

# TRADITIONS

A PUBLICATION OF THE NRA FOUNDATION

## DEFENDING FREEDOM THROUGH EDUCATION

The NRA Foundation uses non-political means to protect the Second Amendment

## DEDICATION DRIVES SUCCESS

Recognizing the outstanding commitment of Friends of NRA's 2014 Volunteers of the Year

## HENRY AND MOSSBERG

Two National Corporate Sponsors of Friends of NRA contribute to the success of national Foundation events

## HITTING A HIGH NOTE IN MUSIC CITY

THE NATIONAL NRA FOUNDATION  
BANQUET & AUCTION



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### Hitting a High Note in Music City

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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.





## **THE NRA FOUNDATION SUPPORTING THE SECOND AMENDMENT, INSPIRING ADVOCACY THROUGH EDUCATION**

**By James W. Porter, II**

*NRA Immediate Past President and President of The NRA Foundation*

At the 2015 NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits in Nashville, a crowd of more than 2,000 attendees, volunteers and guests gathered at the National NRA Foundation Banquet & Auction which kicked off the weekend's series of events. I had the opportunity to address this group of avid supporters of the shooting sports and the Second Amendment and to reflect on the important role that The NRA Foundation plays in forwarding the NRA mission to protect the right to keep and bear arms.

When people think about the National Rifle Association, NRA-ILA lobbying and campaigning and NRA membership often come to mind most readily. However, the efforts of the organization's strictly non-political arm deserve just as much attention.

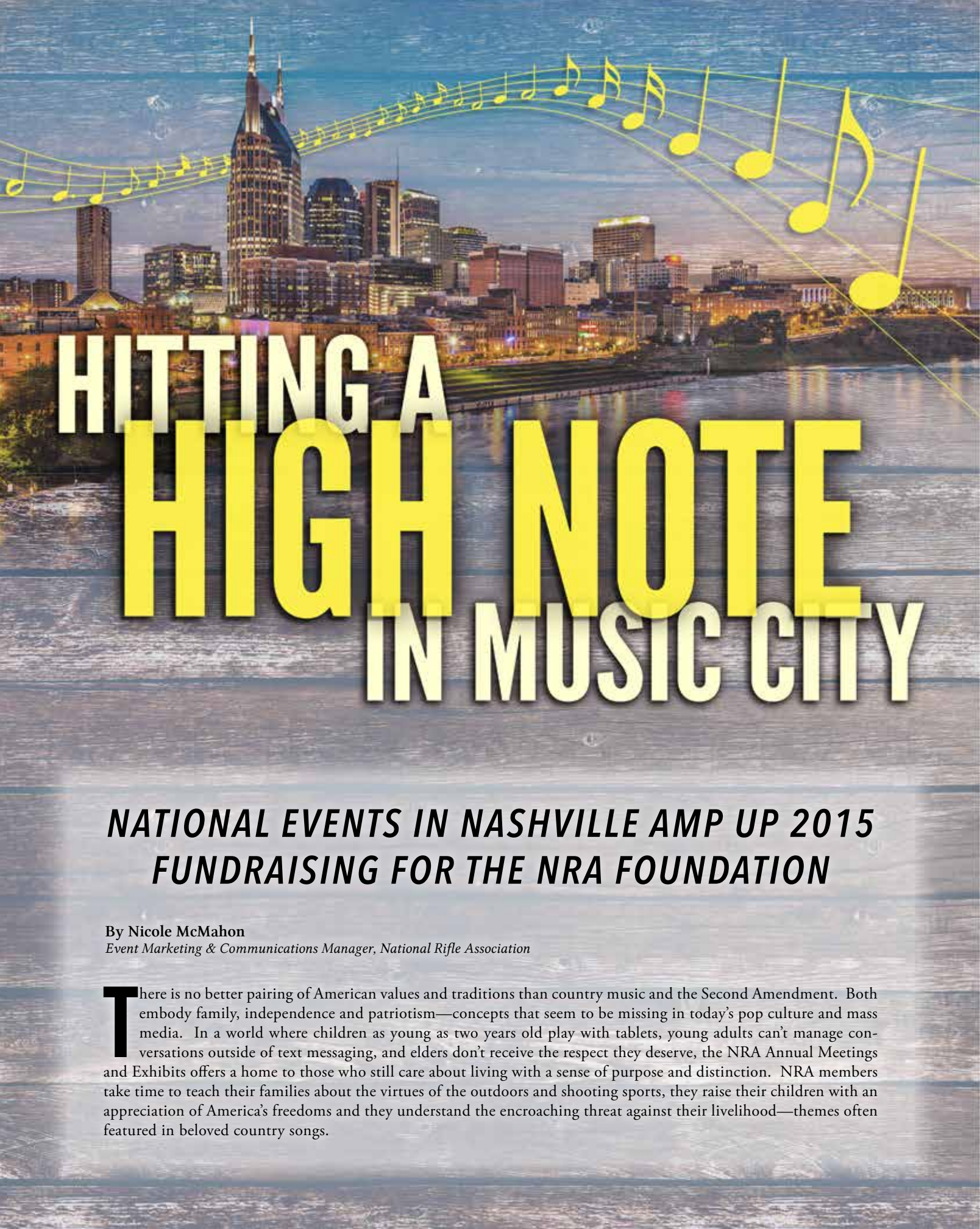
The NRA Foundation protects the Second Amendment by going to the root of the issue and teaching freedom through firearms education, training and public service programs. Since its inception in 1990, the Foundation has awarded over 35,000 grants totaling more than \$267 million—reaching millions of people with the positive message of American shooting sports traditions.

