

# TRADITIONS

A PUBLICATION OF THE NRA FOUNDATION



## **NRA Y.E.S.**

Hear firsthand the experiences had by students from both sessions of Y.E.S.

## **EDDIE EAGLE**

Eddie Eagle continues to soar reaching 32 million youth and adults

## **VETERAN HONOR**

Read about one D-Day Veteran's special gift from *Friends of NRA*

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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.

# Protecting our Future Leaders

How NRA School Shield Can Keep Our Nation's Children Safe

As the leaves start to fall and cooler weather prevails, many families across the country are settling into a new school year. Given the ongoing debate about what makes our nation's schools more secure, parents are right to question what is being done to protect their children.

While one cannot guarantee safety or security, steps can be taken to prevent, or at least mitigate, threats from harming our schools. More importantly, prioritizing school security should be something we all agree on. Who doesn't support a safe and secure learning environment for our youth?

Comprehensive school security requires a level of collaboration and communication few communities have been able to consistently achieve. Oftentimes, the resources required are simply individuals and time.

We have witnessed countless tragedies where technology did not perform as expected, infrastructure impeded response, policy contradicted common sense, and individuals were ill-prepared for their roles in critical moments.

While administrators struggle financially to address all operational needs on any given campus, security often takes a backseat, due to the perceived high cost of investing in complicated technology or embarking on multi-year construction projects.

The truth is, security does not have to be expensive in order to be comprehensive. If a community has a group of dedicated leaders who are willing to invest the time, preparedness is possible.

For many schools across the country, a proper evaluation of the current security posture has never been completed. How can a school know what they need to improve when they are not fully aware of what is already in place? In order to maximize already strained resources, schools are better served when they create an informed plan of action.

Fortunately, The National Rifle Association of America identified this need years ago and created the NRA School Shield program. Recognizing that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to school security, NRA School Shield seeks to facilitate a continuum of assessment and improvement for all schools to integrate, as needs demand.

We empower communities to learn how to conduct comprehensive school vulnerability assessments. We provide funding to assist in carrying out vital school security projects. Above all, we work diligently to protect our children – at no cost to the communities we serve.

Families and communities expect schools to keep their children safe from threats. No task is more important than creating a secure learning environment for America's youth.

As you read through this issue of *Traditions* and learn about the exceptional students who participated in our Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S), I ask you to consider what security measures are in place at your local K-12 schools. To learn more about how NRA School Shield can help make our nation's schools more secure, please visit: [www.nra-schoolshield.org](http://www.nra-schoolshield.org).

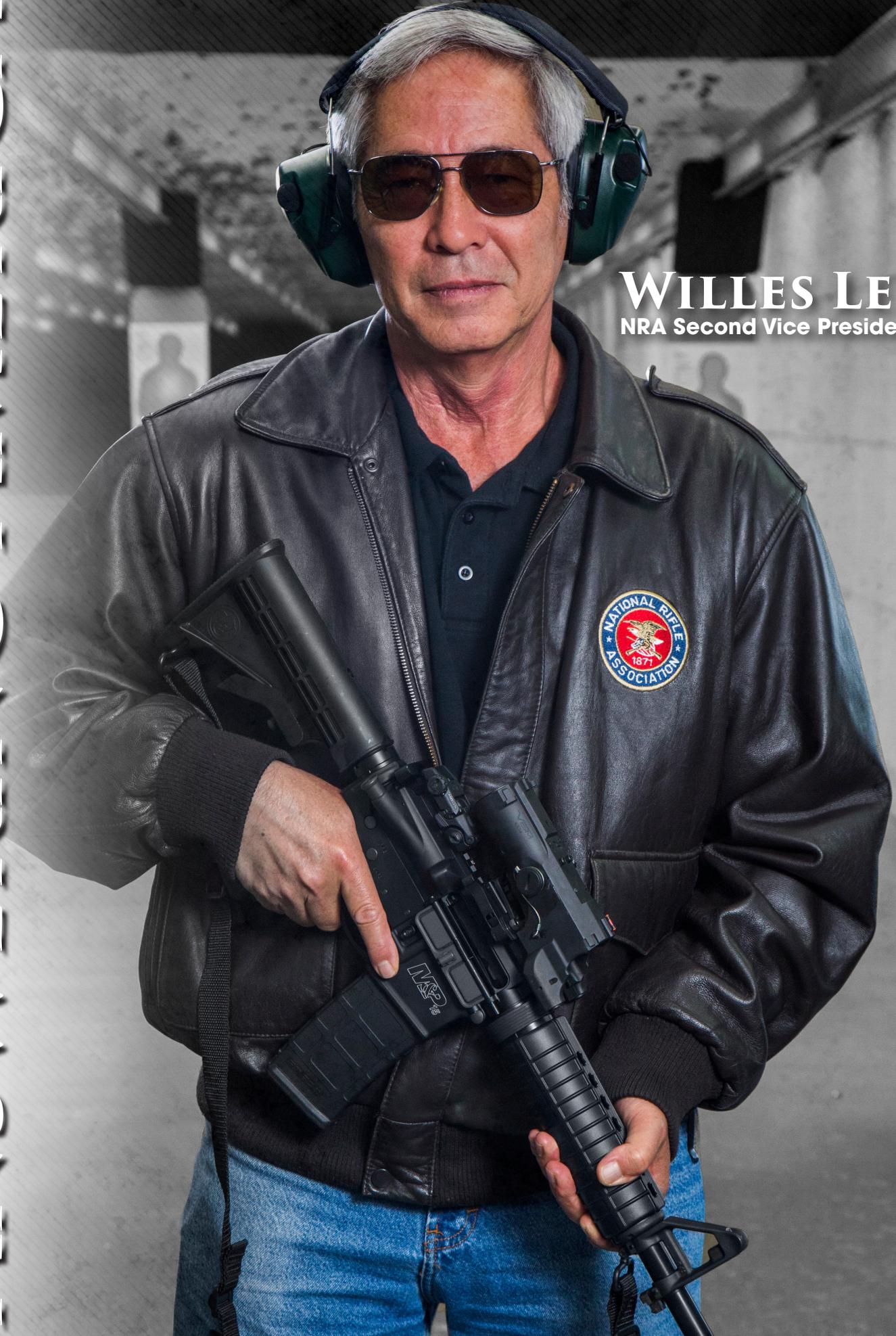
Thank you to all who make programs like Y.E.S. and NRA School Shield possible, especially our *Friends of NRA* volunteers. Together, we are protecting our communities and safeguarding our freedoms.

**Sheila Brantley**  
Director, NRA School Shield



ANSWERING AMERICA

**WILLES LEE**  
NRA Second Vice President



# Q & A with LTCOL WILLES K. LEE (RET)

## ★ HOW LONG HAVE YOU SERVED ON THE NRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

I filled a vacancy on the Board in January 2017, was elected to a two year term in 2017, and was honored to be elected to a traditional three year term in 2019. It's been a fast-paced two and a half years as an NRA Director. I am glad to be able to contribute to the crucial work of the NRA. However, I ran for re-election because of the people. My friends and family can see how much I enjoy being around our great NRA members and our committed Board of Directors. I take pride in working closely with our dedicated NRA staff and the amazing Wayne LaPierre. It is an honor to serve in any capacity with the NRA. I am humbled that our Board of Directors elected me into a leadership position. As NRA Second Vice President, I am an ex-officio voting member of all committees. It is a privilege to be appointed by NRA President Meadows to several NRA committees, including chairman of three which are dear to my heart - Military and Veterans' Affairs, Outreach, and Education and Training - and to help lead a few other initiatives and programs.

## ★ YOU'RE A MILITARY MAN. TELL US WHY YOU DECIDED TO SERVE OUR COUNTRY AND BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR MILITARY BACKGROUND.

There are professions as noble but I feel that there are none more noble than defending our nation. It is an honor and privilege to defend our United States and our Constitution. Only 1% of the population is selected to do so.

The U.S. Army was our family business. And, proudly so. My father served 50 years - 30 on Army active duty, 20 more in the National Guard Bureau. He turns 100 in a few months. My older brother served 38 years in the Army. Our second brother is a West Pointer, served 32 years. I graduated from West Point and served 22. It is an honor to have defended our country.

An Armor officer, with M60 and M1 tanks, I also spent time in operations. In the Cold War, my tank troops on the Czechoslovakian border were to stop a Russian onslaught. Another tour of duty was leading Army operations against terrorism in Europe. I was the Division Operations Officer for Desert Shield, then fought Desert Storm in a tank battalion. We served two tours in the Pentagon with the Joint Chiefs of Staff where everyone on that staff is the cream of the crop. One was in national nuclear operations and the second tour was overseeing non-stop current operations around the world.

## ★ YOU SPOKE AT THE 2019 YOUTH EDUCATION SUMMIT (Y.E.S.) SESSION 1 IN JULY. WHAT DO YOU SEE IN THE YOUTH TODAY THAT INSPIRES YOU FOR THE FUTURE?

Every one of us should be grateful for and proud of our NRA Foundation and the *Friends of NRA* for providing the resources to conduct the Youth Education Summit program (Y.E.S.). These Y.E.S. young ladies and gentlemen are inspirational through their leadership, commitment, and intensity. Being selected and graduating from our competitive Y.E.S. program separates them from their peers. Y.E.S. graduates are leaders, and they are the future defenders of freedom. They also like to have fun. I enjoyed being with them, hearing about their experience in Washington, D.C., and assisting with the presentation of scholarships to those who excelled during the week.

## ★ IF YOU HAD TO GIVE A 16-YEAR-OLD ONE PIECE OF ADVICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

For any youth, my advice is to get out of your comfort zone. Be humble. Be bold. And, have a rock. Mine is Christ.

## ★ WHY DO YOU THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO PROTECT OUR SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS?

Protecting the Second Amendment is important because that's how we protect freedom. The Second Amendment affirms our God-given right of self-defense - from danger and from tyranny. The NRA Foundation educates Americans on the importance of the Second Amendment, and helps fund programs where people can train, compete, and enjoy this sacred right.

## ★ THE MILITARY IMPACTS MANY PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT WAYS. WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST IMPACT THE MILITARY HAS HAD ON YOUR LIFE?

