQ.ORG). STAFF CAN HELP YOU BUILD A GIFT INTO YOUR WILL OR TRUST THAT WILL BENEFIT THE NRA OF TOMORROW.

IS THE YOUTH EDUCATION SUMMIT AN AWESOME EXPERIENCE?

# A THUNDEROUS Y.E.S.!

**The Class of 2015 took D.C. by storm...  
*literally.***

By Wendy LaFever and Kylie Vess  
*Managing Editor and Assistant Editor,  
NRA Family InSights*

We have said it many times before, but this year was just no different: The 2015 Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.), sponsored by The NRA Foundation, was a success! Students arrived from across the country to take part in the experience of a lifetime...and to compete for \$30,000 in scholarships.

The Y.E.S. adventure began on Monday when all the students flew into the Washington, D.C., area and partook in icebreakers and orientation activities. On Tuesday the summit officially kicked off at NRA headquarters in Fairfax, Va., with an education on the NRA and what it does. NRA staff presented discussions on *Friends of NRA* volunteer fundraising, the beloved Eddie Eagle Gunsafe® program, NRA Clubs and Associations, Youth Programs and Refuse to be a Victim®. During the presentations NRA President Allan D. Cors and Executive Director of NRA General Operations Kyle Weaver spoke to the students about how their support and involvement is vital to the future of the Second Amendment and the National Rifle Association of America.

Later the Y.E.S. summiteers explored the National Firearms Museum, then made their way down to the NRA Range. First, all passed the NRA Range test and received thorough reviews of each gun, proper handling, correct stance and safety by the experienced staff at the range. Then it was time for the fun! They shot handguns and rifles of various calibers.



**PHOTOS by Forrest MacCormack, Emily Rupertus and Catherine Barsanti.** From Top: Sonora Sheldon of Kansas, Brooke Montalbano of Texas and Connor Morris of Utah explore the National Firearms Museum during the program's first full day of activities, spent visiting NRA headquarters; An NRA Range Officer watches as Delaney Yoder of Indiana prepares to fire.

As the sun rose on Wednesday, so did the students. The bus's first stop was the Hillsdale College Kirby Center, located less than a mile from the United States Capitol. The students began their day under a painting called "The Signing of the American Constitution" by Sam Knecht, which set the tone for the debate on principles and civil liberties about to commence.

In teams of five or six, students debated on the topics of race relations within communities, permitting firearms on college campuses, the power of sports governing bodies and the requirement of passing a preliminary test to vote. Every student had a few minutes at the podium to speak on behalf of their team. "This has been a really cool experience to see kids like us [debate] at a high level," Cole Diggins from Missouri said. "I love watching these debates. On each team, everyone is looking out for one another," stated Natalie Fox from Nevada.

The Y.E.S. group got back on the bus...then off again as it pulled up to the National Archives Museum. The National Archives is the permanent home of the Declaration of Independence, Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights, collectively known as the Charters of Freedom. Mississippi's Marisa Laudadio noted, "I want to work in politics, and it just gave me chills reading these documents in our Founders' own handwriting."



Now on to the monuments and memorials! For once D.C.'s summer weather could not have been more perfect: clear blue skies, around 85 degrees Fahrenheit and a slight breeze. We hoped it would hold. The group met their guide, David Elliott, at the first stop on the tour—the National WWII Memorial. Elliott explained the arrangement of the state pillars, what the 4,048 gold stars behind “Here We Mark The Price Of Freedom” represent, the meaning of the wreaths on the pillars and who Kilroy was.

The Korean War Veterans Memorial came next. Elliott gave a detailed description of the 19 stainless-steel statues, the Mural Wall and the image they create when viewed together. Later, the group formed a circle around our guide at the Lincoln Memorial and the Reflecting Pool. It being one of the most recognized structures in the United States, Elliott had much to say about the white stone memorial honoring the “Great Emancipator.”

A big, bright moon rose over the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the final stop. The students were solemn as they listened and paid tribute to The Three Soldiers statue. The Y.E.S. group then followed alongside the Memorial Wall, which honors those veterans who died in the Vietnam War. Emotions rose as the students took in the numerous names upon the wall, and a humbled feeling overtook the group. Ruby Stith from California truly felt the impact of the memorial: “When I go back home, I’m going to be talking about this for years to come,” she said.

“I never had any connection to wars. Then today, seeing the memorials, gave me that connection,” Hayden Rash of Texas said. “The memorials put into perspective the freedoms we take for granted.”

**PHOTOS** This page, from top: Cody Evans of Kentucky presents part of his team's argument during the debates at Hillsdale College Kirby Center; Claire Laurenz of Michigan reflects on the significance of the Korean War Veterans Memorial; The Y.E.S. group begins its tour of the monuments at the National WWII Memorial.



The next morning dawned sunny and very, very hot. But the Y.E.S. summiteers broiled patiently in D.C.'s signature summer humidity knowing that they were in for a very special treat: Just outside the Capitol building, they would be meeting with Congressman Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) for a personal question-and-answer session. "It's great to see a group of young people like yourselves here to learn about our freedoms, especially our Second Amendment freedoms," said Westerman.

Later, the group's visit moved inside the Capitol Building to the House and Senate galleries. As the students gazed down into the very same rooms where representatives and senators have been debating legislation since the nineteenth century, the security guard (who clearly missed his calling as a docent) stepped forward to give an impromptu lecture on the history of these chambers.

That same personal touch was in evidence as Y.E.S. made its way to the Supreme Court building. Among the echoing white marble and rich draperies of the chamber where the nine Justices meet throughout the year, the teens heard inside stories of how the highest court in the land actually functions from day to day. Included among these facts was that its not actually the highest court in the land—the basketball court just above the chamber claims that title. In fact, a faint booming could be heard from somewhere above. Was a game in session?

Sadly, no; it wasn't a game. As the group jogged down those famous marble steps and back to the bus, the skies opened in an earth-shattering thunderstorm. Within seconds the entire group was utterly drenched, hurrying through sidewalks that had turned to rivers. Looking at the students, each sitting in their own personal puddle, the chaperones decided that it would be best to skip the National Museum of American History and head back to the hotel so everyone could get into some dry clothes.





Once comfortably dry and fed, the teens took part in seminar sessions for over three hours, discussing firearm regulations, environment and climate change as well as international affairs and foreign policy. Afterwards they were off to bed, because the next morning would feature a perennial highlight of the Youth Education Summit: a tour of Marine Corps Base Quantico. “Quantico Day,” as it’s affectionately known, is a chance to experience what life as a Marine might be like, but in perfect safety. The students started their day with a bang—literally—by participating in what has to be the coolest virtual-reality training around. Called the VCCT, or Virtual Combat Convoy Trainer, students sit in a real (albeit stripped-down) HMMV equipped with real (albeit altered so they use lasers, not bullets) M16s. Surrounded by a virtual-reality display, students must communicate with and protect one another from attacks on their convoy. It’s a dizzyingly exciting exercise.

Later the Y.E.S. summiteers made their way to the National Museum of the Marine Corps, which offers fascinating histo-

ry combined with hands-on attractions. There’s nothing that brings home the somber reality of battle like the display dedicated to the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, which is super-cooled to replicate the frozen conditions of that battle. Then, after a dinner of real Meals-Ready-to-Eat (MREs) at the feet of the Iwo Jima Memorial, the students got to enjoy the world-famous “8th and I Parade.” It’s a spectacle in which Marines perform dazzling displays of synchronized marching and rifle drills. (Luckily there was no inclement weather this time to rain on anyone’s parade.)