Grants benefit programs and projects across the country such as hunter education, firearms and marksmanship training and safety, wildlife conservation, law enforcement training, and more, with the vast majority of funds going to youth programs. From 4-H and Boy Scouts to high school trap teams, JROTC programs, and collegiate level competition, grant-funded programs instill in youth participants an appreciation for the shooting sports as well as the value of dedication, responsibility and personal initiative. And it is those principles that will make them powerful advocates for the Second Amendment as they grow into mature and active citizens.

The NRA Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.) in particular highlights the significance and effectiveness of this approach to supporting the NRA mission. The program—which gives high school students a one-of-a-kind opportunity to learn about American history and government in the nation's capital—and the scholarships it awards are completely funded by The NRA Foundation. Students leave with not only a deeper appreciation for their rights and responsibilities as U.S. citizens, but also with a knowledge of NRA programs and how to bring them back to their communities. When I attended the awards banquet at the end of last year's Y.E.S. and participated in the presentation of \$16,000 in scholarships, I was both impressed and inspired by the depth of passion for and understanding of the fight for freedom demonstrated by the young people I met there.

Fostering that passion and understanding in Americans of all ages and all levels of familiarity with firearms and the shooting sports is key to our goal to Teach Freedom. The NRA Foundation has been able to do so over the past 25 years thanks to our dedicated donors and volunteers. With your continued support, we will carry that legacy into the future for generations to come.

LEARN MORE ABOUT HELPING THE NRA FOUNDATION TEACH FREEDOM AT [WWW.FRIENDSOFNRA.ORG/WAYSTOGIVE](http://WWW.FRIENDSOFNRA.ORG/WAYSTOGIVE)

A night-time photograph of the Nashville skyline, featuring the AT&T Building and other illuminated skyscrapers. A river flows in the foreground, reflecting the city lights. Overlaid on the image are several yellow musical notes and a staff line, suggesting a musical theme.

# HITTING A HIGH NOTE IN MUSIC CITY

## ***NATIONAL EVENTS IN NASHVILLE AMP UP 2015 FUNDRAISING FOR THE NRA FOUNDATION***

**By Nicole McMahon**

*Event Marketing & Communications Manager, National Rifle Association*

**T**here is no better pairing of American values and traditions than country music and the Second Amendment. Both embody family, independence and patriotism—concepts that seem to be missing in today’s pop culture and mass media. In a world where children as young as two years old play with tablets, young adults can’t manage conversations outside of text messaging, and elders don’t receive the respect they deserve, the NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits offers a home to those who still care about living with a sense of purpose and distinction. NRA members take time to teach their families about the virtues of the outdoors and shooting sports, they raise their children with an appreciation of America’s freedoms and they understand the encroaching threat against their livelihood—themes often featured in beloved country songs.





**PHOTOS by Peter Fountain, Forrest MacCormack and Lloyd Hill.** From Top: Attendees begin checking out the silent auction and get a look at the Live Auction Showcase Item as NRA Central Region Director Chad Franklin welcomes them to the banquet; A young banquet attendee scopes out an item in the silent auction.



Over 78,000 NRA members and supporters and 550 exhibitors met in Nashville on April 9-12 to celebrate their Second Amendment rights in the electric atmosphere of “Music City.” The convention took place in the beautifully designed Music City Center just steps away from endless entertainment options—live music, shopping, restaurants, sports and the Country Music Hall of Fame. Famous personalities attended events such as the NRA-ILA Leadership Forum and the NRA Country Concert, and the show also included events specifically for women like the Women’s Leadership Forum Luncheon and Auction and Women’s New Energy Breakfast. While walking the exhibit hall, attendees could see rows and rows of new firearms and gear and mingle with the greatest names in the outdoor and firearms industry.

The National NRA Foundation Banquet—always one of the most popular events—this year was once again a highlight of the show. The exquisite Grand Ballroom in Music City Center hosted a sold-out crowd of 2,000 attendees who joined together to raise over \$725,000 for The NRA Foundation and shooting sports traditions. The ballroom, designed to resemble the inside of a guitar, created the perfect atmosphere for fun and fellowship while everyone participated in the games and auctions at the event. Country music and the voice of Chad Franklin, Central Regional Director for *Friends of NRA* and emcee for the event, could be heard from all corners of the room urging people to remember the purpose for the event—fundraising for youth firearms education, marksmanship training, women’s shooting clinics, hunting and conservation, and the thousands of other programs that rely on the support of The NRA Foundation.





The National NRA Foundation Banquet could not have achieved record-breaking fundraising numbers without the support of generous industry supporters and donors. Cabela's, Henry Repeating Arms, Kimber, Universal Coin & Bullion, and Zeiss sponsored the event, and each company's president or chief officer was in attendance to show their support for The NRA Foundation. President and Chief Executive Officer of Cabela's Tommy Milner, Chief Operations Officer of Kimber Ralph Karanian, President of Universal Coin and Bullion Mike Fuljenz, and President of Zeiss Mike Jensen, all gave inspirational speeches about how we all have a responsibility to uphold our rights and freedoms. President of Henry Repeating Arms Anthony Imperato gave a stirring tribute to America's servicemen. Imperato awarded an emergency medical servicewoman, a firefighter, a police officer, an NRA instructor and 16 veterans and active duty heroes with their own Henry tribute edition rifles in honor of their service to the United States.