In 26 years, there are a lot of experiences in peace and war. Almost all are good, some very bad. The thing that sticks after a lifetime in the service to our nation is the West Point motto - Duty, Honor, Country. The people with whom I served, in general and specific terms, had the biggest impact. We're all volunteers. Men and women of honor and integrity and commitment.

In the defense of freedom, who would you die for? Who would die for you? What would you die for? I was surrounded by soldiers and their families sacrificing greatly to honorably serve our nation and each other. I wouldn't trade that bond for anything.

## ★ DESCRIBE THE MOST REWARDING EXPERIENCE SO FAR IN YOUR CAREER.

The most rewarding experience is having the privilege of defending freedom. Growing up in a military family and being in the military with my family defending freedom around the world is rewarding. It is a very difficult and often dangerous life. I'm privileged to continue defending freedom with the NRA by being a board member, and attending special events such as the Youth Education Summit.

## ★ SHARE YOUR FIRST RECOLLECTION OF USING A FIREARM. HOW OLD WERE YOU AND WHO TAUGHT YOU?

I was around firearms all my life, long before handling one. My first shot was at four or five years old on our family farm with my father. I now have his sweet .22 semi which everyone in my family and extended family used to learn firearms safety and also how to shoot. Then, by seven, I'd accompany my father on hunting trips in Europe where he was stationed, sponsored by our U.S. Army base Rod and Gun Club.

## ★ WE KNOW YOU ARE A BIG DEFENDER OF FREEDOM. HOW DO YOU FEEL WE SHOULD INDUCE A FEELING OF PATRIOTISM IN TODAY'S YOUTH?

Patriotism grows in the home and neighborhood through parenting and mentoring. I told the Y.E.S. students that they should go home and tell their parents, "I love you." That's for raising them correctly. Defending our culture and freedom is cultivated in the home. You don't have to serve in the military to be patriotic. But you must have appreciation for the freedoms hard-gained through the blood of others, love and respect for our flag which symbolizes our freedom, and an understanding of the unique role the United States has in the world and in history.

# Y.E.S.

## THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

By **Diane Sohn**

*Marketing & Communications Manager, National Rifle Association*

We have said it many times before, but this year was just no different: The 2019 Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.) was a success! Sixty-one of the nation's brightest students arrived for two sessions of Y.E.S. to take part in the experience of a lifetime...and to compete for up to \$50,000 in scholarships.

The Y.E.S. adventure began on a Monday when all the students flew into the Washington, D.C., area. Most of day one was spent getting to know each other and settling in. 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, Eddie Eagle Gunsafe® program, Women on Target, NRA Clubs and Associations, NRA School Shield, Refuse to be a Victim®, and more. Attendees heard from NRA leadership, Tyler Schropp, Executive Director, Office of Advancement; Joe DeBergalis, Executive Director, General Operations; and John Fraser, NRA Secretary about how the summit attendees' support and involvement is vital to the future of the Second Amendment and the National Rifle Association of America. The students explored the National Firearms Museum, then made their way down to the NRA Range. First, all passed the NRA Range test and received a thorough review of each firearm that would be used, proper handling, correct stance and safety by the exceptionally experienced staff at the range. Then it was time for the fun! They all took their turn at shooting handguns and rifles of various calibers.

Much of the rest of the week was spent in our Nation's capital. The students toured the Capitol Building, the House Gallery, National Archives, American History Museum, and the Newseum. They also visited many of Washington D.C.'s historic monuments, like the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials, the Roosevelt and Martin Luther King Memorials, and the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials.

During the summit the attendees learned about the United States Military by visiting the National Marine Corps Museum, the 8th & I Marine Corps Parade and the Arlington National Cemetery. At Arlington, they visited 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."

In addition to learning about our Nation's history, military, and government, the summit attendees participated in formal debates and current event discussions. In teams of five or six, students debated on topics such as the minimum age to purchase firearms, religion in schools, vaccines, and the 2020 Census. The current event topics were designed to get the students to devise solutions to many of the world's problems such as natural disaster resources, mental health, legalizing marijuana, campus carry, and red flag laws.

The Youth Education Summit concluded with an awards banquet and keynote speakers Carolyn Meadows, NRA President and Willes Lee, NRA Second Vice President. They reminded the youth to take back what they learned at Y.E.S. and apply it to their lives and community, and to hang on to the relationships they built at the summit. ■

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*Now it's your turn! NRA is issuing a call for all young leaders interested in making a difference for the 2020 Youth Education Summit! The summit will run Monday, July 13 through Sunday, July 19, 2020. To apply please email [yes@nrahq.org](mailto:yes@nrahq.org). The application deadline is January 24, 2020. Applications are available at <https://yes.nra.org/application>.*



**//** This year's Y.E.S. was the best leadership program I have ever attended. I was challenged by the activities and inspired by the speakers. Thanks to Y.E.S., I now have the tools I need to transform my community and lead the Second Amendment into the future! **//**

-Sarah Frantz, PA



# SESSION ONE

# Y.E.S.



## MILITARY MILITARY MILITARY MILITARY ★

By Brayden Teague  
*2019 Youth Education Summit Participant*

Throughout my NRA Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.) week, we visited many of the monuments dedicated to the United States men and women who have served in different conflicts, as well as branches of service. In the process of doing so, we were provided the personal opportunity to pay our respects and reflect on the sacrifices made by those heroes forever enshrined within said monuments. While the activity of reflection may appear mundane in comparison to the other activities partaken in throughout our Y.E.S. week, in retrospect, it was this activity I most enjoyed and cherished. If not for the protection afforded by our military, the incredible experience provided to me through Y.E.S. would not have been possible, and the uncountable freedoms enjoyed within this country on a daily basis would be non-existent. In light of this fact, it stuns me that I often find myself negligent of appreciating these men and women in my daily life and that it took a trip to a faraway city to cause me to reflect, and pay our military the respect they so rightfully deserve.

Given the importance of appreciating and respecting our military, it becomes apparent that this same appreciation and respect must be passed on to future generations. This fact is even more apparent when considering the increasing necessity for our military's presence worldwide, and the increasing need for servicemen and women. How can our country continue to function without a culture of military appreciation that inspires citizens to serve? The simple answer is that it can't. In the words of John F. Kennedy, "Guard zealously your right to serve in the Armed Forces, for without them, there will be no other rights to guard." In this sense, America is not so much defined by its borders, but rather by its ideals, and the freedoms we as citizens possess. Without our military, America would not have the freedoms it does today. Without our freedoms, America would cease to have the same value as it does today. For this reason, it is our generation's responsibility to sow in the minds of our youth an appreciation and respect for our nation's military; that in doing so, our nation will continue to prosper while holding fast to the freedoms hard won by our veterans. By continuing a culture of military appreciation, our nation will remain the beacon of hope that it is today; a shining city on a hill, illuminated with freedom for all the world to see.

# FREEDOM **FREEDOM** FREEDOM **FREEDOM** ★

By Savannah Sisk

2019 Youth Education Summit Participant

For me, one of the most moving parts of the NRA's Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.) was our tour of the National Archives, when we were able to see in person the Constitution in all its original glory. Each Y.E.S. student got the chance to read for themselves the precious words that make our nation so unique. I'm sad to say that those words, our inalienable rights, have lost much of their power in the minds of many Americans. As I was reading the document, I couldn't help but wonder if the founding fathers ever imagined that the freedoms it guaranteed would be questioned by the very citizens it governed. Calls to "repeal" the Second Amendment would have been seen as outrageous fifty years ago; now such appeals rise in popularity. It seems that in every turn, every freedom this country was built on is mocked, targeted, and attacked by those that wish to destroy our country and everything it stands for from the inside out. Every assault on the freedoms we cherish confirms the necessity of events like Y.E.S. that teach future generations to love, teach, and preserve freedom with every breath. Our Constitution faces threats both domestic and abroad, and the future of our nation's liberty hangs in the balance. For me, Y.E.S. was a wake-up call. The rights I exercise every day are considered a luxury in many countries across the globe, and for too long, I've simply assumed they'd always be there.

In the preamble of our Constitution, our founding fathers outlined exactly why the freedoms contained within should not and could not be dissolved by any form of government. Each freedom protected by the Constitution allows the American citizen to live and believe as they choose to, so long as it does not cause harm to someone else. Every aspect of Y.E.S., from current events debates to sitting in on a congressional committee hearing, sought to teach us the importance of holding our government accountable, especially in regard to preserving the liberties our Constitution ensures. Through Y.E.S., students from different regions, interests, and backgrounds were able to discuss how our Constitutional freedoms can provide real solutions for the diverse social, political, and economic problems that we face as a nation. Y.E.S. brought students from across the country together as future leaders in the struggle to maintain our freedoms, that we might preserve them for the generations that follow.

At Y.E.S., each student was reminded of the tremendous price paid every day for our ability to exercise our freedoms. The rights we bear come with a steep cost, and all too many Americans forget that cost in their rush to redefine the Constitution. Our nation stands divided, but our Constitution is clear. The rights endowed by our creator are not simply words on an aging document; they are the essence of America.

*Brayden Teague, Nick Rutherford, Glen Mezza, and Hunter Seymore lay the wreath at The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier*



*Savannah Sisk shooting a Ruger 10/22 rifle at the NRA Range with guidance from NRA Certified Instructors*



# GOVERNMENT GOVERNMENT GOVERNMENT GOVERNMENT

By Chloe Bencomo

2019 Youth Education Summit Participant

News outlets and the media make representatives of Congress and Senators out to be self-centered people. I used to have little to no faith in the government, however, after attending the Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.) and learning about our government, my perspective has changed.

During my visit to the Texas Capitol through my state Y.E.S., I saw first-hand the hard work that goes into being a lawmaker. From having a second job, working long overtime hours and being away from their families, the legislators I met are truly remarkable people who love their country and want to make it better.