The week closed on a solemnly beautiful note as the students decamped at Arlington National Cemetery at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where they participated in a wreath-laying ceremony dedicated to, as is inscribed on the back of the tomb, “...an American soldier known but to God.” It’s a terrific honor to do this, and the students were also lucky enough to have one of the Tomb Guards take half an hour after the ceremony to talk with them.



**PHOTOS** Previous page, clockwise from top: Claire Laurenz, Madeline Carlson, Ruby Stith, Jacquelyn O’Brien, Hunter Hackworth and Cody Evans await their entrance to the U.S. Senate chamber; The group returns to the bus after getting caught in the downpour in D.C.; Marisa Laudadio takes her opportunity to ask Congressman Westerman a question. This page, clockwise from top left: Students pose in front of the HMX-1 helicopter in the hangar at Marine Corps Base Quantico; A team of students takes their positions in a HMMV and gets ready to experience the VCCT; Students prepare their Quantico Day dinners - MRE’s at the Iwo Jima Memorial; The Y.E.S. group followed up the visit to Quantico with a stop at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Opposite page, from left: Ruby Stith, Katelyn Majors, Benjamin Swanson and Armond Willingham participate in the wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier; Caleb Daniels of Missouri earned the top end-of-week scholarship, which he accepted from Program Coordinator David Helmer and Manager Nicole McMahon at the awards banquet on the last night of the Summit.



All good things, it's said, must come to an end, and soon it was time for the summiteers and chaperones to say good-bye. It's a bittersweet time for all. "I've been part of many camps and trips, but this trip and group of people are high quality," said Oregon's Ben Swanson. "We're all from different states, but that doesn't matter—we all mesh and I've made some really close friends. [Y.E.S.] represents the greatness of people and this country."

Of course, there's also the matter of scholarships. At the close of the week, \$16,000 in scholarships were allocated to the teens who shone the brightest, with an additional \$15,000 up for grabs to the students who best bring the lessons they've learned to their communities back home.

"These students are among some of the best and brightest in the country," smiled Program Coordinator David Helmer. "It's such an honor to see them experience our nation's capital and learn about our freedoms. And it's always so hard to say good-bye to them at the end of the week." Continued Helmer, "I have no doubt that they're going to do great things in the future...and that we'll be hearing from them again." ■

*Now it's your turn! NRA is issuing a call for all young leaders interested in making a difference for the 2016 Youth Education Summit! The summit will run Monday, July 25, through Sunday, July 31, 2016. To apply please call (800) 672-3888 ext. 1351 or email [yes@nrabq.org](mailto:yes@nrabq.org). Application deadline is February 1, 2016.*

# 2015

## END-OF-WEEK SCHOLARSHIPS

\$3,500	<p style="text-align: right; margin: 0;"><b>Caleb Daniels,</b> Lee's Summit, MO</p>
\$2,500	<p style="text-align: right; margin: 0;"><b>Bonita Wyatt,</b> Clover, SC</p> <p style="text-align: right; margin: 0;"><b>Elijah Sheffield,</b> Harrison, AR</p> <p style="text-align: right; margin: 0;"><b>Hunter Hackworth,</b> Pax, WV</p>
\$1,000	<p style="text-align: right; margin: 0;"><b>Cole Diggins,</b> Moundville, MO</p> <p style="text-align: right; margin: 0;"><b>Savannah Easter,</b> Amelia, VA</p> <p style="text-align: right; margin: 0;"><b>Riaz Lane,</b> Tyner, NC</p> <p style="text-align: right; margin: 0;"><b>Marisa Laudadio,</b> Walnut, MS</p> <p style="text-align: right; margin: 0;"><b>Nicholas McGrath,</b> Hampton, MN</p>

# Ambassadors

## YOUTH EDUCATION SUMMIT ALUMNI

By David Helmer

Event Support Coordinator, National Rifle Association

**F**orty-four students left the 2014 Youth Education Summit with a new understanding of American government, a strong feeling of pride for their country and friendships that will last a lifetime. A select group also departed the week of leadership building with an awakened sense of purpose and determination to positively impact the country they love, starting with their home communities.

In addition to the \$15,000 awarded to the top students at the end of each summer's Y.E.S. program, The NRA Foundation also awards \$15,000 in Grand Scholarships to proactive Y.E.S. alumni every year. This money goes to students who use what they learned during the summit to reach out to their fellow citizens and establish NRA programs. Grand Scholarship winners believe in our Constitutional freedoms, and The NRA Foundation is proud to invest in these young leaders as they take steps to promote change and positively impact America's future.

Putting together a successful Grand Scholarship application takes commitment, hard work and dedication. The applicants are judged not only on the number of NRA programs they introduce, but also on the impact of those programs, the quality of their presentations, the diversity of their project types and the number of people they reached in the nine months following their Y.E.S. experience. After the students work to promote change in their communities, they put together portfolios that communicate the impacts of their programs and projects. These students demonstrate a willingness to go the extra mile to further the mission of The NRA Foundation and prove that they truly are the leaders of tomorrow.

*Interested in attending the National Youth Education Summit and competing for \$30,000 in scholarships? Learn more at [www.friendsofnra.org/YES!](http://www.friendsofnra.org/YES!)*

**\$3,500** **BRAD PETRAS**  
Slidell, La.

**GRAND SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT:** Petras submitted an application with an impressive 25 projects. He conducted several live, on-air radio interviews discussing the Y.E.S. program and even created a PSA on how students can apply. Petras submitted numerous articles to local and statewide magazines and newspapers. He gave presentations at banquets and events and even conducted a series of school announcements to recruit applicants. He became a *Friends of NRA* committee member and also served on other similar volunteer committees, all the while preaching the importance of staying involved with the shooting sports. Petras also helped with charity hunts and youth shooting competitions, and he introduced the Eddie Eagle Gunsafe® program at large-scale sportsman shows in his area.



# for Change

## 2015 GRAND SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

# \$3,500

**LYDIA MACFARLAN**

*Siloam Springs, Ark.*

**GRAND SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT:** Macfarlan was the keynote speaker at several community gatherings, and she also spoke at the Arkansas *Friends of NRA* state banquet. She created a poster display promoting NRA programs that over 20,000 people were exposed to at the Ozark Regional Arts and Crafts Festival. She prepared Eddie Eagle presentations for both the Gentry 4-H Club and Southside Elementary, the latter of which was attended by 700 people. Both presentations were also picked up by local newspapers and distributed to over 2,700 people in the community. More impressive still, Macfarlan wrote The NRA Foundation Grant for the Benton County Sheriff's Office to request funding for their Eddie Eagle costume. Through her hard work, Macfarlan reached an extremely high number of people to promote firearm safety and various NRA programs.



**Emma McCormick**

*Coeur d'Alene, Idaho*

# \$2,000

**GRAND SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT:** McCormick gave her time and volunteered with her local Lake County *Friends of NRA* committee. She also contacted her field representative and spoke at the Coeur d'Alene *Friends of NRA* banquet to promote Y.E.S. in addition to helping with ticket sales and the live auction. McCormick's biggest accomplishment was starting a trap and skeet shooting team at her school. After she helped write grants, recruit team members, work with local gun clubs and line up a coach, the team began competing in tournaments and spreading the shooting sports legacy among more American youth.