**PHOTOS** This page, from top: The presentation of Henry commemorative rifles to veterans and servicemen and women is met with a standing ovation from the crowd; NRA Director of Law Enforcement Glen Hoyer and his wife were patriotic in matching red; Auctioneer Ken Roebuck; Paul Teutul, Sr., and Jason Pohl of Orange County Choppers stand with Chad Franklin and his father Gary Franklin, who won the auction for the OCC Custom NRA Bike. Opposite, counter-clockwise from top: Henry President Anthony Imperato joins the veterans and servicemen and women to whom he presented commemorative rifles; Danielle Panting of the U.S. Navy receives her Henry Military Service Edition rifle; Banquet attendees explore the room, browsing the silent auction and playing games before the evening's program begins.



Ken Roebuck, a volunteer with over 16 years of service to Tennessee *Friends of NRA*, served as the auctioneer. He kicked off the live auction of 35 unique and exclusive firearms, merchandise items and hunts with the Freedom Series AR-15 "We the People" 5.56mm NATO donated by Cross Machine Tool Co., Inc. The Orange County Choppers Custom NRA Bike donated by Century Arms was the Live Auction Showcase Item of the evening. Paul Teutul, Sr., founder of Orange County Choppers (OCC) and television personality, along with Jason Pohl, OCC senior designer and designer of the NRA bike, presented the bike on stage. An exciting bidding war ended with the winner paying an even \$40,000 for the one-of-a-kind chopper. Other highlights of the auction included the Weatherby Mark V 70th Anniversary Edition .257 Weatherby Mag, a Wyoming Game and Fish 2015 Commissioner License, a SIG Sauer "Dream Package" with a variety of high quality firearms and SIG Sauer private academy class, and a Kel-Tec "Build Your Own RDB Experience" at the Kel-Tec plant in Florida.







Not only was there excitement at the live auction in the ballroom, but there was also a frenzy for the National NRA Foundation Banquet's rare donated firearms on GunBroker.com. The online auction for the Hank Williams, Jr., engraved signature special model 89 SpikeDriver from Big Horn Armory was concluded at the event with a purchase price of \$7,800. On Sunday evening, the final day of the Annual Meetings, the GunBroker.com bidding ended with one lucky bidder purchasing both the New Original Henry Iron Frame Rifle Serial #1 and the Colt 200th Anniversary Edition Revolver Prototype. The Henry Iron Frame went for \$29,325, and the Colt 200th Anniversary Prototype went for a whopping \$40,024.

Although the live and GunBroker.com auctions always capture a lot of attention, this year's games proved to be more successful than ever due to the support of all the game sponsors. This year marked the first time that every game featured all donated firearms and merchandise thanks to Century Arms, Flambeau, Heckler & Koch, Mossberg, SIG Sauer, Smith & Wesson, Taurus, Uberti, Walther Arms and Winchester Ammunition. Collectively nearly 50 firearms were given away, resulting in over \$55,000 in revenue.



This year's silent auction featured over 200 items ranging from jewelry, purses, hunts and adventures to firearms and ammunition. The highlights included: a Henry American Beauty .22LR paired with the NRA Women's Wilderness Escape; an off-road specialized hunting bike from In Gear Cycling; and specially autographed merchandise. Brad Davis, an American soccer player who also played on the US World Cup team, signed an Adidas soccer ball; Justin Moore, a country singer and songwriter, signed an Epiphone guitar; and Reagan Tyler, featured on NRA's I Am Forever Free-style Digital Network, signed an FNS-40 handgun.

For those who missed out on the excitement of the 2015 National NRA Foundation Banquet, one more item is available for auction on GunBroker.com. Henry Repeating Arms has generously donated a custom 2015 Ford F-150 Lariat 4x4 SuperCrew®. A 5.0L V8 FFV engine, an electronic 6-speed auto transmission with tow mode, black leather trim interior with bucket seats and many more features makes this F-150 a spectacular value. And the attractions don't stop there—SkinzWraps also added a truck vault, powder coated American racing rims, upgraded Cooper Tires and a custom Henry Repeating Arms wrap. Be sure to get in on the bidding open through August 30, 2015, on GunBroker.com, and own a one-of-a-kind F-150 Henry truck!

The 2016 National NRA Foundation Banquet will be held on Thursday, May 19, in Louisville, home of the Kentucky Derby. Buy your tickets for the banquet early, because 2016 is bound to be another sellout! ■

*If you are interested in being a sponsor or donating to the 2016 National NRA Foundation Banquet please contact Megan McConnell at (703) 267-1417 or [mmcconnell@nrabq.org](mailto:mmcconnell@nrabq.org).*

# THE NRA FOUNDATION WALL OF GUNS

## AT THE 2015 NRA ANNUAL MEETINGS

By Megan McConnell

*Special Events Coordinator, National Rifle Association*

**N**RA members and supporters from across the nation wait all year for the chance to participate in the NRA Foundation's renowned Wall of Guns at the NRA Annual Meetings. Thanks to sponsors Henry Repeating Arms, Kel-Tec and Kimber, and extremely dedicated volunteers and staff the 2015 Wall of Guns had over 60 winners and raised more than \$100,000 for The NRA Foundation and the future of shooting sports.

Positioned across from registration and the exhibit hall entrance on the third floor of the Music City Center, the Wall of Guns was hard to miss. The impressive display of over 70 firearms in a 24-foot-long wall built by Legacy Quest Outdoors made a perfect first stop before entering the exhibit hall at the 144th NRA Annual Meetings.