My trip to Washington, D.C. further expanded my views and beliefs about government. While in Washington, D.C., I was privileged to meet Representative Olsen from my home state of Texas. I was happy Representative Olsen took time out of his busy schedule to meet with us. Even though the media is controlling the narrative of a Congress that is not willing to work on today's pressing issues, my interactions during my visit proved otherwise. Furthermore, speeches from representatives at Y.E.S. offered a more in-depth look at how laws are made, thus allowing my knowledge and love for government to flourish.

We are the future of this country, and in an effort to continue to pass on the inalienable rights we were given to our future generations, it is essential that we get involved. A study conducted by the University of Annenberg Pennsylvania Public Policy Center found that only one in three Americans can name any branch of government. It also found that only one in four can name all three branches of the government. If this trend continues there can be catastrophic effects. Our inalienable rights given to us could potentially be taken away. America was built by the people and for the people. If we as Americans do not understand our government, how are we expected to be a part of it? It is evident that many young people are not knowledgeable when it comes to government issues, and as a rising senior, I look forward to sharing the knowledge that I learned during this amazing trip.

*Congressman Pete Olsen and Chloe Bencomo, both from Texas, pose for a picture*



*Lacey Swab, Meg Messitt, and Kainoa Keauli getting ready for their debate presentation*





## HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY ★

By Mikayla Sedgwick

2019 Youth Education Summit Participant

Over the week at the NRA Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.), we learned about our Nation's history and why it is important to remember. From the origins of our country to the Vietnam and Korean Wars to 9/11 and everything in between, we saw how history has shaped our country.

Remembering our heroes who died for our country by visiting Arlington National Cemetery and the war memorials, you realize how our history must never be forgotten. After visiting the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington and watching the wreath laying ceremony, I felt an overwhelming sense of respect and sadness. Truly it was a life-changing experience, thinking about how these soldiers lost their lives and their identity fighting for our country's freedom.

Throughout history, we have had many wars and every war has a place in our country's heart. The heroes who gave their lives must be remembered as well as those who served. When we visited the National Archives museum, we were able to see the original documents of the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and the Bill of Rights. When looking at those documents that were written hundreds of years ago, it really made me think. Our forefathers were smart and had such insight into how to create an amazing country.

I was astounded at the level of detail in the writing, and how much care and time was put into each and every document. Every word in these documents is critical to the founding of our country, and that is why they took such pride and care in writing what we now live by.

After visiting George Washington's Mt. Vernon, I gained a newfound respect for Washington. He had turned down absolute power not just once but twice. How strong must a person be to be able to resist the sweet temptation of having absolute power? How strong their morals must be and their determination to not be another Britain. History has found a way into all of our lives one way or another, it affects us every day even if we realize it or not.

From the original founding documents that set up our government and rights to holidays in remembrance of those who died fighting for our country, remembering our history is essential if we want to continue to move forward as a country, because if we do not remember our history, how can we be sure we will never repeat it?



## CITIZENSHIP CITIZENSHIP CITIZENSHIP CITIZENSHIP ★

By Dawson Boys

2019 Youth Education Summit Participant

Andrew Jackson once said, “Every good citizen makes his country’s honor his own, and cherishes it not only as precious but as sacred. He is willing to risk his life in its defense and is conscious that he gains protection while he gives it.” I feel that the context of this quote has changed a little. When he said this, he was inferring that one must be willing to actually risk their life in defense of this country. Whereas now, it could be interpreted more as just standing up for our country and fighting to keep our rights and freedoms. Not so much in war but by voting, paying taxes, and defending the constitution by reminding people why we have our rights and freedoms. In today’s society, you can lose friends over things like this, and I feel that this quote, risking your life can refer to risking your friends while standing up for what you believe in.

A few weeks ago, I received the honor of attending session one of the NRA Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.). I got the chance to meet so many new people and learn so many new things. One of the biggest topics I learned about was citizenship. After observing people and learning new things, I realized it is important for people to know their rights as a U.S. citizen.

One of our most important responsibilities as a citizen is voting. It enables you, the citizen, to choose our government. It also allows we, the people, to choose our representation in the government. It enables us with the right to question the government about issues and request further clarification. Voting is a way to express our opinions as citizens of our democratic nation. Voting is crucial to activating the democratic process in our country.

John F. Kennedy once said, “Political action is among the highest responsibility as a U.S. citizen.” If you don’t take action by voting, you have no say in what goes on in the government. The only way to change something you don’t like in the government is to vote. If everyone understands and exercises their responsibilities as a U.S. citizen, we could function as a more smooth running country.

# GROWTH **GROWTH** GROWTH **GROWTH** ★

By Theo Chau

2019 Youth Education Summit Participant

During my tenure at the NRA Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.), a significant observation I made was how much our values have changed. From 1776 until now, our idea of what is morally acceptable has changed drastically, whether good or bad. From slavery to needless conflict, there are many incidents and ideas throughout our history as a nation that we can look back and describe as morally abhorrent. I write this not to denigrate our past or claim that we are better, but merely as matter of fact. No society in history has ever been perfect, and no one ever will be. The only thing that we as a nation can do is learn from our mistakes. As a farmer learns the intricacies and needs of each of his crops through trial and error, hard lessons and experiential growth are essential to consistent progress towards a better society.

A huge part of growing as a society is having the ability to consider both sides of an argument, not simply the side that you personally agree with. During the debate portion of Y.E.S., I was assigned to argue for an idea that I and most of my peers were against, something I found extremely difficult. While it was hard to act like the underdog in the room, the experience I had made me realize something; those who we disagree with and argue against aren't simply "the enemy," but people who have different life experiences than we do. In fact, our opinions resemble theirs much more than we'd like to admit. Much like the principles of good debate, differences in opinion are built on the gray area of subjective reasoning rather than the black and white of facts. I believe that even if our opinions don't change, putting ourselves in other's situations can help us sympathize with the concerns of our fellow man, and in the process help us understand our own opinions better.

If I were to describe it metaphorically, I would say the path of life is akin to a road trip, with the exception that life has an emphasis on the journey rather than the destination. As a traveler walks a road with determination and encounters roadblocks, our lives have holes and fences that demand we learn harsh lessons and adapt in order to overcome. With the given concept of travel comes the presumption of progress, and a person who ignores life's lessons will find themselves continually struggling with the same issues. Today, when the youth of the world would rather blot out the mistakes of the past than learn from them, we are dangerously close to repeating the worst of history's mistakes.



# END OF WEEK SCHOLARSHIPS

## ★ SESSION ONE ★



**\$5K** Brayden Teague **NC**

**\$3K** Sarah Crosby **WA**  
Zane Watson **AR**  
Savannah Sisk **TX**

**\$2K** Stephanie Weber **CT**  
Meg Messitt **NY**

## ★ SESSION TWO ★



**\$4.5K** Cobey Ledford **NC**  
Hanna Wacuziski **MA**

**\$3K** Eric Dowd **IL**  
Hays Turner **VA**

# 2019 GRAND SCHOLARSHIPS



## Thomas Wegmann - Indiana

Over the past year, Thomas has dedicated his time to promoting the Y.E.S. program and sharing his experience. He attended ten Friends of NRA events, speaking to groups as large as 1,000, thanking them for the experience they supported. He wrote letters to grant recipients asking them to consider applying for the summit. Thomas has a gift for journalism and submitted articles on Y.E.S. and the Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program to many publications including Traditions magazine, The Washington Examiner, East Allen Courier, West Bend News, and other local publications. He was awarded "Outstanding Spokesperson for Freedom" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) for his presentation on NRA School Shield. Mr. Wegmann took the opportunity to present NRA programs at many speaking engagements and also volunteered at The NRA Foundation BBQ and Auction in Indianapolis, IN at the NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits. This is merely a sampling of all the ways he worked to bring NRA Foundation supported programs to his local community and state. Great job Thomas!!

## Faith Wealot - Georgia

It is no surprise that Faith was voted "Miss Y.E.S. 2018" by her peers. She is a true champion of the Y.E.S. program. She shared her summit experience at seven Friends of NRA banquets as well as the Georgia state grant meeting. Faith was quick to step up and help out when asked to write for Traditions magazine and the NRA Foundation blog.



## Connor Covington - Tennessee

Connor partnered with local law enforcement to present information on the Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program at events throughout his community. He also presented his Y.E.S. experience at the Smyrna Tennessee Friends of NRA banquet. Connor has attended four of the past five NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits, and has submitted a proposal to help promote Y.E.S. at future national events.

## Hunter Lindemann - Arkansas

Hunter left Y.E.S. with a mission to promote the Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program and the Youth Education Summit. He presented Eddie Eagle to five grades at a local elementary school, reaching over 400 students. Hunter also shared his Y.E.S. experience with Arkansas State Representative, Charlene Fite. He attended his local Friends of NRA banquet to thank attendees for the opportunity that was provided to him and educate them further on the summit. To round out his efforts he wrote an article for Traditions magazine and spoke to his local trap team about Y.E.S.



# SESSION TWO Y.E.S.



## HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY ★

By Lauren Welsh  
*2019 Youth Education Summit Participant*

I had no idea at the beginning of my week at the NRA Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.) how much I was going to learn in such a short period of time. The NRA staff taught us in a way that made everything interesting and showed us the importance of our nation's history while inspiring us to take what we learned back into our communities.

Our week started with a tour of the Capitol building where we got to sit in the House Chambers and go on a guided tour through the building. Having never been to Washington, D.C. before I really enjoyed the hands-on experience that visiting the Capitol gave us, while also seeing all the history inside the Capitol building. Seeing firsthand all of the people who have given so much for the idea of a better world gives me so much hope in knowing what is ahead.

We followed our tour of the Capitol building with a lecture in the Supreme Court. As we sat in the courtroom and learned about how the highest court system in the country works, I listened in awe of the justices' responsibility to our country. We heard examples of past cases that have dramatically affected the United States, and I was reminded of how influential their jobs are, as they make history with every case they see.

Later in the week, we visited the National Museum of the Marine Corps and Arlington National Cemetery where I saw the sacrifices that are made for our freedom. After we left, I felt extremely grateful for all the men and women who have served and currently serve our country and protect us. It is important that those who go before us are remembered so that we can learn from our past and continue to move forward. I think Y.E.S. does a great job of capturing the important parts of our history and helping us learn from it.