**Kiara Parks**

*Amelia, Ohio*

# \$2,000

**GRAND SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT:** Parks, another local *Friends of NRA* committee member, has volunteered a great deal of her time to present and promote the Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program. Parks is the junior leader of her 4-H shooting club, and she wrote and submitted an article promoting Y.E.S. to the 4-H newsletter seen by over 1,000 people. She also interviewed with a Cincinnati Enquirer journalist to discuss her involvement in the shooting community, and she applied to be a Refuse to be a Victim® Instructor on her 18th birthday.



## Grace Jahn

*Alpine, Texas*

# \$1,000

**GRAND SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT:** Jahn presented the Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program to Christian School Elementary, Alpine Public Library and Alpine Elementary School, reaching a total of nearly 600 children with the important message of gun safety. She also wrote an article promoting Y.E.S. for the local newspaper, which distributed over 2,600 copies in her community.



## Cybil Kallevig

*Kandiyohi, Minn.*

# \$1,000

**GRAND SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT:** Kallevig delivered the Eddie Eagle message to her local American Heritage Girls troop as well as a number of home schooled youth in her community. She gave speeches at her local *Friends of NRA* banquet and a trap shooting event about her experience at Y.E.S. and the importance of furthering the shooting sports. Finally, Kallevig wrote an article about Y.E.S. for her local newspaper.



## Maggie Root

*Santa Clara, Utah*

# \$1,000

**GRAND SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT:** Root volunteered and spoke at her local *Friends of NRA* banquet. Her most notable accomplishment, however, was conducting a Women On Target® clinic with two relays. Root had to reserve a range, find a volunteer instructor, advertise the event and help oversee the successful clinic.



## Ian Quimby

*Idleyld Park, Ore.*

# \$500

**GRAND SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT:** Quimby spoke on several occasions about his Y.E.S. experience, including at a luncheon meeting of the Douglas County Lady Republicans, at the Oregon State Fund Committee grant meeting and at the Douglas County *Friends of NRA* banquet. Quimby also helped in establishing a YHEC in his county and assisted with the Oregon State Y.E.S. program.



## Victoria Hrach

*Smithton, Pa.*

# \$500

**GRAND SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT:** Hrach presented speeches promoting Y.E.S. at the Fayette County Fair, the Fayette County 4-H Shotgun Club, the Somerset *Friends of NRA* banquet and the achievement ceremony held for her local 4-H. She also wrote articles that appeared on the official NRA Blog and in *NRA Family InSights*.



## Honorable Mention

### Emma Hales

*Colfax, Cal.*

**GRAND SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT:** Hales is currently in the process of taking the necessary steps to establish a California State Y.E.S.

# DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO APPLY!

## 2016 GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINES

### WESTERN REGION

<b>HI</b>	04/01/16	<b>WY</b>	11/10/15
<b>ID</b>	11/03/15	<b>OR</b>	11/17/15
<b>ND</b>	11/04/15	<b>MN</b>	11/18/15
<b>SD</b>	11/04/15	<b>WA</b>	11/18/15
<b>MT</b>	11/05/15	<b>AK</b>	12/01/15

### CENTRAL REGION

<b>WI</b>	10/01/15	<b>MI</b>	12/01/15
<b>IA</b>	10/08/15	<b>ILN</b>	12/01/15
<b>ILS</b>	10/29/15	<b>IN</b>	12/10/15
<b>NE</b>	11/04/15	<b>KY</b>	12/30/15
<b>MO</b>	11/17/15		

### EASTERN REGION

<b>NYU</b>	09/09/15*	<b>VA</b>	11/05/15
<b>PAE</b>	10/15/15	<b>WV</b>	11/12/15
<b>PAW</b>	10/15/15	<b>CT</b>	11/17/15
<b>DE</b>	10/20/15	<b>NYL</b>	11/17/15
<b>OH</b>	11/03/15	<b>MA</b>	11/17/15
<b>ME</b>	11/04/15	<b>NJ</b>	11/17/15
<b>VT</b>	11/04/15	<b>RI</b>	12/17/15
<b>NH</b>	11/04/15		

### SOUTHWEST REGION

<b>AZ</b>	10/08/15	<b>CAS</b>	10/22/15
<b>CAC</b>	10/22/15	<b>NV</b>	11/10/15
<b>CAE</b>	10/22/15	<b>UT</b>	11/12/15
<b>CAN</b>	10/22/15		

### SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

<b>NM</b>	10/03/15	<b>TXS</b>	11/19/15
<b>CO</b>	10/14/15	<b>KS</b>	12/03/15
<b>TXN</b>	11/19/15	<b>AR</b>	12/08/15
<b>TXW</b>	11/19/15	<b>OK</b>	01/12/16

### SOUTHERN REGION

<b>FL</b>	02/02/16	<b>LA</b>	12/15/15
<b>NCE</b>	10/01/15	<b>TN</b>	12/30/15
<b>NCW</b>	10/01/15	<b>AL</b>	02/25/16
<b>GA</b>	11/20/15	<b>MS</b>	02/25/16
<b>SC</b>	11/20/15		

**NOTE:** Deadlines listed by state abbreviation with regional designation where applicable

*GRANT APPLICATION AND INSTRUCTIONS MAY BE ACCESSED AT*  
**NRAFOUNDATION.ORG**

\*Contact your NRA Field Representative for information about applying for a grant in 2016

# THE NRA FOUNDATION

TEACH FREEDOM



## Engaging communities and empowering leaders to help make our schools more secure

**By Sheila Brantley**

*National School Shield Program Director, National Rifle Association*

**F**ounded on the premise of education and training, the NRA has upheld a commitment to delivering vital programs and services in support of firearm and public safety since 1871. Through groundbreaking and successful initiatives like the Eddie Eagle GunSafe® and Refuse To Be A Victim® programs, the NRA has helped save lives by educating millions of men, women and children on how to stay safe in their homes and communities.

In December 2012, the NRA launched its latest initiative dedicated to protecting our children: the National School Shield program. Recognizing that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to school security, National School Shield (NSS) is committed to addressing the many facets of school security, including best practices in security infrastructure, technology, personnel, training and policy. Through this multidimensional effort, NSS seeks to engage communities and empower leaders to help make our schools more secure.

Armed with the belief that nothing trumps the security and well-being of our children and schools, the NRA provided a multi-million dollar investment in support of school vulnerability assessments across our nation—including campuses large and small, urban and rural, private and public—in order to better identify common vulnerabilities and best practices observed at various K-12 facilities across America. This was a significant and necessary down payment that we know will help save lives. But the NRA's commitment does not end there. Thanks to *Friends of NRA* and The NRA Foundation, NSS was able to award more than \$200,000 to schools across the nation in its first year, allowing grant recipients to address security improvements that they might not have otherwise been able to afford. Funded projects included improvements to main entrances, visitor management systems, and emergency response training. The gratitude and positive response from communities throughout the country who were able to make their schools more secure has been overwhelming.

“The School Shield grant has made it possible to do in one year what would have taken us five. Thanks so much.”

– Grant Recipient in Arkansas

“The NRA [Foundation] has been very generous in funding these security grants to make our schools safer. The school and community appreciate this as it becomes harder to fund these projects with a tight budget.”

– Grant Recipient in Virginia

“  
OUR KIDS ARE  
OUR RESPONSIBILITY.  
IT'S NOT JUST OUR DUTY TO  
PROTECT THEM, IT'S OUR  
RIGHT TO PROTECT  
THEM.”

– Wayne LaPierre

“[We are] a rural, high-poverty school district with limited financial means. We have taken proactive security measures to ensure the safety of our students and staff. There were some big items that we needed to address to finalize our safety plan. Our school district was able to complete the safety plan without sacrifice, and it was all made possible by a grant provided by [The NRA Foundation for] the National School Shield. Thank you very much for this grant. It has been a godsend.”