The wall was packed with firearms of various makes, models and calibers. For \$20, participants had the opportunity to win their choice of one firearm off of the "pick one" side or two firearms off of the "pick two" side. Each round of the Wall of Guns consisted of 100 tickets sold for a 1 in 100 possibility to win a brand new firearm. Once all 100 tickets were sold the next round began for a week-end of continuous firearm giveaways! Sixty-seven lucky winners walked away with their choice of firearm and an exclusive Wall of Guns t-shirt which answered a very important question: "How many guns do you want?... Just one more."

Daniel Defense's M4V5 and M4V1 were among the most popular picks off of this year's wall, along with the Mossberg .308 Night Train II, Kimber Micro Carry STS and Henry Golden Boy. Ticket package options were also a huge success this year and featured NRA Foundation apparel. Draw of the Century tickets, a choice between a Kel-Tec PF9 and a Ruger 10/22, or an instant winner option.

New to the wall this year were four feature firearms generously donated by Walther Arms, Ruger, Benelli and SIG Sauer. Each winner who chose a donated firearm also received tickets into the next Wall of Guns round as well as NRA gear and the satisfaction of knowing 100 percent of the money from the round went to The NRA Foundation.

Back by popular demand, the Draw of the Century selected a winner after every 10 rounds of the Wall of Guns. One Draw of the Century ticket entered its owner into every remaining drawing throughout the entire Annual Meeting. Six winners had the opportunity to choose one of three firearms donated by Century Arms.

Thanks to sponsors Henry Repeating Arms, Kel-Tec and Kimber, this year's Wall of Guns was a huge success made possible by all the staff, volunteers and donors who supported it.

The Wall of Guns will be back next year in Louisville on May 20-22, 2016, to give away more firearms. Be sure to enter to win just one more to add to your collection! ■



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# WALL GUNS

A FUNDRAISER OF THE NRA FOUNDATION

Photos by Peter Fountain and Forrest MacCormack





# DEDICATION

By David Helmer  
Event Support Coordinator,  
National Rifle Association

Since its inception in 1990, The NRA Foundation has funded over 35,000 grants totaling more than \$267 million to qualified local, state and national shooting sports programs, hunting and conservation programs, Second Amendment education and the preservation of historical firearms. The dedication and enthusiasm of volunteers across the nation have made it possible for *Friends of NRA* to raise a significant portion of these funds. *Friends of NRA* volunteers come from all walks of life and are driven by a passion for the Second Amendment and a desire to see firearms education and the shooting sports thrive in their communities, they are truly the backbone of the organization.

This year The NRA Foundation was pleased to announce Armalite as the sponsor of the 2014 *Friends of NRA* Volunteer of the Year program. “Armalite is proud to be the *Friends of NRA* Volunteer of the Year sponsor,” said Tommy Thacker, President of Armalite. “We appreciate the generous time and resource commitment from these volunteers and are pleased to help recognize them for their outstanding service.”

The Volunteer of the Year (VOY) program commemorates the hard work and effort of all the volunteers who drive forward the mission to ensure the future of our shooting heritage, and it particularly recognizes the individuals whose leadership and commitment in the field has led to extraordinary fundraising success. Each year NRA Field Representatives are tasked with selecting one volunteer or husband-wife team of volunteers as their respective area’s VOY. These Area Volunteers of the Year receive special recognition from their NRA Field Representative in front of their fellow volunteers as well as a custom embroidered *Friends of NRA* “Volunteer of the Year” jacket.

A selection committee of senior NRA staff chooses the Region Volunteers of the Year from the collection of area award winners. In addition to the 2014 Volunteer of the





Year jackets, region award winners were also honored guests at the 2014 NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits in Nashville where they were presented with their awards at the National NRA Foundation Banquet on Thursday, April 9, 2015. Randy and Suzanne Lewis of Maryland, Veron Auld of Illinois, Mary McIntyre of Colorado, Jerry Rogers of Tennessee, Mike Fitz of Oregon, and Dan Weare and Diane Borba of Mid-California were recognized as the Eastern, Central, South Central, Southern, Western, and South-west Region Volunteers of the Year, respectively.

"I graciously acknowledge all the people that I have had the good fortune to work with and especially the attendees who ultimately accomplished our goals," Auld commented. "It gives me great pleasure to see our future generations develop the skills taught through the scholastic programs we support. I am able to give, mostly time, so that these young people can continue to protect our country, Constitution and freedoms. I hope I can represent the Central Region *Friends of NRA* in a manner befitting this honor."

Collectively, these eight volunteers raised over \$367,000 in 2014, often balancing involvement in multiple committees. They attended and promoted *Friends of NRA* at various firearms-related events, approached businesses and worked hard to improve their strategies to reach new people, increase involvement and keep everyone's eyes on the mission. These individuals have put in countless hours of effort even while maintaining other aspects of their lives like raising families, running businesses and participating in other volunteer efforts. Each volunteer has a different personality and fundraising method, but all have dedicated a major part of their lives to *Friends of NRA* and are commonly driven by a passion for the shooting sports and preserving the freedoms guaranteed by the Second Amendment.

**PHOTO by Peter Fountain**

From left: President of Armalite Tommy Thacker, Lila Leathers-Fitz, Mike Fitz, Jerry Rogers, Dan Weare, Mary McIntyre, Veron Auld, Randy Lewis and Suzanne Lewis.