We toured many other museums and memorials, including the National Archives, the American History Museum, the Lincoln Memorial, George Washington's Mount Vernon, and so many more. All week I was overwhelmed by the history documented in each of the places that we visited. As we explored Washington, D.C., I had a great time with my new friends and learned so much about the history of our country. I am very grateful for the opportunity I was given to go to Y.E.S. and experience the history of our country in a new way.

# GOVERNMENT **GOVERNMENT** GOVERNMENT **GOVERNMENT**

By **Shelby Sumner**

2019 Youth Education Summit Participant

The National Rifle Association's Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.) is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience. With everything from a visit to the NRA Headquarters, shooting at the NRA indoor range, touring the Capitol Building, the Supreme Court, and several monuments throughout Washington, D.C., no other trip provides an all-encompassing experience that teaches youth about the Second Amendment and the active role that it continues to play in government.

The week starts out with hearing from a variety of people that work at NRA Headquarters so that we have a chance to learn more about programs that the NRA provides. With as often as the Second Amendment comes under attack, and with people constantly trying to implement stricter laws and regulations regarding gun control, there are several opportunities available to those who wish to defend gun owners' rights.

Later in the week, we also were able to tour the Capitol building, all the while learning about the roles that Representatives and Senators play in passing laws, including those that have been put in place for gun control. Furthermore, we learned about the crucial role that the government plays in shaping the future of the Second Amendment.

This brings me to my personal favorite part of the week – debates. In the weeks leading up to the summit, each team, composed of three to four kids from across the country, we were able to communicate and research with our teams about our assigned debate topic. In our prepared debates, we had rounds of pro and con, and each side had the chance to give a rebuttal to the opposing side's argument. For this debate, we had time to work as teams during the week to practice our presentation and further collaborate to create a more powerful argument. Additionally, we had impromptu current events debates, in which we had different debate teams, and we were not given our debate issue until fifteen minutes before we were to present our side of the debate.

These tasks were challenging, but they were extremely effective for preparing us for having to defend heavily debated topics such as shooting sports and the Second Amendment in the real world. This is often a difficult job but is one that must be done. One of the fundamental ideas taught to us throughout the week was the importance of staying engaged and active in our communities.

In conclusion, I recommend the NRA Youth Education Summit for those who feel strongly about protecting our right to keep and bear arms! Throughout the entire program, you are given a chance to see places and monuments in and around Washington, D.C., all while connecting what you learn to your passion for the Second Amendment.

*Congressman Dan Newhouse from WA speaking with Y.E.S. students on the Capitol steps*



*Shelby Sumner with her debate group; William Parker, Megan Miller, and Jason Ding*





## FREEDOM FREEDOM FREEDOM FREEDOM ★

By Victoria Kelly

2019 Youth Education Summit Participant

Freedom is not free. This familiar phrase standing out on the wall greets visitors to the Korean War Veterans Memorial. This concept, that freedom is always worth fighting for, has inspired so many to serve their country and give the ultimate sacrifice. At the World War II, Vietnam, Korean, and Marine Corps War Memorials, I saw testament to what their sacrifice means to our country and reflected on what it means to me. Through the entire NRA Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.) experience, I learned more about my responsibility to freedom.

Preserving freedom requires more than a military; it requires constant care from all of us against internal threats. As I walked among the exhibits at the National Firearms Museum, I felt that enormous responsibility to ensure that this legacy of our American rights will never cease.

At one point in our tour of the Capitol, the guide spoke about the First Amendment as containing our fundamental freedoms. Often I see people, like him, who think only of the freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petitioning the government for a redress of grievances when they think of freedom. I remember thinking then how freedom is actually so much bigger, yet founded in such a simple concept—that the government is to operate by consent of the people, and therefore have far less power than the people. That is the true meaning of freedom.

Our freedom is innumerable rights that let us make our own life decisions. At Y.E.S., we exercised some of these rights. We shot at the NRA Shooting Range. We practiced our free speech in current events discussions and debates. We experienced our Capitol and Supreme Court, both institutions meant to answer to us as a free citizenry, and we saw the foundations of American freedom at the National Archives.

Freedom lets us live our lives how we want and stand up for what we believe in, under a government meant to only protect each person's rights to life, liberty, and property from being infringed on by another. Call me naive. I know that is not the world I live in now. I know it is easy to think that all ordinary people can do is vote but never actually make a difference. At Y.E.S., I learned that simply is not true. I came home with new knowledge, connections, hope, and determination. Freedom, starting with the right to own and bear arms, will not be easy to defend, but it will be what I never stop fighting for.

# GROWTH GROWTH GROWTH GROWTH ★

By Ben Reitzel

*2019 Youth Education Summit Participant*

Coming from New York, my exposure to the NRA and my Second Amendment freedoms prior to the NRA Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.) was limited. However, from the time I stepped off the plane at Reagan National Airport, the excitement and learning didn't stop. Right from the start, it was very easy to notice that the staff was there for us and their friendliness helped to create a positive environment that continued throughout the week.

The first day, which was spent at the NRA headquarters, acquainted each of us with the vast amount of work the NRA does in the community, both gun-related and non-gun related. From programs such as Eddie Eagle for teaching youngsters gun safety to School Shield, which helps schools address the many safety problems they face today, the NRA does a lot of work even critics would recognize as admirable. Getting the chance to question and hear from department heads helped me realize that if a group such as the NRA doesn't stand up for our constitutional rights, who will? Aside from the Firearms Museum and great lectures, getting to shoot at the NRA Range was the pinnacle of the day. The instructors were friendly and offered the students tips and tricks that instantly improved their accuracy.

Although we didn't return to headquarters, much of the rest of the week was spent exploring our nation's beautiful Capital. The city is rich with history, contained in its many museums and government buildings, and afforded many of us a rare chance to experience it firsthand. Seeing with my own eyes, the words "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed" permanently etched into the Constitution of the United States moved me and made me recognize just how much has been sacrificed since the Revolutionary War to preserve these God-given rights. In order to prepare us for defending our positions, we engaged in several debates over the course of the week. From this, we learned and improved valuable skills like public speaking, researching, and most importantly, debating.

The week has offered so many opportunities to me and my fellow Y.E.S. students. From making friends for life to giving us the tools we need to change our country for the better, we return home with renewed vigor to promulgate and defend our inalienable rights. With the help of donors and the staff, I left a better citizen and individual than when I came.



# MILITARY MILITARY MILITARY MILITARY ★

By Sebastien Bautista

2019 Youth Education Summit Participant

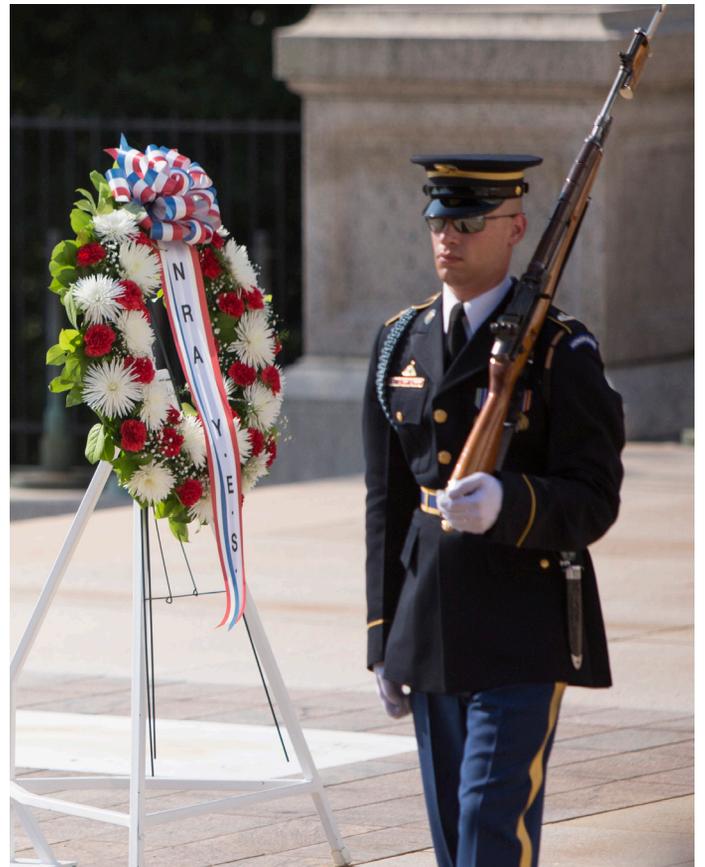
Beginning at a young age, I grew up with a keen interest in the military. Going into high school, I had the goal of being able to attend the United States Naval Academy for college. Throughout the week, Y.E.S attendees had the opportunity to explore and learn more about the nation's military. We were exposed to the valorous servicemen who willingly served their country in the name of freedom from the Revolutionary War era to the modern era. Through various activities throughout the week such as museums and monument tours, the feeling of pride in our nation's armed forces rose in all of us.

Despite my many visits to Washington, D.C., our visit to the Marine Corps Museum was the first time I had ever been there, and it quickly became my favorite museum that we visited on the trip. Upon entrance to the main exhibit, we were showcased how Marines were trained, with a heavy focus on the intensity of the training. The intense training it took to be able to become a Marine showed that the military does not take just anyone, but rather, is comprised of the best of the best soldiers, showing that our freedom is in good hands.

The following day, we attended the 8th and I parade at the Marine Barracks. Prior to this visit, this was the first time I had heard of the parade. Our leader, Diane Sohn, previously told us that many people say that the parade was a lot of Y.E.S attendees' favorite part of the week. I wondered what could be so special about it, however, five minutes in, I knew why. It quickly became the highlight of my Y.E.S. week as well. The spotless uniforms of the Marines and the polished and pristine look of their rifles quickly caught my attention. The unison of their actions shows the unity of the American spirit throughout our history.

On the final day, we visited Arlington Cemetery. I was chosen to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, an honor I will never forget. Being able to give a salute to the fallen while "Taps" was playing was a feeling I will never forget. At that moment, all I felt was patriotism and pride in being able to call myself an American. Being able to shake a Sentinel's hand will forever be a memory I'll cherish and hold dearly. As I paid my respects to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we may live the lives we do today, I promised myself that I would be next to hold the line, to defend our country, at all costs.