– Grant Recipient in Ohio

**National School Shield was the highest funded NRA program at the state fund level in 2015.**





## DID YOU KNOW ?

-  In fall 2015, about 55 million K-12 students are expected to be enrolled in public and private schools in the US.
-  There are approximately 129,400 K-12 public and private schools in the US.
-  65% of public schools reported that at least one violent incident occurred at school during the 2013-14 school year.
-  In 2013-2014, only 48% of public schools provided training to classroom teachers or aides on recognizing early warning signs of students likely to become violent.
-  25% of schools report inadequate funding as a top factor limiting the schools' efforts to reduce or prevent crime.

All statistics from [nces.ed.gov](http://nces.ed.gov)

The NRA understands that school security is a complex issue with no simple, single solution. So, in addition to grant funding, NSS will also offer a dedicated online resource center highlighting best practices in school security as well as a self-assessment tool to help schools identify potential areas for improvement and to empower community members to advocate for more secure schools. NSS is also partnering with local law enforcement agencies to offer training on how to conduct standardized school vulnerability assessments. This will allow schools to work directly with local law enforcement officers to evaluate and improve their emergency preparedness in a shared commitment to keeping children safe.

Millions of NRA supporters wholeheartedly believe there is nothing more critical to our nation's well-being than our children's safety, and the National School Shield is the National Rifle Association's commitment to that effort. ■

*For more information about the National School Shield program and ways you can help us protect our nation's children, please visit [www.nationalschoolshield.org](http://www.nationalschoolshield.org).*



# THE NRA FOUNDATION BANQUET

SPONSORED BY:



February 6, 6:30pm  
PA Farm Show Complex  
Preferred Ballroom



VISIT [www.greatamericanoutdoorshow.org](http://www.greatamericanoutdoorshow.org) FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION!

# THE



# THE NATIONAL NRA FOUNDATION BANQUET

SPONSORED BY:



May 19, 5:00pm  
Louisville, Kentucky



VISIT [www.nraam.org](http://www.nraam.org) FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION!

# Growing Youth Sportsmen in the Garden State

By Megan McConnell  
*Special Events Coordinator,  
National Rifle Association*

**O**n a cold day in March, 62 youths braved snowy conditions to spend some exciting time on the range. They participated in a fun, free day of clay shooting at the 17th annual Youth Sporting Clays Shoot hosted by the Atlantic County Chapter of the New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.

The activities began with a safety briefing from Rodger Giberson, owner of Red Wings Sporting Clays in Port Republic, N.J., where the event takes place. The most important part of the program, the safety briefing ensures that all participants and their parents learn how to properly handle the firearms. The briefing also provides an opportunity to teach the young attendees about the responsibility that comes with participating in the shooting sports. Once the training session is completed, the real fun begins. Participants each get to shoot 25 clays from stations manned by assistants who make sure that safety and comfort is maintained at all times.

The annual Youth Sporting Clays Shoot is free to all youth ages 10 to 16, and the event gives shooters of all skill levels the chance to learn and grow in the shooting sports. Howard Huston, who is involved in the organization of the Sporting Clays Shoot, notes that his favorite part of the event is watching the kids enjoy shooting in a safe and educational environment.

The all-day event also includes lunch provided by Port Republic Gunning Club, a t-shirt featuring a "Hooked on Sporting Clays" design, and a sporting clay trophy—all for no cost to the participant. And while kids are more than welcome to bring their own firearms, loaner firearms are made available for those who do not own a shotgun.

Since 1998 the Atlantic County Federation has held the largest free Youth Sporting Clays Shoot on the East Coast. The local shooting sports community looks forward to the event every year, and some participants have had the opportunity to come for all seven years of their eligibility and compete in every age bracket.

All of this is made possible with the help of grant funding from The NRA Foundation. To date the Atlantic County Federation of Sportsmen's clubs of Egg Harbor Township, N.J., has received five grants totaling more than \$5,300. This year the Foundation provided \$670 to offset the cost of the ammo used at the event, and participants had the chance to shoot 410, 12 and 20 gauge ammo throughout the day.

Around the country events like this help plant the seeds for an appreciation and lifelong practice of Second Amendment freedoms in today's youth. Providing a place for children to learn to shoot grows the next generation of shooting sports enthusiasts and ensures that it has the skills and knowledge to preserve this important part of the American heritage. ■

*Support youth shooting programs in your area by fundraising with Friends of NRA and applying for an NRA Foundation grant! Apply at [www.nrafoundation.org](http://www.nrafoundation.org). Learn more about Friends of NRA in New Jersey at [www.friendsofnra.org/NJ](http://www.friendsofnra.org/NJ).*



Photos courtesy Atlantic County Chapter, New Jersey Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs



**2015 GRANT**

**\$667**

YOUTH SPORTING  
CLAYS SHOOT

HAVE RECEIVED \$5,348 TOTAL IN COMBINATION WITH 5 PREVIOUS GRANTS

**CLAYS SHOOT  
BUDGET**

POSTAGE • TROPHIES • TEE SHIRTS  
SHOOTING GLASSES • EAR PLUGS  
TRAPPERS AND CLAY PIGEONS



# CONTINUING A HISTORY OF EXCELLENCE

By David Helmer  
*Event Support Coordinator,  
National Rifle Association*





For over 70 years, the Blue Water Sportsman's Association (BWSA) has provided small arms marksmanship training to junior shooters in the Kimball, Mich., area. Upholding their "Personal Development Through Marksmanship" slogan, the program has produced a number of students who have earned the Distinguished Expert classification in the Winchester/NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program. The BWSA smallbore team has effectively facilitated students' personal development along the path towards competitive precision shooting while maintaining safety as its top priority.

The BWSA introduces youth, ages 10 to 18, to 4-position smallbore shooting and provides ample opportunity for progression. The six male and two female Level I NRA/USA shooting instructors are able to train students with equipment solely owned by the program. Their ability to provide equipment means that any student who is interested can receive safety training and marksmanship instruction without worrying about financial restrictions. Senior Coach Jerry Sobocinski, reflects, "The program is important for the future of shooting, since we get to bring youth into a safe environment where we can safely teach them how to handle firearms."

The program offers different levels of training, allowing beginners to focus on learning safety and proper handling of firearms while students interested in competing can schedule matches and have more intensive practices. This past season five students achieved the Distinguished Expert classification—the highest Winchester/NRA Qualification skill

level. These young sharpshooters also competed in both 3-position and international precision competitions across Michigan, as well as in Ohio and Canada. "We use NRA Foundation grants for gear such as spotting scopes, stands, smallbore shooting coats and gloves," Junior Competitions Director David Dell remarked. "These grants offer our juniors the chance to be competitive with other clubs."