# 2014 FRIENDS OF NRA VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

## EASTERN REGION

**Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York (Lower) and Rhode Island:** Bruce Iacobelli, North Central New Jersey  
**Delaware and Pennsylvania (Eastern):** Carl Mozeleski, Northeastern PA  
**Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont:** David Bell, Aroostook  
**New York (Upper):** Richard Fanton, Southwestern NY  
**Ohio (Northern):** Darren Verhoff, Lima Area  
**Ohio (Southern):** Scott Brown, Guernsey County  
**Pennsylvania (Western):** Anthony Giura, Beaver County  
**Virginia (Eastern), Maryland (Eastern), and Washington, D.C.:** Scott Sampson, Tidewater  
**West Virginia, Maryland (Western), and Virginia (Western):** Randy & Suzanne Lewis, Washington County

## CENTRAL REGION

**Illinois (Northern):** Matthew & Allison Feuerborn, Fox Valley Area  
**Illinois (Southern):** Veron Auld, Perry/Randolph  
**Indiana:** Paul Harding, Western Indiana  
**Iowa:** Jason Stanek, Frontier  
**Kentucky:** Chuck & Teresa Martin, Danville  
**Michigan:** Michael Swackhamer, Cheboygan  
**Missouri (Northern):** Chris Brown, Gateway  
**Missouri (Southern):** Sylvia Thurmond, Meramec Area  
**Nebraska:** Chad Martinsen, Boone County  
**Wisconsin:** Bill Wintlend, Superior Area

## SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

**Arkansas:** Larry Haltom, Johnson County  
**Colorado:** Mary McIntyre, St. Vrain Valley  
**Kansas:** Mike McGovern, Heart of America  
**New Mexico:** Sid & Deanna Gariss, Butler County  
**Oklahoma:** Denny Haddox, Rogers County  
**Texas (Northern):** Cherri Reddick, North Central Texas  
**Texas (Southern):** Scot Clift, Gulf Coast  
**Texas (West):** Tom & Kay Jones, RMC

## SOUTHERN REGION

**Alabama:** John Rice, East Alabama  
**Florida (Northern):** Bob Walls, The Villages  
**Florida (Southern):** Patricia Graef, Great Fort Myers and Charlotte Harbor  
**Louisiana:** Phillip Krouse, Kisatchie  
**Mississippi:** Bud Cummings, Desoto County  
**North Carolina (Eastern):** Randy Paschal, Lee County  
**North Carolina (Western):** Dale Ramsey, Thermal Belt  
**South Carolina:** Roger Beach, Colleton County  
**Tennessee:** Jerry Rogers, West Tennessee

## WESTERN REGION

**Alaska (Northern):** Larry Hannesson, Fairbanks  
**Alaska (Southern):** Scot Fiscus, Southeast Alaska  
**Hawaii and Oregon:** Mike Fitz, Portland  
**Idaho:** Jay & Margaret-Ann Border, Weiser Valley  
**North Dakota:** Morgan Stroh, Forks  
**Minnesota:** Colleen Olsen, Minnesota  
**Montana:** Amanda Estrada, Bridger Mountains  
**South Dakota:** Mike Deakins, Mitchell  
**Washington:** Larry Bateman, Washington  
**Wyoming:** Rick Rothleutner, Weston County

## SOUTHWEST REGION

**Arizona:** Darrel Counts, Agua Fria  
**California (Central):** Gary & Coleen Morris, Central State, Bakersfield and Shafter  
**California (Eastern):** Barry Blaylock, Tuolumne County  
**California (Mid):** Dan Weare & Diane Borba, Exeter and Tulare  
**California (North):** Steven Beecher, Silicon Valley  
**California (Southern):** Steve Gomez, West Valley  
**Nevada:** John Madden, Reno/Sparks, Modesto, Carson City and Carson Valley  
**Utah:** Brent Jensen, Southern Utah





**FRIENDS OF**  
**We Are NRA Volunteers.**

Visit [www.FriendsofNRA.org](http://www.FriendsofNRA.org) to volunteer with your local Friends of NRA Committee!



THE **NRA** FOUNDATION  
TEACH FREEDOM

# DEFENDING FREEDOM THROUGH EDUCATION

By Peter Lawless  
*Financial Coordinator, National Rifle Association*



**T**he National Rifle Association is the country's oldest civil rights organization and is known by many people for its political work, so some are unaware that there is a strictly non-political branch of the NRA: The NRA Foundation and its fundraising arm, *Friends of NRA*. As a public charity supporting educational activities related to and promoting the Second Amendment, The NRA Foundation provides grants to firearms education, training and public service programs that teach freedom all across the country.

Educational organizations and events have historically been most influential in exercising and upholding the right to keep and bear arms. The National Rifle Association itself was founded "to promote rifle marksmanship on a scientific basis" and correct the firearms training shortcomings of the Civil War. While in office Teddy Roosevelt noted that young people shot less over time, and he set to correct that trend by establishing the National Matches and what would become the Civilian Marksmanship Program. These organizations were founded to educate and provide citizens the opportunity to shoot—long before "gun control" became part of the American vernacular—demonstrating that the continuation of the Second Amendment depends first and foremost on access to firearms education, training and the shooting sports.