Through the week, not only being able to learn about the gallantry of our nation's military through museums but also being able to meet those who currently protect us so that we may sleep safely instilled a feeling of patriotic sentiment within all of us. Much like the Marine motto, "Semper Fidelis," which means "always faithful," our nation's military answered the call to serve, knowing that they are risking their lives for no other reason but to protect the country they love. Knowing that these brave and courageous men and women are the ones who watch over the nation, it shows that our beloved America can continue to *let freedom ring!*





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# SNAPSHOT

A WEEK OF FUN, LEARNING, AND FRIENDS WITH THE **YOUTH EDUCATION SUMMIT**



- (1) Students from Session 1 participating in a mock *Friends of NRA* banquet filled with prize winning games.
- (2) The ladies of Session 2 pose for a picture on the Capitol steps!
- (3) Newly arrived Session 1 students participate in icebreakers to get to know each other before dinner.
- (4) Jack Johnson from TX giving his debate argument at Hillsdale College.
- (5) Y.E.S. Session 2 having fun with Eddie Eagle, learning the *STOP!, Don't Touch, Run Away, and Tell a Grown-Up* dance.
- (6) Y.E.S. Session 1 listening to Texas Representative, Pete Olson, on Capitol Hill.



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- (7) Taking a selfie with some of our awesome Session 2 chaperones at the American History museum.
- (8) Glen Meza and Hunter Seymore at George Washington's Mount Vernon home.
- (9) Theo Chau from Session 1 stating his team's argument during debates at Hillsdale College.
- (10) Group of Session 2 students prepare their current event topic arguments.
- (11) Session 1 participants enjoying a day on the Potomac after visiting Washington's Mount Vernon Manor.
- (12) Y.E.S Session 2 participant, Jonathan Gulak, making a set during a volleyball game at the park.

# EDDIE EAGLE CONTINUES TO Soar

By Eric Lipp

National Manager, Community Outreach, National Rifle Association

The Eddie Eagle GunSafe® program is a gun accident prevention program that for over 30 years has helped keep kids safe. Under past NRA president Marion P. Hammer, the program was developed by a task force made up of educators, school administrators, curriculum specialists, urban housing safety officials, clinical psychologists, law enforcement officials and National Rifle Association firearm safety experts. It began in 1988 with one mission: teach children four simple, easy to remember steps so they know what to do if they ever come across a gun. In 2015 the NRA introduced a fresh, new Eddie and added some friends—his Wing Team. Though Eddie has evolved, his mission has not. Now celebrating its 30th anniversary, Eddie and his friends are still focused on telling children that if they see a gun, they need to *Stop! Don't touch. Run away. Tell a grown-up.*

You talk about stranger danger, Internet safety, fire drills and more with children...so why not include gun safety? The program makes no value judgments about firearms, no firearms are ever used, and it covers an important topic that needs to be addressed with kids. Like swimming pools, electrical outlets and matchbooks, firearms are simply treated as a part of everyday life. With firearms found in about half of all American households, it's a stance that makes sense.

The Eddie Eagle program continues to move forward with its mission and is proving to be as successful as ever. In fact, the program had its most successful month in program history recently when it supplied over 220,000 materials to children for safety events! Partnerships with law enforcement continue to be the foundation of success as they work with their communities at multiple levels, from in the schools to various summer safety events. In 2018, well over a million children received Eddie Eagle's important safety materials, and thousands of families learned about Eddie Eagle through EddieEagle.com where they can take Eddie's safety quiz, participate in interactive activities, and watch the Eddie Eagle movie.

With four different levels of activity books from Pre-K through the fourth grade, the Eddie Eagle program materials were designed to fit right into the school curriculum. Offered for free to educators, and with readily available instructor's guides online, teachers have everything they need to educate their students on how to stay safe. Thanks to local educators, hundreds of thousands of children learn how to stay safe if they encounter a firearm.

Eddie Eagle's presence around the country has never been greater. A child might learn about Eddie Eagle at their elementary school, at various law enforcement safety events across the country, the amazing Eddie Eagle Kids Zone at the Great American Outdoor Show held in Harrisburg, PA, and multiple other outdoor shows. With over 450 Eddie Eagle mascot costumes around the country, any number of local community events can feature Eddie. The Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program should play a part in all school-age children's lives, and the NRA is committed to doing all it can to promote its important safety message. ■

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*Does your communities' youth know what to do if they find a firearm? Bring Eddie Eagle to your town today to ensure their safety! Visit <https://eddieeagle.nra.org> for more information.*







# OHIO'S FIRST CLAY BUSTERS

By Faith Wealot  
2018 Youth Education Summit Participant

The Badin High School Clay Busters team was the very first high school trap team in the state of Ohio. The team got their start eight years ago in 2011, and they are having a tremendous influence on growing the trap sport in the state and encouraging other teams to join as competitors. The team attributes a large amount of their success to the *Friends of NRA*. The team was started by Mark Arnold in hopes that his son and other students could participate in a high school trap team to compete and grow their shooting skills. Mark had nearly 10 years of coaching experience under his belt between coaching Boy Scouts and 4-H shooting sports, and was able to step in as Head Coach for the Badin High School Clay Busters.

During the first couple of years, students would often have to drop out of the shooting program before the end of the season due to the cost of practices and competitions. Coach Arnold looked for solutions and in 2013 applied for a grant from *Friends of NRA* on behalf of his team. The Baden High School Clay Busters received approximately \$5,000 dollars that year and each year since. Their 2019 grant totaled \$6,000 to support the shooting sports. Grant money from The NRA Foundation helps alleviate some of the financial stress for participants and their families by supplying approximately two-thirds of the ammunition required throughout the season (April-August), and two months of safety training (February-March). The team has experienced exponential growth over the past six years. The Baden High School Clay Busters ended their first season with just nine competitors. 2019 saw 39 students competing regularly on the team.

The clays team offers the opportunity for all 8th- 12th graders to try their hand at shooting trap through a trial run. If they find a passion for the sport, they can commit to being a member of the team. More than a dozen new students try out the sport every season. The team has had tremendous success with the help of grants from The NRA Foundation. They were the 2017 National Champions, and took 23 students from Baden High School and six students from surrounding schools in their district to compete at the Grand Nationals, hosted in Illinois this past July.

“The success of this team would not have been possible without the generous funding generated through the *Friends of NRA* and the incredible financial support consistently provided the team throughout the years.”

Coach Arnold and the team have assisted in starting trap teams at five different schools, and they are currently helping another three teams get programs launched. They are able to help these schools develop trap programs of their own by inviting them to come observe and participate in their practices to see how a great program operates. Baden High School is lucky to have Coach Arnold and his commitment to the shooting sports. But he’s quick to share the credit: “The success of this team would not have been possible without the generous funding generated through the *Friends of NRA* and the incredible financial support consistently provided the team throughout the years. The team can always be found at Butler County *Friends of NRA* events, and volunteering to run games at the huge annual banquet, as well as helping with the live auction and doing whatever it takes to help the night run smoothly. After each practice, competition, or *Friends of NRA* banquet, at the end of the day, the biggest reward is being able to see the smiles on students’ faces for the progress and growth they achieved in support of the sport that has their heart.” ■

Visit [www.nrafoundation.org](http://www.nrafoundation.org) to apply for a grant to fund programs near you! To learn more about *Friends of NRA* in Ohio, visit [www.friendsofnra.org/OH](http://www.friendsofnra.org/OH).





# JROTC

By Alex Henry  
2017 Youth Education Summit Participant

Lewis County, Kentucky, is home to the Lewis County High School U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC), led by Senior Army Instructor Kibbey Hilger. This JROTC program was started in 1987, and fifteen years later created their own rifle team. This rifle team, coached by Hilger, has been competing heavily for the last four years and has been placing very well. During their recent competition at the Western Kentucky regional match, the team placed third overall.

The NRA Foundation, it's *Friends of NRA* program, and the Lewis County High School Army JROTC have been connected for the last three years through NRA Foundation events and grants. The NRA Foundation grants have "rocketed our program to the next level of equipment," according to Hilger. The JROTC program has been the recipient of more than \$15,000 over the last 5 years, and when asked how Hilger heard about the grants, he replied, "I've known about them for a while, we just never took the time to apply. When I finally applied, a combined six hours on the computer got us \$15,000!" These grants have helped the program attain more advanced equipment and materials, leading to the team being able to attend more competitions. The teammates have benefited from The NRA Foundation grants in numerous ways such as; better training, better equipment, better shooting, and even more opportunities for scholarships.

The NRA Foundation grants have allowed Lewis County to start hosting their own competitions which include dozens of counties in three states. Their recent match in February 2019 included 64 competitors from eight schools and is expected to expand in 2020, according to Hilger. The support from the community was tremendous with over 200 spectators attending. The competition



provided the perfect opportunity for the Lewis County *Friends of NRA* committee to share information about the *Friends of NRA* program, and offer raffle ticket sales which raised money that goes back to their community.

One could say Lewis County is economically challenged, but they have one of the largest *Friends of NRA* events in the state. With the assistance of Hilger's JROTC program, the students assist the *Friends of NRA* banquet any way they need, but mainly by giving "more manpower" to the committee. The JROTC students have helped with setting up the event, directed the parking of cars, assisted with auctions, and anything else that they have been asked to do.

Lewis County High School JROTC instructors strive to teach the students critical thinking and presentation skills, lifelong learning abilities, how to be good citizens with responsibility for their actions, and to treat others with respect. The program offers the opportunity for competition, a sense of belonging, physical training, and leadership skills. All of these skills and abilities allow for the JROTC program to be successful. The Lewis County High School Army JROTC has definitely made their presence known in the shooting sports community, and they intend to keep it that way with the continued help from The NRA Foundation and *Friends of NRA*. ■

Visit [www.nrafoundation.org](http://www.nrafoundation.org) to apply for a grant to fund programs near you! To find a *Friends of NRA* event in Kentucky, visit [www.friendsofnra.org/KY](http://www.friendsofnra.org/KY).