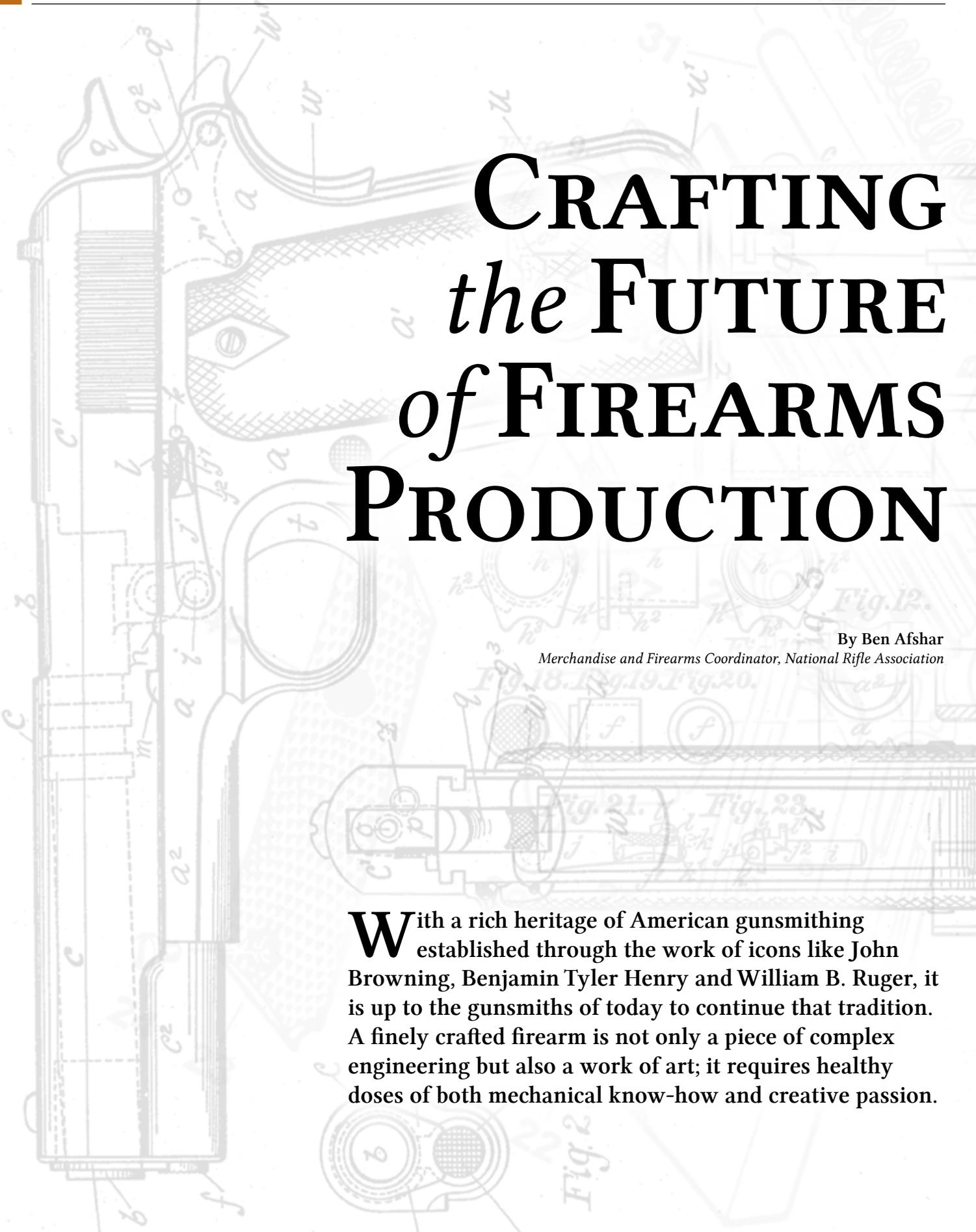
The Michigan *Friends of NRA* State Fund has awarded the BWSA four NRA Foundation grants totaling more than \$7,650. The most recent grant came from the Grant Product Fulfillment Program, providing the shooting team with merchandise directly from the Foundation.

Supporting long-enduring organizations is as vital to the future of shooting sports as helping new ones emerge and grow. Established programs like the BWSA are able to greatly impact the local community thanks to well-developed presence in their areas and continual availability of education and training opportunities. "Young shooters in our junior program have been able to perfect their marksmanship skills steadily over time, thanks in large part to steady support from *Friends of NRA* and The NRA Foundation," Dell explained. "On behalf of the Blue Water Sportsman's Association, we would like to thank *Friends of NRA* for their contribution to preserving our shooting heritage." ■

*Do you know of an organization that could benefit from an NRA Foundation grant? Apply at [nrafoundation.org](http://nrafoundation.org). To learn more about Friends of NRA in Michigan go to [www.friendsofnra.org/MI](http://www.friendsofnra.org/MI).*

**PHOTOS** Courtesy BWSA, counterclockwise from top: Colton Peters competes in a High Power Match; Amelia Dell at the Canadian Airgun Grand Prix; Peters at the Canadian Airgun Grand Prix; Peters, Dell and Brandon Mach shoot in a 3-Position match; Mach at the Canadian Airgun Grand Prix.





# CRAFTING *the* FUTURE *of* FIREARMS PRODUCTION

By Ben Afshar

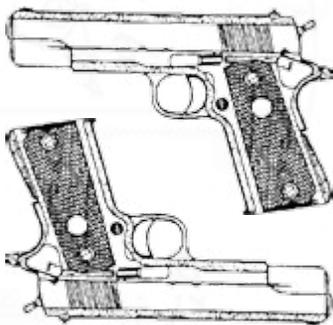
*Merchandise and Firearms Coordinator, National Rifle Association*

**W**ith a rich heritage of American gunsmithing established through the work of icons like John Browning, Benjamin Tyler Henry and William B. Ruger, it is up to the gunsmiths of today to continue that tradition. A finely crafted firearm is not only a piece of complex engineering but also a work of art; it requires healthy doses of both mechanical know-how and creative passion.

Those who choose to engage in the challenge of this historic trade should be commended for their dedication to the craft. The future of America's firearms legacy depends on individuals inspired and willing to commit the significant amount of time and resources necessary to becoming qualified gunsmiths. The limited number of avenues through which individuals can pursue qualification makes this an even more difficult task. Fortunately, gunsmithing programs like the one at Montgomery Community College (MCC) in central North Carolina do exist to train upcoming craftsmen in the necessary knowledge and skills.

Since 1994 MCC has received more than \$99,000 in NRA Foundation grants to fund scholarships for students in the gunsmithing program. These merit-based scholarships help spur high academic achievement and pristine attendance records while also providing students with the freedom and flexibility to undertake notably challenging projects.

Both *Friends of NRA* State Fund Committees in North Carolina—East and West—consistently grant \$3,000 per year to this program which supports the firearms traditions the *Friends* program and The NRA Foundation work to preserve. Last year, nearly half of the scholarship money distributed to deserving gunsmithing students at MCC came from The NRA Foundation.



With only about a dozen schools nationwide offering an associates program in gunsmithing, students enrolled in such a specialized program are members of an exclusive club within the firearms community. These craftsmen are committed to honing their abilities as gunsmiths, and many will go on to careers within the firearms manufacturing industry. Throughout their time in the program, students develop their skills in areas such as tooling and blueprinting, metal finishing, firearm diagnostics and repair, as well as custom firearms manufacturing. More than

two-thirds of class time is spent in the college's shops—comprised of over 5,400 square feet of workspace—making this a largely hands-on learning experience.