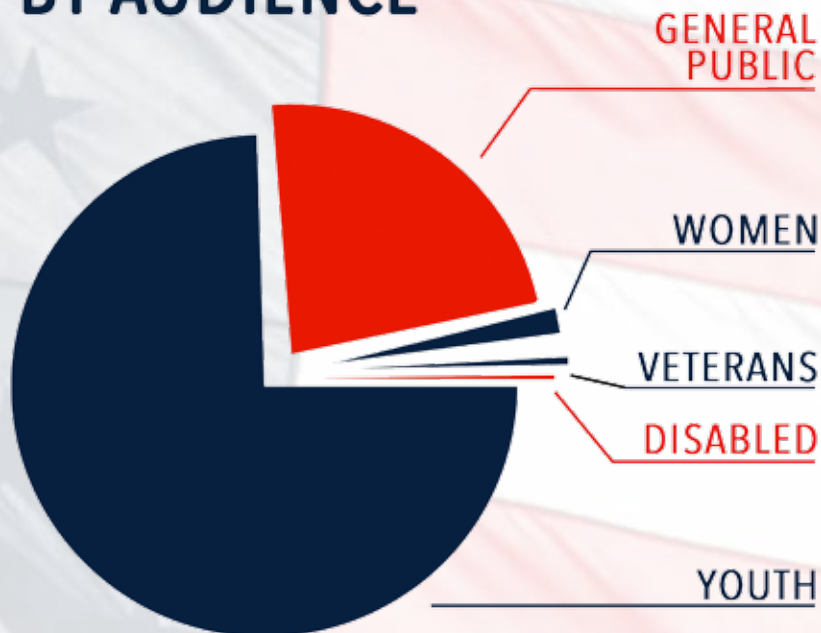
The NRA Foundation protects the Second Amendment as the country's leading charitable organization in support of the shooting sports, with the vast majority of its funds going to youth programs. The organizations that The NRA Foundation supports, such as 4-H, JROTC, Boy Scouts and junior shooting teams, allow young people to learn about firearms and participate in the shooting sports at varying levels, from beginners courses to national-level competitions. The Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program is almost exclusively funded by The NRA Foundation and helps teach millions of children to avoid firearms accidents. The NRA Youth Education Summit, completely funded by the Foundation, gives high school students a one-of-a-kind opportunity to learn about American history and government in the nation's capital.

Established in 1990, The NRA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that raises tax-deductible contributions in support of a wide range of firearm-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.





## 2014 STATE FUND GRANTS BY AUDIENCE



## NRA NATIONAL PROGRAM GRANTS\*

REFUSE TO BE A VICTIM • NRA YOUTH PROGRAMS  
YOUTH HUNTER EDUCATION CHALLENGE (YHEC)  
LAW ENFORCEMENT COMPETITIONS  
COMPETITIVE SHOOTING EVENTS • NATIONAL FIREARMS MUSEUM  
NATIONAL SCHOOL SHIELD • GUNSMITHING SCHOLARSHIPS  
EDDIE EAGLE GUNSAFE PROGRAM  
WOMEN'S WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT/CONSERVATION SCHOLARSHIP  
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR • CIVIL RIGHTS DEFENSE FUND  
WOUNDED WARRIOR RANGE DAYS  
BROWNELL'S/NRA DAYS • RANGE TECHNICAL TEAM ADVISORS  
WOMEN ON TARGET • YOUTH ART CONTEST

\*Funded through the other "50%" from *Friends of NRA*, endowment funds and individual donors

In addition to a significant commitment to youth programs, the Foundation also supports hunter education, conservation, firearms and marksmanship training and safety, women's programs, range development, law enforcement training and much more. Altogether, The NRA Foundation uses funds raised through *Friends of NRA* to educate people in the safe and responsible use of firearms. Since it is educated citizens who provide the first line of defense for our rights, this task is absolutely imperative to protecting the Second Amendment for future generations.

As a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, The NRA Foundation's mission is educational and charitable, and political activity is strictly prohibited. Contributions to The NRA Foundation are tax-deductible, whereas those to the 501(c)(4) National Rifle Association are not.

Therefore, defending freedom requires our supporters to leave political issues aside when associating with The NRA Foundation and *Friends of NRA*. Not only does this preserve the integrity of the Foundation's non-political mission, but it also allows local *Friends of NRA* event attendees and participants in national Foundation events at the Great American Outdoor Show and NRA Annual Meetings to focus on the positive message and true meaning of protecting America's shooting sports traditions in a fun and family-friendly environment.

The concept of freedom must be exemplified for, experienced by and instilled in a person in order to create the appreciation and respect that fuel advocacy, and The NRA Foundation's "Teach Freedom" motto defines the organization's dedication to that cultivation of passion. There has never been a better or more important time to support The NRA Foundation and *Friends of NRA*. Second Amendment supporters ought to be encouraged that despite ongoing threats to our rights, millions of Americans are coming together to invest in the future of the shooting sports with unprecedented determination. ■

*Support The NRA Foundation's mission to Teach Freedom! Go to [friendsofnra.org/WaysToGive](http://friendsofnra.org/WaysToGive) to learn how. Apply for a grant to help bring educational shooting sports programs to your area at [nrafoundation.org](http://nrafoundation.org).*



# BECOME A FRIENDS OF NRA SPONSOR

## *The 2015 Friends of NRA Sponsor Series*

### *Liberty*

- Framed Second Amendment display
- Subscription to Traditions magazine (quarterly)
- Sponsor Hat



\$250

### *Heritage*

CHOOSE ONE:

- Liberty Safe 9G Micro Imprint Handgun Vault with NRA logo and A/C adapter
- Damascus Bowie Knife with leather sheath and NRA logo