# THE GREATEST GENERATION



It all started with a pocket watch brought to an Arkansas *Friends of NRA* banquet in 2015. In the middle of the auction, Committee Chair David Henry pulled Arkansas Field Representative Erica Willard aside. He asked her if he could stop the auction and find the oldest veteran in the room so he could give him or her the special watch. David presented this watch to Bob Whitkanack (U.S. Army) to honor the service and sacrifice of a man who unfortunately hears fewer “thank yous” for his service as the years go by.

After that banquet, a new tradition was born in Arkansas. Now at each auction, any piece can be sold to a buyer who gifts it to the oldest veteran in the room. “It is truly an incredible part of our events, because you never know which veteran will be in the room and how much it will mean to them,” Erica noted.

By Gianna Guzzo  
2017 Youth Education Summit Participant

It's nowhere near what any veteran deserves as a token of thanks, but it is a way Arkansas *Friends of NRA* is stepping-up to remember and honor those who risked their lives for our nation's freedom. This year Keith Wood, a committee member from Washington County, was attending the Ozark Area *Friends of NRA* dinner when he stepped up to honor the oldest veteran. Just a few days before was the anniversary of D-Day, which made the award this day particularly special. Keith announced that everyone at this banquet was honored to have a D-Day veteran in their presence. At 98 years old, Archie David Vanlandingham was attending the *Friends of NRA* event as a supporter of the freedom he once risked his life for when he battled German troops in Europe over 70 years ago.

When Archie, as he likes to be called, lost his ability to drive a few years ago, his caretaker Phyllis took him in, and he became "Grandpa" to her entire family. Grandpa went wherever they went, including *Friends of NRA* banquets. Phyllis gave him a family, and the *Friends of NRA* has given him purpose. Phyllis said, "Archie looks forward to the banquet every year. He is still pretty sharp and knows when it has been about a year and time to go to the banquet again." He is loved and appreciated after having spent many years alone.

Archie enlisted into the Army July 18, 1942, at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock, Arkansas. His unit was Company M of the 317th. They first fought in Africa and the Middle East, then they were sent to Normandy for the invasion of Europe. This American, of German descent, fought the Germans to secure freedom for Europe. From D-Day to Victory in Europe, he was awarded the European – African – Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon with 4 Bronze Battle Stars (Battle Campaign Stars are for – Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe), one Service Bar for Overseas Service, a Good Conduct Medal, a Combat Infantryman Badge, as well as the Purple Heart because he was hit with machine gun ricochet in battle, but continued to fight for the remainder of the war.

Archie also served as Section Leader with Headquarters 80th Infantry Division 44. As Section Leader, he was in charge of the positioning, aiming, and firing of a 16 man squad consisting of two 81MM Mortar guns. Under his rank as Staff Sergeant, Archie's section could be at one spot one day, and over ten miles away to surprise the Germans the next. To do this, they would travel by motor vehicle as fast as they could all night long. The Germans thought they were fighting a million-man army because Archie's troops were so fast and stealthy. They appeared to be everywhere! Archie left the Army on October 19, 1945, at Camp Garrett, Illinois.

On June 4th, 2019 at the Altus *Friends of NRA* banquet, Archie was awarded the Oldest Veteran Award. He had no idea he was up for an award when he walked into the banquet. Phyllis described how a look of shock, surprise, and even a bit of fright came over his face, not realizing what was happening. She turned to him and explained, "They are honoring you, Archie." Phyllis also noted they usually do not attend both of their local banquets every year, because it provides a little bit of change and surprise for Archie, but also because if they do, he usually wins the award at both banquets. The first time they did take him to both, and he was selected for the award a second time, Archie turned to the next oldest veteran behind him, and handed him the award saying, "I already received this award. Now it is your turn, this one is for you." His selflessness and dedication to giving back to his community and country has lasted a lifetime.

The Oldest Veteran in the room award began with a simple pocket watch and evolved into a tradition for these committees to find, recognize, and honor true American heroes. There is so much more that should be done for veterans, but recognizing their service and dedication to American freedom at *Friends of NRA* banquets is a good place to start. ■

*Attend your local Friends of NRA banquet and help spread the fun of firearms and fundraising! To find an event near you, visit [www.friendsofnra.org](http://www.friendsofnra.org).*



# Dedicated, Growing, and Clay Shooting

By Megan Brown

2016 Youth Education Summit Participant

Zumbrota-Mazeppa High School in Zumbrota, MN is home to a dedicated team of shotgun shooters who love to compete in the exciting sport of trap. In its infancy, the trap team only had eight students. The 2019 team has grown to an impressive 45! According to Coach Kyle Mearkens, the school's trap team is one of the biggest teams at Zumbrota-Mazeppa High, even rivaling the football team. And, the team members get a varsity letter, just like any other school sport.

"The students always do their best to make it to our Wednesday practices. If it snows, the kids try to make-up for missed days when they can," said Coach Mearkens. With all the snow they had this past year, it was harder than normal to get out to practice, but the students didn't complain and worked to make up the days as best as possible. Some students even come to practice right before heading to their jobs, or make sure to practice directly after. It's easy to see that the Zumbrota-Mazeppa Clay Shooters are dedicated to the sport, despite any extenuating circumstances. "These are some of the best kids in the school," said Coach Mearkens. "You couldn't find a more dedicated and respectful group anywhere. They are an amazing team to get to work with and get to know."

**"These are some of  
the best kids in the  
school."**



Photos courtesy Kyle Mearkens

The trap team provides safe and friendly competition for everyone who participates. The students especially love being able to compete against more than 330 other high school teams in the Minnesota Clay Target League Championships each year.

Trap coaching wasn't always in Coach Mearkens' plans, but he loves getting to see the kids develop their skills every practice and see team friendships grow. Coach Mearkens said the team offers the students a sport to get involved in where "everyone gets to participate, no matter what skill set. No one gets left out." The Zumbrotta-Mazeppa Clays Shooters are strong in their belief that everyone should be able to participate, "regardless of financial situation."

The school is increasingly supportive of the trap team, but they do continue to face challenges with funding. Instead of only relying on the school, the Zumbrotta-Mazeppa Clay Shooters look to local funding and NRA Foundation grants funded by *Friends of NRA* to help with expenses. Without grant funding from The NRA Foundation and other local support, he says it would be much harder to cover the costs of the team.

In the past three years the team has received more than \$6,200 cash as well as product, like cases of shotgun shells from The NRA Foundation. The team volunteers at community events because, "shooting sports strengthen connections with families and communities." One thing is for sure: the school system can't ignore Coach Mearkens and the trap team anymore as it has become a pillar of Zumbrotta-Mazeppa High School and its community. ■

**"Shooting sports strengthen connections with families and communities."**

Visit [www.nrafoundation.org](http://www.nrafoundation.org) to apply for a grant to fund programs near you! To learn more about *Friends of NRA* in Minnesota, visit [www.friendsofnra.org/MN](http://www.friendsofnra.org/MN).



# It's All About Ability!

By **Gianna Guzzo**

*2017 Youth Education Summit Participant*

In Fresno, California, an organization has been breaking down the barriers veterans face each and every day in their adjustment back to daily life. Named “The National Role Model for Inclusion” by the U.S. Department of Education, Break the Barriers, Inc., a non-profit organization, has been educating the community, country and world about the importance of recognizing the unique abilities we each possess. “Disabled” is a word you will never hear used by anyone from Break the Barriers. The organization prides itself on being an ability center, which celebrates individuals’ differences, accomplishments and triumphs.

As Board of Directors president Mike Hernandez says, “Why must these people be labeled as disabled veterans? They are veterans, and that is what we refer to them as.” This organization provides more than 500 veterans a place to go, twice a week, where they are seen for more than their lost limbs, lost sight, or lost hope. The veterans are given opportunities to shoot Olym-

pic-style air rifle and archery, both recreationally and competitively.

For 35 years, the program has been expanding its reach to include as many people as possible. Over the past three years, Break the Barriers has significantly expanded their veteran air rifle, archery, and biathlon rifle programs with the support of grants from The NRA Foundation. Hernandez noted how easy The NRA Foundation made the grant process. “Everything is clear cut, and the website contains the helpful information you need. Most other places are many times more complicated than The NRA Foundation in the follow-up aspect of the grant process.”

100% of the grant Break the Barriers received from The NRA Foundation was used for veteran program supplies. Every pen-



ny was used to purchase rifles, some archery equipment, and their special green pellets. “We had to devise a new pellet drop stop because our pellets are special lead-free green pellets made to comply with California laws for indoor shooting,” Hernandez explained. Though expensive, the equipment and special ammunition are priceless when you hear veterans say this program helped them overcome their PTSD and alleviate depression. Really, how do you put a price tag on that?

This program gives veterans tools to integrate back into daily life with their families and communities. The shooting programs are open to all veterans regardless of ability, race, gender, or financial situation. In fact, the programs are free to anyone who has, or is currently serving in our armed forces, thanks to NRA Foundation grant funds by *Friends of NRA*. Hernandez is quick to give credit to supporters, “The *Friends of NRA* grant funds were used exclusively to purchase top of the line equipment, which has helped the competitive shooters bring home gold medals.”

More valuable than any medals though, Hernandez often hears, “Your shooting program gave me the confidence I didn’t think I had anymore.” As veterans enter the facility, they see children from Break the Barriers’ other 27 programs. These children may be in wheelchairs, have missing limbs, or vision loss, just like the veterans; however, the veterans also see these same children going to school, playing sports, and winning competitions. They tell Hernandez all the time, “When we go in through your doors and we see kids and adults who have difficulties like us, it gives us hope that we are going to be okay and we will be able to go on.”

Hernandez made it an important point to express the necessity of helping veterans transition back into society and their family lives. “Many live in isolation. We created this program to be inclusive. We can’t segregate and isolate them, because even by providing one-on-one lessons based on differing abilities would still classify them by their impairments,” he explains. “The pro-

gram’s reach goes far beyond the shooting sports themselves. Our shooting sports are simply a tool we use to help people, who then regain purpose to go out and help other members of the community.”