Supporting students with a passion for gunsmithing is just one way that The NRA Foundation demonstrates an unwavering commitment to the future of American shooting sports traditions. Through grants such as these scholarship funds, the Foundation works to ensure that future generations will continue to be inspired and motivated by these deeply-ingrained American traditions of artistry, manufacturing and Second Amendment freedoms. ■

*Apply for a grant to fund your local shooting sports programs and projects at [www.nrafoundation.org](http://www.nrafoundation.org)! To learn more about Friends of NRA in North Carolina, go to [www.friendsofnra.org/NC](http://www.friendsofnra.org/NC).*

RECEIVED OVER  
**\$99,000**  
 FOR GUNSMITHING SCHOLARSHIPS  
 SINCE 1994

32 GRANT AWARDS FROM  
 THE NRA FOUNDATION  
 INCLUDING  
**\$3,000**  
 FROM BOTH EAST &  
 WEST STATE FUNDS  
**EACH YEAR**



# NO KID LEFT INSIDE

— Kids Outdoor Zone —

By T. J. Greaney  
*Founder, Kids Outdoor Zone*

**K**ids that come to Kids Outdoor Zone (KOZ) summer camps have a desire to learn about the outdoors, hunting, fishing and adventure. Many are uncertain if they will be able to do any of the activities, but they want to try. The average kid today spends 40 minutes a week outside and 70 hours a week staring at a screen. More than half have no father or male role models, figures who traditionally pass down most outdoor skills. These statistics continue to rise. Today's kids grow further and further from the excitement of the outdoors, raised on asphalt farms never knowing the heritage of their grandfathers.

Fortunately, there are groups working to turn back the electronic tide. KOZ trains men in churches across America how to use the outdoors as an outreach tool for kids in their churches and communities. Every week, these men engage KOZ kids on a regular basis, training them in hunting, shooting, fishing, survival and more. They also get a rare opportunity to have the kids' attention and mentor them in life lessons.

The KOZ National Headquarters in Austin, Texas, also plans weekend and week-long outdoor adventure camps year round. Summer camps are week-long trainings in shooting sports, archery, hunters' education, survival and the list goes on. These camps also include actual hunting for wild hogs, rabbit and exotic game, and participants process and eat everything they harvest.



Photos courtesy Kids Outdoor Zone



Early on, KOZ instructor volunteers learned some hard lessons. Gear sized for adults can be uncomfortable and too powerful for a kid to use and learn the proper techniques. Handing a first time shooter a .270 with an adult stock can frighten them from ever shooting again. A bow that is heavy on the draw or too big for a first time archer can similarly discourage the desire to learn and shoot more.

Since 2013 The NRA Foundation has provided tools KOZ uses to train the kids at their camps. Instructors are now able to utilize the best equipment in an adjustable fit or youth model during the trainings. Genesis bows—the standard for all beginners and early archery shooters—along with Easton arrows and Delta targets, among other materials, have allowed KOZ leaders to create a solid archery training course. The H&R 1871 Handi-Rifle Super Light in .223—a tack-driver of a rifle that is the right gun for the right game animals—has become the KOZ go-to rifle for the field. The Ruger 22/45 Target Rim Fire pistol in .22LR has been the ideal beginner training pistol, and the Sig Sauer P229 9mm is great for the pistol course. Both are a ton of fun to shoot and allow the kids to learn everything they need to know about the care and handling of a handgun. Ammo from the grants allows the kids to put many helpful practice rounds through every firearm. KOZ also added a simple skeet and clays course this year, and the Remington Model 11-87 Sportsman

Youth Compact 20GA 21” made all the difference. Again, the right tool for the right job.

It takes a lot of time, training, patience and commitment to take a kid who has never held a rifle or a bow in their hands to the proficiency of safety and harvesting an animal. The NRA Foundation has helped KOZ train hundreds of kids to do just that. The gear provided is also used at monthly meetings of KOZ to keep the kids engaged and excited about outdoor adventure and the sport of hunting.

We have a responsibility to pass on the heritage of the outdoors. Every one of us must participate. This can take many forms: take your kids, a grandchild, a neighbor and his son or daughter hunting or fishing; give a bit of your time to volunteer or mentor; speak at a meeting or club about the outdoors; allow someone to fish your pond or hunt your field; write a check to The NRA Foundation and go to *Friends of NRA* events.

Theodore Roosevelt said, “Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children’s children.”

Truer words have rarely been spoken. ■

*Learn more about Kids Outdoor Zone at [kidsoutdoorzone.com](http://kidsoutdoorzone.com). Apply for an NRA Foundation grant to fund educational shooting sports programs like this one in your area! Go to [www.nrafoundation.org](http://www.nrafoundation.org).*



“ Today’s kids grow further and further from the excitement of the outdoors, raised on asphalt farms never knowing the heritage of their grandfathers. We have a responsibility to pass on that heritage of the outdoors. ”

# FOLLOWING THE FUNDING



## *The NRA Foundation CFO Visits a Minnesota Sportsmen's Club*

By Kyle Jillson

*Communications Coordinator, National Rifle Association*

Republished from NRABlog

**N**RA Foundation CFO Rick Tedrick has been involved with judging the Miss America pageant for more than 25 years. Starting with local pageants in Maryland while he worked for Ernst & Young, the organization's auditor, Tedrick has since expanded to judging pageants all over the country.

Earlier this month, Tedrick found himself in Minnesota judging the state-level pageant and decided to drop in on the Crow River Sportsmen's Club in Rogers. Since starting a summer shooting program for kids in 2008, the Crow River Sportsmen's Club has received more than \$21,000 in grants from The NRA Foundation, allowing them to introduce hundreds of children to the shotgun sports.

club each year and they're all aided by valuable NRA Foundation grants.

At Tedrick's visit, he handed out hats and held a Q&A session on The NRA Foundation. All the kids were eager to find out just how they get to shoot for free and how The NRA Foundation helps programs just like theirs all over the country.

"This really is a great group and I always enjoy meeting the people who we work so hard to help," Tedrick explained.

"It was an honor to have Rick out here to see what we've done and say 'hi' to the kids," Berning said. "We believe in the shooting sports and The NRA Foundation gives us the freedom to do just that."



Photos credit NRA GO Media

"The majority of what we purchase through the grants are shells," said program head and volunteer Scott Berning. "This is not a cheap sport, but The NRA Foundation allows us to offer free shells, which makes it economical for parents to keep their children involved."

The program, open to children in grades five through twelve, has been capped at 70 participants in recent years and always sees a number of new shooters. Roughly half of all kids entering the program have never shot a round of trap.

In 2012, Berning and several other volunteers helped the local St. Michael-Albertville High School create a trap and skeet team which has become so popular that they're forced to hold tryouts each year for the 60 roster spots.

All told, more than 240 kids shoot at the

So where does the money for the club's NRA Foundation grants come from? It's raised at *Friends of NRA* events throughout Minnesota, where Second Amendment supporters gather to fundraise for the future of the shooting sports.

"It's because of great volunteers in Minnesota that we're able to assist groups like the Crow River Sportsmen's Club," said NRA Field Representative Eric Linder. "*Friends of NRA* events are the only way we can support these clubs and we're looking forward to starting one in the Rogers area very soon." ■

*Go to [www.nrafoundation.org](http://www.nrafoundation.org) to apply for a grant for your program! Learn more about Minnesota Friends of NRA at [www.friendsofnra.org/MN](http://www.friendsofnra.org/MN).*

# NOT THEIR FIRST *RODEO*

By Nicole McMahon  
*Event Marketing & Communications Manager, National Rifle Association*



**A** movement is taking place among the country's youth, and it involves bareback riding, tie-down roping and pole bending. Rodeo's popularity is surging, but the sport is nothing new; it has existed since the 1820s when cowboys and vaqueros would test their work skills against one another. After the Civil War, formal rodeo competitions were introduced with the first one held in Wyoming in 1872. Prescott, Ariz., held the first professional rodeo in 1888 when it charged admission and awarded trophies to the winners. In the 1970s—over 100 years after the sports' introduction—rodeo experienced remarkable growth as the type of people involved shifted to a broader demographic. Many contestants were young and from urban backgrounds, often with college educations and no experience working on a cattle ranch.