\$600

### *Freedom*

- Kel-Tec SUB-2000 9mm rifle with NRA logo\*

\$1250

### *Pioneer*

- Henry .30-30 Brass Octagon NRA Edition with special buttstock engraving of eagle and NRA logo

\$2500

### *Patriot*

CHOOSE ONE:

- Colt Marine .45 ACP with NRA logo and "Semper Fi" text\*
- Kimber Custom II Warrior SOC 1911 .45 ACP with NRA logo\*
- Colt Single Action Army® .45 Colt Revolver\* (with NRA logo in 24k gold plating - only 50 available)
- Kimber Sapphire Ultra II 9mm Pistol\*
- Winchester Model 73 Short High Grade .357/.38 (special engraving and "National Rifle Association" text in 24k gold - only 75 available)
- Remington UMC Commemorative 1911\* (with reproduction leather holster, lanyard, magazine pouch and two-tone magazines)

\$5000

### *Legacy of Freedom*

\$3500

Limited Edition

Ruger Vaquero Stainless .45 Colt

Limited Edition

Kimber Ultra Carry II .45 ACP



(CHOOSE ONE)

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Eddie attends a region Christmas Day Parade



# COMMUNITY UNITY FOR EDUCATION AND SAFETY



Photos Courtesy Hudson Falls Police Department





Sgt. Kibling does a school presentation with Eddie Eagle

By Catherine Barsanti, Event Marketing & Communications Coordinator, National Rifle Association

When Sgt. John Kibling of the Hudson Falls Police Department began to observe incidents of gun accidents occurring in his region, he knew there had to be a way to address the issue through prevention programs. In this large hunting community in upstate New York, a majority of the population either owns a firearm or knows someone who keeps a firearm in their home. With this in mind, Sgt. Kibling began seeking out a program that would fit the needs of the area. That's when he came across the Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program.

Sgt. Kibling initially contacted the program directly and received educational literature and directions on how to apply for an Eddie Eagle costume through an NRA Foundation grant. After receiving approval for the grant in 2013, Sgt. Kibling began a two-pronged approach to introducing the program to the area. First he spoke to officials on a grassroots level, and then he undertook an outreach effort by attending events in the community.

"We hadn't seen the program in our area prior to our efforts, so we went out meeting with people and talking to them about [it]," said Kibling. "But I realized we had to do a little more, so I was going out with Eddie to different community events. Wherever the people were, we knew we had to be there."

Kibling attributes a large amount of the success he's seen to these outreach efforts and the opportunity to communicate directly with community stakeholders and local citizens. This helped establish connections and resources that have aided the growth of the program.

That growth has included expanding the program to incorporate presentations in the classroom. Sgt. Kibling has brought Eddie Eagle to about twelve schools in local districts, and he remarks on how he has not heard a single negative comment about the program. "One parent thanked me for bringing the program to the school because she stated that she never thought to teach the sub-

ject to her child because her family does not own firearms," said Kibling. He also noted the costume has enhanced the program tremendously, with the presence of Eddie creating an incredible visual aid. "We've had school administrators say they've never seen children so engaged and so attentive to an assembly-type presentation," said Kibling. "They're excited about it. They bring it home and tell their parents about it."

Hoping to enhance the program further, Sgt. Kibling has applied for an additional grant to support the large plans he has for the future. The department is currently in the process of building a Mobile Education Display trailer to bring to events, creating a space to house information and educational resources as well as creating awareness and excitement around the program.

Sgt. Kibling attributes the success he's seen to three key components: strong relationships in the community, a passion for the program and committed and supportive people like local volunteer Ken Grant, who wears the Eddie Eagle costume at events, and Chief of Police Randy Diamond. Kibling also credits the local *Friends of NRA* for its help providing connections to assist and expand the program.

"The success of our program would not be possible without the resources and support that has been provided by *Friends of NRA*," said Kibling. "Our local *Friends of NRA* has demonstrated similar passion for the Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program and has been actively engaged in the progress and application of our program. The program has allowed us to create a wonderful mix of private and public entities working together to bring about community change." ■

*Bring Eddie Eagle to your community! Learn how at [eddieeagle.nra.org](http://eddieeagle.nra.org). Support national programs like this and local programs by attending a Friends of NRA event! Find one near you at [www.friendsofnra.org/Events](http://www.friendsofnra.org/Events).*

# WATERLOO LEAD HEADS

By Peter Lawless

Financial Coordinator, National Rifle Association



Few would dispute the notion that greatness in any skill or sport comes from hard work and dedication. However, another important variable also comes into play: opportunity. For instance, a high schooler from southern California has a better chance at reaching her full potential as a surfer than somebody from the midwest, and a teenager from rural Texas is more likely to become a rodeo star than his peer in New England.

Being in the right place surrounded by the right people provides invaluable momentum towards achieving true excellence, and this is just as crucial to performance in the shooting sports as it is to surfing or the rodeo. In the world of competitive trap shooting, the Waterloo Lead Heads are a prime example of the impact that good conditions can have on developing exceptional talent.

With Waterloo less than one hour away from the World Recreational and Shooting Complex in Sparta, Ill., the Lead Heads have access to one of the best shotgun shooting facilities in the country for monthly competitions. The team consists of 20 young men and women who are members of the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) and the Amateur Trapshooters Association (ATA) and participate in the ATA's official youth program AIM (Academics, Integrity, and Marksmanship).