Funding for archery and air rifle equipment from The NRA Foundation helps Break the Barriers “educate everyone who walks through their doors, even those who may not have had a previous interest in the shooting sports.” Participants may have a wrong impression, or no impression, of the great benefits that the shooting sports can provide. These shooting programs help to remedy that among the uninitiated who often exclaim, “Wow, this really is safe!” after seeing the Break the Barriers shooting range for the first time.

“We created  
this program to  
be inclusive.”



The NRA Foundation grant was an incredible opportunity for this growing program to expand and touch more lives. “We have a waiting list because we can’t get enough equipment. The waitlist was significantly shortened because of supplies the grant allowed us to obtain,” said Hernandez. Grants are all about partnership. The partnership between Break the Barriers, The NRA Foundation, and our veterans is three years old and growing strong. The organizations have put their shared values to work in order to better the lives of the American heroes who risked it all for our freedom.

Local *Friends of NRA* chairman, Harry, and NRA Field Representative, Sheila Boer, clearly see the value and importance of the work of Break the Barriers and people like Mike Hernandez. The NRA Foundation and its *Friends of NRA* program are proud to support such efforts. ■

*Know of a local program in your area that could benefit from an NRA Foundation grant? Apply today at [www.nrafoundation.org](http://www.nrafoundation.org).*



# PROVEN THROUGH TIME

By Ashley Re  
Event Marketing & Communications Coordinator,  
National Rifle Association

Long-time supporter of The NRA Foundation, Weatherby, Inc. is a company from passionate beginnings with a 74-year history and deep roots in the firearms industry. Adam Weatherby, third generation leader and president takes his role just as seriously as those who came before him. And it shows – Weatherby, Inc. has solidified itself in the world of automation and prides itself on superior craftsmanship.

Weatherby, Inc. was started in 1945 as a sporting goods store in Southern California by Adam’s grandfather, Roy Weatherby. Roy was a thinker, tinkerer, and innovator who identified shortcomings and designed his own cartridges for exceptional performance. Ed, Roy’s son, took over for his father in 1983, continuing his father’s traditions of pride and exceptional craftsmanship. “Taking the lead of a third-generation world-renowned firearms manufacturer is a privilege that I don’t take lightly,” says Adam (Ed’s son). “The reputation for superior craftsmanship and ballistic superiority that my grandfather and father built is one that I hope to not only maintain, but build upon.”

Weatherby, Inc. has been a strong supporter of The NRA Foundation and its *Friends of NRA* program for many, many years. Weatherby partners with *Friends of NRA* to help raise funds for the future of the shooting sports by offering some of the latest rifles and shotguns to local banquets, as well as participating in the *Friends of NRA* standard package and vendor direct programs. *Friends of NRA* is excited to include Weatherby once again in the 2020 standard package.

2019 brought a big change to Weatherby – perhaps one of the biggest changes in the company’s history. Weatherby, Inc. moved from its original homestead in Southern California to the rural, open land of Wyoming. “There are several reasons why we moved from California to Wyoming. First off, I recognize a deep heritage and history that came from California. We had many great team members over the years who contributed toward our success. However, the business and climate of the state concerning firearms has changed substantially in California. We ended up leaving the most populous state for the least populous, the highest taxed to the lowest, and arguably the strictest gun control measures in the country to the state with more firearms per capita and locals who passionately defend

the Second Amendment,” stated Adam. “With direct access to some of the country’s best big game hunting, there just couldn’t have been a better fit for Weatherby than Sheridan, Wyoming. We have been welcomed with wide-open arms, and the state has shown us in every possible way that Weatherby belongs in the Cowboy State.”

Benefits aside, moving a 74-year-old company more than 1,000 miles away from its original headquarters did not come without challenges. Not only did Weatherby leave the state that had housed them since inception, they also lost many great employees along the way. “Losing 75% of our workforce was certainly difficult. We said goodbye to many long-term, valued Weatherby employees. However, we are fortunate to have had nearly 3,500 applicants for the 50 available positions,” recalled Adam. “As I pull up to our new facility each day and see our new team, I am reminded of what it took to get here and the promising future that now lies ahead.”

With the move complete, Adam and his team are excited about the future of Weatherby, stating that they “have nearly doubled the size of our facility in a brand new building customized for our operations.” Additionally, Adam shared that they have an outstanding team that shows up to work passionate about seeing Weatherby thrive well into the future. “We have an ambitious product road map with plans to continue our vision of inspiring the dreams of hunters and shooters. Overall, California represents a rich heritage and Wyoming represents the potential for a bright future.” The local Wyoming *Friends of NRA* committee was excited to reciprocate the support shown by Weatherby over the years by attending their grand opening.

This year at the 148th Annual NRA Meetings and Exhibits in Indianapolis, Weatherby donated a Mark V® Wyoming Gold Edition Commemorative rifle with serial #71 of 200. The NRA was founded in 1871, making this a special collectible for any Second Amendment supporter. “This rifle is a great representation of our relocation. The serial numbers begin with WY and the floorplate has a custom gold ‘Bucking Horse and Rider’ that is popular here amongst the citizens of Wyoming. The stock was hand selected exhibition grade Walnut with a custom checkered Bighorn Mountain scene. All this to say, we gladly donated one of these rifles for the live auction at the Foundation BBQ & Auction,” explained Adam.



**“WEATHERBY IS COMMITTED TO DEFENDING THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS AND BELIEVES IT IS CRUCIAL TO THE FREEDOMS OUR COUNTRY WAS FOUNDED ON.”**

Adam and his team at Weatherby are definitely passionate about firearms but they also care deeply about about the Second Amendment. “It is of great importance that we continue to protect the Second Amendment. Weatherby is committed to defending the right to bear arms and believes it is crucial to the freedoms our country was founded on. The focus on the destruction of the Second Amendment by many in our country is only a diversion from the real problems we are facing. We must defend our right to bear arms. Our freedom depends on it,” stated Adam.

Weatherby values passion, teamwork and integrity, and according to Adam, their team members strive to understand and live out these core values every day. “There are a lot of things that I am proud of here at Weatherby, but the team that we have assembled is perhaps our greatest recent victory. I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish in the months and years to come,” noted Adam. “Weatherby exists to inspire the dreams of hunters and shooters. We recognize that the products we build and sell are more than just products. We are a part of creating memories and sharing experiences. Whenever we ship a product out the door, we know that many stories will be told about that firearm, often for generations.” The NRA Foundation is proud to have support from a company with such values. ■

# SHOULD YOU APPLY?

## 10 Reasons To Apply For Y.E.S. 2020!

- 1 You will get to learn about the history of our country.** Even if you have seen the Washington, D.C. area before, we can promise you that you have not seen it as you will at the Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.). Summit attendees will get to tour historical sites around our nation's capital. "During my Y.E.S. experience, I enjoyed visiting the numerous veteran memorials and monuments throughout Washington, D.C. Our freedoms are hard-won, and gaining this understanding through Y.E.S. has made me all the more motivated to protect and preserve these freedoms for ours and future generations," says Brayden Teague, NC, Class of 2019
- 2 You will get to meet some of the NRA Leadership.** The first full day of Y.E.S. is spent touring NRA Headquarters in Fairfax, Va., and during this time you'll be introduced to a variety of NRA programs and services by the very people who run them. You will also have the opportunity to hear from members of the NRA Leadership team and even get the opportunity to ask them questions.
- 3 You will see—and shoot—some of the coolest guns ever made.** Speaking of shooting, it just wouldn't be a visit to the D.C. area without a tour through the NRA National Firearms Museum. Although anyone can visit the museum, it's a special treat to get a personal tour courtesy of Senior Curator Doug Wicklund. Next, there's a trip to NRA's range. It's not necessary to know anything about guns prior to the summit; the session is complete with a comprehensive safety class and how-to instruction, followed by actual trigger time.



# Y.E.S.

- 4** **You will gain skills that will serve you for the rest of your life.** One key focus of the Youth Education Summit is the ability to think, reason, research and marshal a debate. Before the summit starts, each student is assigned to a team, a topic, and a pro- or con-stance. You may or may not actually agree with the position you're asked to defend, so participating in these debates is an exercise in flexible thinking as well as public speaking.
- 5** **You will have the opportunity to visit many sights that highlight America's military history and the sacrifices made by members of the armed forces, who contributed to the many freedoms we enjoy today.** You'll have a front-row seat for the Changing of the Guard and a wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. You will get to tour the National Marine Corp Museum and visit the Iwo Jima Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, and the WWII Memorial. You will sit front and center for the famous "8th and I" parade.
- 6** **You will get to see the documents that tell our nation's history.** During the summit, you will tour the National Archives Museum, which is the home to more than three billion records in total, including the three most important documents in American history: the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.
- 7** **You will learn something new.** Do you know how long it took for the Vietnam Memorial to be built? What does it take to become a Sentinel of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier? How long does the average case takes to get before the Supreme Court? Where do you stand in the Capitol building to vividly hear whispers from 20 yards away? Which state is misspelled on the Constitution? You will know these answers if you attend Y.E.S.
- 8** **You will make new friends.** Although Y.E.S. attendees come from all over the country and all sorts of different backgrounds, spending a week engaging in friendly debates and sharing experiences always leads to new friendships. "The Youth Education Summit is an experience I will never forget. It was amazing to hear everyone's perspectives on different issues and be surrounded by like-minded people. I know I will keep the friendships and relationships I made at Y.E.S. for a very long time!" states Stephanie Weber, CT, Class of 2019
- 9** **You will compete for up to \$50,000 in college scholarships.** Scholarships are awarded to outstanding summit attendees at the close of the week, with additional scholarships going to the Y.E.S. student or students who best demonstrate the lessons they've learned in D.C. once they return back home. You can earn consideration after going home in a variety of ways—arranging a visit from Eddie Eagle to a local school district, working with *Friends of NRA* to put on a banquet...even writing an article for NRA blogs or publications like *Traditions* magazine!
- 10** **You won't have to pay for it!** The Youth Education Summit is an all-expenses-paid experience. That means your airfare, your transportation costs while in D.C., your lodging and your meals are all covered. The only thing you'll need to worry about is pocket money in case you'd like to pick up some souvenirs.