Today rodeo is the official state sport of Wyoming, South Dakota and Texas, where imagery of men and women on bucking horses abounds as a deeply-rooted aspect of their cultures. In these states and many others, the sport has recently gained momentum with youth who participate in National High School Rodeo Association, its Junior High Division and its state affiliates. As one of the fastest growing youth organizations in the country, the association touts an annual membership of approximately 12,500 students from 41 states, five Canadian provinces and Australia.

The Arizona High School Rodeo Association (AHSRA) and Arizona Junior High School Rodeo Association (AJHSRA) are two of the affiliates thriving thanks to The NRA Foundation and monies raised at Arizona *Friends of NRA* events. Over the past two years, more than \$6,500 in grants have been awarded to support the AHSRA and AJHSRA .22 smallbore rifle and trap shoot-



Photos courtesy AHSRA

ing events. The number of contestants increased six-fold in just four seasons, growing from six youths in 2011 to approximately 40 in 2014. The grants provide some necessary supplies and materials, which lowers the entry fee for each contestant and allows more interested youths to participate by relieving the financial burden of taking part in competitions. Between September 2015 and May 2016, contestants can test their skills at seven shooting competitions in cities such as Payson, Casa Grande and Prescott before the national rodeo competition in Rock Springs, Wyo., in July 2016.

In 2015 the 55-member national AHSRA team scored high in nearly all the division championships at the National High School Finals Rodeo. Jacob Auza took third place in the trap shooting championship and the team placed fifth overall. The AJHSRA competed in the Junior High Division rodeo finals in Des Moines, Iowa, where Cody James took fourth place in the light rifle championship and the team placed seventh overall. One of the most coveted and challenging awards of the competition is the Queen of the National High School Rodeo Association, which has young women from all across the country vying for the crown. Contestants must participate in six days of judging involving a written test, personal interviews, western dress and rodeo performances. Alli McKibbin of the AHSRA team won third place in the national Queen Contest and was named Arizona High School Rodeo Queen, a testament to her rodeo skills and personal achievements.



From rodeo's humble beginnings in the 1800s to its modern influence today, Arizona has been at the heart of the sport. The Grand Canyon State hosts over 20 rodeos a year and features dozens of rodeo associations across the state. 2016 will mark the 129th annual World's Oldest Rodeo® taking place in Prescott over July Fourth weekend, and the annual World's Oldest Continuous Rodeo will be held in Payson at the end of August. Rodeo competitions are a major economic engine for surrounding areas, bringing in tens of thousands of attendees, and they also offer thousands of dollars in scholarships to high-achieving rodeo competitors. Through grants that enable more local youth to participate in programs like the AHSRA, The NRA Foundation supports the future of one of the most iconic sports in American culture. ■

*Learn more about Friends of NRA in Arizona at [www.friendsofnra.org/AZ](http://www.friendsofnra.org/AZ). Apply for an NRA Foundation grant to fund educational shooting sports programs like this one in your area! Go to [www.nrafoundation.org](http://www.nrafoundation.org).*

# IN GOOD

# COMPANY

Three  
National  
Corporate  
Sponsors  
contribute to  
Friends of NRA  
fundraising success

By Christina Paladeau  
Event Marketing and Communications Coordinator,  
National Rifle Association

**G**ASTON J. GLOCK STYLE LP, a manufacturer of traditional hunting and shooting apparel and accessories, has been involved with *Friends of NRA* since 2012. The relationship began with \$60,000 in 2012 and 2013 statewide underwriting in Georgia, home of GASTON's U.S. headquarters in Smyrna. Last year GASTON widened its reach by becoming a Defender Level National Corporate Sponsor, and it continues that commitment in 2015.

"We are happy to continue our work with *Friends of NRA* as a National Corporate Sponsor of the program in 2015," says CEO of GASTON USA Beate Arnold. She emphasizes the GASTON™ brand and *Friends of NRA's* shared interest in preserving the shooting sports lifestyle along with the historic handcrafting of products that support it.

Not only is Arnold enthusiastic about the shooting and outdoor sports, but she is especially interested in promoting youth involvement in these activities—making The NRA Foundation and its concentration on funding youth programs a natural focus for GASTON's support. "By supporting *Friends of NRA* we can reach a large audience of strong shooting and hunting enthusiasts and a lot of young people," she says.

Arnold highlights how GASTON, The NRA Foundation and the NRA all strive to preserve quality of life and tradition. "NRA's traditions and goals are enduring principles," she notes. "It has worked hard for that stability and success, and NRA supporters contribute to the organization to continue that legacy. We do the same with our business and our philosophy to protect our environment."

In addition to its 2015 sponsorship, GASTON donated customized Coolmax® shooting shirts with the NRA logo and 'Wall of Guns' text



to the NRA Foundation events at the 2015 Great American Outdoor Show in Harrisburg, Pa., and NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits in Nashville. NRA Volunteer Fundraising staff, *Friends of NRA* volunteers and other ticket sellers wore the eye-catching blue shirts while selling tickets for the ever-popular Wall of Guns fundraiser. As show attendees came down the hallways of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in February and the Music City Center in April, the GASTON shooting shirts provided a perfect point of interest for attracting crowds to the Wall. With 154,000 tickets sold at Great American and 60 winners and more than \$100,000 raised at Annual Meetings, both events achieved success in which GASTON's contribution played a role.

GASTON's passionate support of the shooting sports can also be seen in their contributions to the world of competitive shooting. A sponsor of the 2014 and 2015 Midway USA and NRA Bianchi Cup National Championships, it also sponsors the Sevigny Performance team which includes top-ranked World and National Champion pistol shooter Dave Sevigny.

In the last two years, GASTON has invested over \$125,000 in sponsorship support of *Friends of NRA* and the NRA, and it is not stopping there. The company will continue its support into 2016 with a *Friends of NRA* National Corporate Sponsorship at the Defender Level. Additionally, for the second year GASTON will also make and generously donate customized Wall of Guns shirts for use at both Great American and Annual Meetings.

The NRA Foundation and *Friends of NRA* want to thank Gaston, Numzaan and SecureIt and their dedicated staffs for all the support they provide the NRA and The NRA Foundation.

**NUMZAAN SAFARIS** booking agents Ed and Linda Stevens have been involved with the South Africa outfitter for over a decade. And they are no strangers to working with the *Friends of NRA* program, either. Although Numzaan is a newcomer to the national level of NRA Foundation grassroots fundraising efforts in 2015, it had already proven to be a valuable partner in supporting the shooting sports. Field Representatives along the east coast have worked with the Stevens for several years to provide attendees with access to these exciting hunts at local events.

With over 400,000 acres of land in the Limpopo region, Numzaan is a significant outfitter in South Africa. The family-run operation functions with a true love and passion for nature, conservation and hunting that mirrors the enthusiasm for the shooting sports and hunting lifestyles of *Friends of NRA* and NRA Foundation event attendees. Having these donated hunts at local events gives people across the country the opportunity to cross something off their bucket lists with a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Africa—all while contributing to *Friends of NRA* fundraising.

This year the Stevens wanted to do something big to reach a national scale, and Numzaan Owner Stef Swanepoel eagerly backed their efforts, leading to the outfitter's commitment as a Defender level sponsor of the program in 2015 and 2016. The sponsorship includes 25 donated hunts per year to be used at local events across the country as well as at the National NRA Foundation Event at NRA Annual Meeting. Additionally, Numzaan donated a hunt to be auctioned at the NRA Foundation Event at the 2015 Great American Outdoor Show.

"Having these donated Numzaan hunts at our events in 2015 has



provided a great boost to our fundraising efforts," says NRA Director of Volunteer Fundraising Sarah Engeset. As of August, Numzaan hunts had raised more than \$230,000 total at local *Friends of NRA* events since February 2015 when events began selling the trips. This includes three events in Louisiana, Indiana and Kentucky that each raised more than \$10,000 from Numzaan hunts.

"All of us here at Numzaan Safaris have been very pleased with the support that *Friends of NRA* has extended on our behalf during this first year of our National Corporate Sponsorship. It has been a fantastic year for fundraising by many of the individual committees that have chosen to use our safari trip donation to bolster their bottom lines," shares Ed Stevens. "During this first year—really just the last seven months—we have far surpassed any expectations that we had back in January. As we move forward looking at 2016, we at Numzaan are setting our sights high for the number of dollars raised again. We realize that the future of the shooting sports, including hunting rights, depends on all of us doing what we can to raise as much money as possible for The NRA Foundation and educating our youth by supporting shooting programs nationwide."

"I'm especially proud to have coordinated this generous effort with Numzaan's contribution and thrilled to see it doing so well," says NRA Director of Industry Partnerships John da Silva. "We could use more great companies to invest in the *Friends* program and the future of the shooting sports with generous support like Numzaan's."

**SECUREIT TACTICAL, INC.**, also joined the *Friends of NRA* National Corporate Sponsor program for the first time this year, generously committing over \$125,000 in product donations for use at local events throughout the country. SecureIt provides firearm storage systems and armory design services, including a line of modular, component-based storage solutions, for military, law enforcement and civilian use. By working directly with armorers and weapon specialists, SecureIt has gained a wealth of knowledge about flexible weapon storage solutions.

One of those solutions is the Fast Box Falcon, designed to provide fast, silent access to any rifle, pistol, shotgun, and ammunition and to be stored horizontally or vertically. SecureIt donated 300 of these gun safes, valued at \$100,000, to The NRA Foundation and NRA's Law Enforcement Division competitions in 2015.

The Fast Box appeals not only to firearms enthusiasts and law enforcement, but also to everyday citizens like those at *Friends of NRA* events. The interest in this product among Field Representatives, *Friends of NRA* volunteers and attendees was clear right away. All of the donated Fast Boxes available to the program were claimed quickly by the lucky committees who could order them fast enough. The Fast Box Falcons have been available at select events in 2015, generating funds to support local and national shooting sports programs and bringing the SecureIt weapons storage platform to *Friends of NRA* attendees throughout the U.S.

"They took really good care of us as a sponsor; their commitment with the donated safes has made our job easier. However we use the product it is helping us to be successful," explains South Texas Senior Field Representative Liz Foley. "I typically use the Fast Boxes in games at events, and they are so appealing to the eye and to the demand for tactical and home



defense merchandise that they never fail to catch people's attention from across the room, especially when paired with a firearm to demonstrate its function. Beyond the cool appearance, attendees are drawn to the value of the product and its application for protecting themselves and their families, which speaks to everything we do in working to protect freedom."

SecureIt Owner and President Tom Kubiniec capitalizes on this aspect of the connection between his company and *Friends of NRA*—the motivation to promote the shared goals of safety, security and personal freedom. "Why are we supporting *Friends of NRA* and The NRA Foundation?" Kubiniec asks. "It's about goals. *Friends of NRA*'s goal is broader than ours, but this whole company comprises hunters, former military, first responders, and we all live and breathe this stuff. It's an easy decision for us."

When additional SecureIt product for use at events was made available to the field in May, the 50 Fast Box Harrier vehicle safes were snatched up just as quickly as the first Fast Box supply. "It is exciting to be building such a strong relationship with SecureIt and incorporating the Fast Boxes into *Friends of NRA* events," says Engeset. "The funds raised from these items will greatly enhance our efforts to assist shooting sports programs throughout the United States." ■

*Interested in becoming a Corporate Sponsor of Friends of NRA? Visit [www.friendsofnra.org/Corporate-Sponsors.aspx](http://www.friendsofnra.org/Corporate-Sponsors.aspx) to learn more.*

All three of these companies, along with the other 2015 National Corporate Sponsors, have combined to form a strong foundation for *Friends of NRA* from a national perspective. Their enthusiasm in providing support for the shooting sports makes them valuable allies for *Friends of NRA*, helping raise millions of dollars for the protection of America's shooting sports traditions and Second Amendment freedoms.

# WHERE TO GO TO

## FOLLOW THE LATEST NRA NEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA



While you're likely familiar with going to *Friends of NRA* on Facebook and Twitter for all your updates on cool merchandise, standout volunteers and upcoming events, do you know where to turn for information about the rest of NRA's programs? There are a number of other great social media accounts tailored for firearms enthusiasts' interests, and following them is only a click away. Find the ones that interest you and join these exciting on-line communities:



### NRABlog

The NRABlog is the hub for all news on NRA General Operations' programs, from competitive shooting to safety courses and everything in between. Be sure to bookmark NRABlog and you'll be on your way to attaining a wealth of knowledge on how to further our country's shooting heritage.



### NRA Museums

NRA Museums has had one of the world's finest museum collections of firearms since 1935, though its Facebook account is much more recent. Featuring amazing firearms photography from all three of its museum locations across the country and fascinating articles on the history of firearms technology, NRA Museums is a must follow for any self-respecting gun collector and a pretty good choice for anyone interested in guns. That's all of us, right?



# BE IN THE KNOW

By Kyle Jillson

Communications Coordinator, National Rifle Association

## NRA HUNTING

### NRA Hunting

Always stay up-to-date with hunting information and news before you go out in the field to participate in this long-standing American tradition. Plus, learn how to develop advanced hunting skills, get safety tips, and find out the latest research and tactics for hunting success.

## NRA SPORTS

### NRA Sports

NRA Sports is for all the recreational shooters out there. Whether you go to the range once a day or once a year, here's where you'll learn about all the fun things the shooting world has to offer. Learn about exciting shooting events coming up in your area, and get advice on improving your range skills.

## NRA SAFETY

### NRA Safety

From Refuse To Be A Victim® providing instruction on how to improve your personal protection strategy to Eddie Eagle GunSafe® teaching children an important lifesaving message about what to do if they find a gun, NRA Safety has useful tips and information on making sure you and your loved ones stay safe.

## NRA TRAINING

### NRA Training

The NRA is responsible for teaching tens of thousands of people each year how to become safe, ethical and responsible shooters. It is able to do this thanks to its network of more than 120,000 instructors. Receive information on our comprehensive courses for any firearm and learn tips to improve your marksmanship.



### NRA Competitive Shooting

The NRA Competitive Shooting Division is at the forefront of shooting sports in the USA, with more than 11,000 sanctioned tournaments and 50 championships each year. This is where you discover the wide variety of shooting sports and how to get involved. Get reports from the largest and most fun shooting events in the country and learn how to hone your competitive edge regardless of whether you're a novice or a world-class competitor.



### NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits

The NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits are in a different city each year. Find out where the convention for firearms enthusiasts is headed next and follow coverage of events celebrating our country's rich shooting heritage, especially the fundraising at the National NRA Foundation Banquet & Auction and Wall of Guns and other special events focused on individual interest areas like the Women's Leadership Forum Luncheon and Auction and the Hunter's Leadership Forum Luncheon.



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