**What Are You Waiting For? The Youth Education Summit is open to high school sophomores and juniors. The 2020 summit will run July 13- 19, 2020 and applications will be accepted through January 24, 2020. To apply email [yes@nrahq.org](mailto:yes@nrahq.org) or apply online at <https://yes.nra.org/application>.**

# DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO APPLY!

## 2020 GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINES

### WESTERN REGION

<b>AK</b> 11/01/19	<b>ND</b> 11/08/19
<b>HI</b> 11/06/19	<b>OR</b> 12/03/19
<b>ID</b> 10/31/19	<b>SD</b> 11/08/19
<b>MN</b> 11/13/19	<b>WA</b> 11/19/19
<b>MT</b> 11/05/19	<b>WY</b> 11/07/19

### CENTRAL REGION

<b>IA</b> 10/03/19	<b>MO</b> 11/13/19
<b>ILN</b> 12/05/19	<b>MI</b> 12/04/19
<b>ILS</b> 11/15/19	<b>NE</b> 10/17/19
<b>IN</b> 12/12/19	<b>WI</b> 10/01/19
<b>KY</b> 11/26/19	

### EASTERN REGION

<b>CT</b> 11/13/19	<b>NYU</b> 09/04/19
<b>DE</b> 10/17/19	<b>OH</b> 11/07/19
<b>MA</b> 11/13/19	<b>PAE</b> 10/15/19
<b>MD</b> 11/07/19	<b>PAW</b> 10/15/19
<b>ME</b> 11/01/19	<b>RI</b> 11/13/19
<b>NH</b> 11/01/19	<b>VA</b> 11/07/19
<b>NJ</b> 11/13/19	<b>VT</b> 11/01/19
<b>NYL</b> 11/13/19	<b>WV</b> 11/20/19

### SOUTHWEST REGION

<b>AZ</b> 10/04/19	<b>CAS</b> 10/23/19
<b>CAC</b> 10/23/19	<b>CAM</b> 10/23/19
<b>CAE</b> 10/23/19	<b>NV</b> 10/30/19
<b>CAN</b> 10/23/19	<b>UT</b> 10/31/19

### SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

<b>AR</b> 11/19/19	<b>OK</b> 01/09/20
<b>CO</b> 10/31/19	<b>TXN</b> 11/14/19
<b>KS</b> 10/31/19	<b>TXS</b> 11/14/19
<b>NM</b> 11/15/19	<b>TXW</b> 11/14/19
	<b>TXE</b> 11/14/19

### SOUTHERN REGION

<b>AL</b> 12/18/19	<b>MS</b> 12/18/19
<b>FL</b> 09/05/19	<b>NCE</b> 11/01/19
	<b>NCW</b> 10/01/19
<b>GA</b> 11/21/19	<b>SC</b> 12/10/19
<b>LA</b> 12/18/19	<b>TN</b> 12/27/19

GRANT APPLICATION AND INSTRUCTIONS MAY BE ACCESSED AT

[NRAFOUNDATION.ORG/GRANTS](https://nrafoundation.org/grants)

\*Dates subject to change

**NOTE:** Deadlines listed by State Fund Committee (state abbreviation with regional designation where applicable)

# THE **NRA** FOUNDATION

TEACH FREEDOM

## How and when did you get involved with *Friends of NRA*?

I was hired as an NRA Field Representative to start the *Friends of NRA* fund raising program in Ohio on January 3, 1994. At that time I was a volunteer for one of the conservation groups.

## What did you do in your previous life...

I worked 18 years for American Electric Power. During my tenure there, I started working on the Line Construction crew and was working in the Engineering department when I applied to work at the NRA as a Field Representative for Ohio.

# REP WRAP

## Name 5 things you can't live without...

My wife, family, faith, my dogs, and life on the farm.

## What are your retirement plans?

To spend more time with my family, expand my farm, and grow a 1,000 pound pumpkin. I also want to stay involved with this great organization, The NRA.

## What is the biggest takeaway you've gained since working with the *Friends of NRA* program?

That there are thousands of great volunteers who work endless hours to support the shooting sports and The NRA Foundation. I have become friends with a great many of these volunteers and have loved working with them. We would not have the great program today without our volunteers, and I would like to express my appreciation for all they do!



## Philip Gray

RETIRED DIRECTOR OF FIELD STAFF



# FRIENDS OF *Freedom*

## 2018 AREA VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR



### **Sarah & Kenny Lamb**

Chairman & Co-Chair, Brazoria County *Friends of NRA*

"Sarah and Kenny are a pair of kind, respectful, hard-working individuals who do the most for the *Friends of NRA*. Both actively strive to grow their programs and events while raising the most possible money, even when the unexpected might happen."

- *NRA Senior Field Representative, Liz Foley*

### **Michael & Teresa Craley**

Treasurer/Volunteer, White Rose *Friends of NRA*

"With a strong passion for the Second Amendment and a desire to influence change, the Craley family has made a huge impact on me, as well as the other volunteers for White Rose *Friends of NRA*. They continue to be dedicated volunteers as they spread the word about all the great opportunities the NRA has for shooters, as well as championing *Friends of NRA*."

- *NRA Senior Field Representative, Kory Enck*



### **Roy Gross, Jr.**

Chairman, Roanoke Valley *Friends of NRA*

"Roy is involved in every aspect of planning, working, supervising, and completion of their annual *Friends of NRA* event. He certainly goes well above and beyond in every aspect of his commitment to the *Friends of NRA*."

- *NRA Field Representative, Michael Swackhamer*

### **Kendell Roberts**

Chairman, Garden City *Friends of NRA*

"Kendell is a proven leader by taking his team out of the planning room and into the real world of fundraising. He is highly thought of by his committee for his leadership and guidance. His drive is evident in his wanting to make the committee solid and grow in an upward direction."

- *NRA Senior Field Representative, Brad Dreier*



### **Steven Raquet**

Chairman, North Central Indiana *Friends of NRA*

"Steven is an exceptional leader who is always willing to try new things in order to grow in membership size and fundraising capability. Even in tough situations, he is able to hold his composure in order to bring success to events to keep everyone on track."

- *NRA Indiana Field Representative*

### **Brian Scoles**

Chairman, Ada *Friends of NRA*

"Brian is involved with many programs and activities in his community. That in itself brings integrity to his work for his committee's *Friends of NRA* event. Brian is always looking for better ways to improve and grow the success of his event. This comes easy to him because he has a very creative mind."

- *NRA Senior Field Representative, Darren DeLong*





**Kim Shirkey**  
Treasurer, Clovis *Friends of NRA*

"Kim has really stepped up this year and has attended five mid-California *Friends of NRA* events as a floating treasurer and has helped newer committees with different aspects of their events. Her dedication shows in her ability to commit time to the *Friends of NRA*."

- *NRA Field Representative, Sheila Boer*



**David Chancellor**  
Chairman, Laurel *Friends of NRA*

"David has a strong moral character and leads his team of volunteers with a happy heart and smile. He is very well known in the community and state as well as surrounding states for his jovial wit."

- *NRA Field Representative, Bobby Berthelot*



**Jerry Black**  
Volunteer, Lexington *Friends of NRA*

"Jerry is as great of a leader as he is a volunteer. For the past thirteen years, he has gone above and beyond simply volunteering at our local banquets. Jerry's hard work and dedication to the advancement of not only our banquet, but the growth of the *Friends of NRA* organization is nothing short of admirable and simply inspirational."

- *NRA Senior Field Representative, Doug Merrill*



**Joseph Martinson**  
Co-Chairman, North Metro *Friends of NRA*

"Joseph is always bringing a positive, can-do attitude to the team and is always helping out on the State and local levels. Joseph's passion for the Second Amendment can be seen through his dedication to working and coordinating events around the state. He dedicates time to work with the local trap team, while actively promoting the *Friends of NRA*, as well."

- *NRA Field Representative, Eric Linder*



**Rich & Trudy Jackson**  
Chair & Treasurer, Treasure Valley *Friends of NRA*

"Trudy and Rich Jackson have worked many hours throughout the Treasure Valley, around the state of Idaho, and across the Pacific Northwest promoting Idaho *Friends of NRA* and The NRA Foundation. They live and breathe Idaho *Friends of NRA*. They do not need a "Special Location" to promote Idaho *Friends of NRA*!"

- *NRA Senior Field Representative, Steve Vreeland*



**Jon Hirons**  
Chairman, Rhode Island *Friends of NRA*

"Jon is an enthusiastic individual who is always showing his dedication to the *Friends of NRA*. He is constantly looking to improve himself and his committee to bring the best out of their work. As a teacher and business owner, Jon never fails to be in his community as he supports the Youth Education Summit, the shooting sports, and especially the *Friends of NRA*."

- *NRA Field Representative, Craig Decker*



**Steve Langlie**  
Chairman, Burleigh County *Friends of NRA*

"Steve has shown excellent leadership of his committee. He keeps all members informed and involved in planning for their event. Steve's excitement for the program is contagious and it spreads to other committee members easily. He is very committed to the mission and does all he can to ensure its preservation."

- *NRA Field Representative, Doug DeLaRoi*



**Kenny Unkefer**  
Chairman, Tuscarawas Valley *Friends of NRA*

"Since Kenny has taken over the banquet, I have seen a large change in the entire committee's volunteer network. They now know what is going on and are trained when they show up to volunteer at their banquet, they know what they are doing. Kenny leads by finding out what makes his committee members tick and then works towards their strengths."

- *NRA Senior Field Representative, Marc Peugeot*

THE NRA FOUNDATION  
11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD  
FAIRFAX, VA 22030

**THE NRA FOUNDATION**  
TEACH FREEDOM

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THE NRA  
FOUNDATION

# APPLY NOW FOR **Y.E.S. 2020**

## LEAD THE LEGACY

APPLY NOW FOR THE 2020 NRA'S YOUTH EDUCATION SUMMIT!  
JOIN OTHER SECOND AMENDMENT SUPPORTERS FOR AN ALL  
EXPENSES PAID, WEEK-LONG ADVENTURE IN OUR NATION'S  
CAPITAL YOU'LL NEVER FORGET!



[yes.nra.org/application](https://yes.nra.org/application)

**APPLICATIONS DUE DATE JANUARY 24**