"The main goal of the Lead Heads is to provide a safe and enjoyable sport for the young men and women in our area," says Head Coach A.J. Wessel. "Gun safety is emphasized to the team as our main

objective. Once proper gun safety is observed, the coach focuses on improving shooting ability and overall scores."

In this case, improving ability often means honing and fine tuning already impressive skills. The Lead Heads' performance in competition speaks to their level of commitment and proficiency. Last year the team won the 2014 AIM Grand Championship with an outstanding score of 981 out of 1000 targets broken.

With their sights set on claiming the title again, the Lead Heads continue their regimen of training and competing throughout the region this year. To assist these ambitious shooters, the *Friends of NRA* Illinois state fund committee has approved numerous NRA Foundation grants—totaling nearly \$25,000 from 2010 to 2015—to provide them with much needed product. In 2013, the team received 80 cases of shotgun ammunition; that's 20,000 shells!

The Lead Heads have shown their appreciation for the support by helping at local Friends events, where they're able to experience the hard work and passion of the volunteers dedicated to ensuring the success of programs like theirs. Potential goes to waste without opportunity, and *Friends of NRA* and The NRA Foundation seek to create as much opportunity as possible to preserve America's shooting sports heritage. ■

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





Photos by Taff Harris







# ESTABLISHING *Meaningful* BEGINNINGS

By David Helmer

*Event Support Coordinator, National Rifle Association*

**W**ith its southern hospitality, wooded mountains and military battlefields, it's easy to see why Alabama is known for its culture, scenery and history. But the Heart of Dixie is also distinguished by an enormous sports culture. Although football is the state's most prevalent sport, Alabama hosts a wide variety of learn-by-doing 4-H community clubs. These clubs prove invaluable to building strong family and community ties and helping develop young individuals.



Lee County in eastern Alabama is extremely involved in 4-H activities, and it recently established a start-up rifle club in the summer of 2013. Led by 4-H Regional Extension Agent Kirsten Holt, the program began with a knowledge-based foundation emphasizing safety rules and regulations. The club soon advanced to air rifle instruction, mastering .22's and entering into competitions.

In order to run efficiently and grow in influence, a new program like this needs a strong support base and the advantage of proper circumstances and environment. The NRA Foundation—with funds raised by Alabama *Friends of NRA*—helped provide that sure footing for the program in 2014 by awarding a grant of \$16,500 which allowed the program to purchase the necessary shooting equipment. Supplemented by the efforts of a core group of dedicated volunteers, the club's progress was ignited through enthusiastic coaching. The fledgling Lee County 4-H Rifle Club was able to quickly acquire a full roster of students committed to learning safety techniques and improving their marksmanship and accuracy.

Not only does the club teach students discipline, values and structure, but it also provides a rewarding experience for the instructors. "The volunteers cannot express how much the support from [The NRA Foundation] has greatly improved the program!" Holt explained. "The ability to work with youth and see how much enthusiasm they have in the rifle disciplines is extremely rewarding."

The mission of the Lee County 4-H Rifle Club is "to educate youth in the mastery of the rifle discipline promoting safety as a priority." The club offers ten-week classes and sessions for firearm education, and the youth participate in weekly activities and occasional matches to showcase their progress.

To mark the first full year of club practice, the club sent 19 students under the name "Team X-Caliber" to compete in the 2014 Alabama Olympic State Games. Utilizing equipment funded by the NRA Foundation grant, the young team competed in multiple individual and team events. Team X-Caliber brought home 22 gold, 15 silver and eight bronze medals, winning 45 of 56 possible medals. Every member of the young team won a medal, demonstrating just how successful the program had already become.

The NRA Foundation is a proud supporter of ambitious local clubs like the Lee County 4-H Rifle Club. Investing in these community-based programs across the country is a grassroots-level method of shaping the future values and beliefs of American society. Holt reflected, "The partnership between [The NRA Foundation] and Lee County 4-H has been a very successful one!" The impact this club has on its community is a testament to the importance of NRA Foundation grants and *Friends of NRA* in establishing meaningful beginnings and future success. ■

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

**THE ALABAMA 4-H FOUNDATION**

IN THE LAST 2 YEARS,  
HAS BEEN GRANTED OVER

**\$16,000**

WORTH OF MATERIAL

INCLUDING:

45 THOUSAND ROUNDS OF .22 LR AMMO	13 FIREARMS	& 5 AIR RIFLES
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# *a* HOT SPRING *of*



By Bart Messina

*Co-Chair of Natural State Friends of NRA*

Just outside the historic city of Hot Springs, Ark.—known for its thermal baths, outdoor activities and cultural events—sits a special attraction for local shooting sports enthusiasts. Located on 88 beautifully wooded acres, the Mountain Valley Sportsman's Association (MVSA) is a growing club of passionate members devoted to the shooting sports.

MVSA aims to provide a safe, premiere facility for all shooters to enjoy their sports, and the number of disciplines it supports makes that possible. The complex includes: two overlaying trap and skeet fields; a Cowboy Action “town” complete with western style buildings; 100, 200 and 300-yard rifle ranges with a 120-foot covered shooting area and 12 permanently mounted benches; a five-station covered bay 50-yard pistol range; and an eight-bay action shooting range for International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA), U.S. Practical Shooting Association (USPSA), multi-gun and rimfire matches, as well as training courses including MVSA's popular Ladies On Target (LOT) program.





# *new women shooters*



Photos by Kenneth Childres



In 2010, funds raised by Arkansas *Friends of NRA* and granted to MVSA by The NRA Foundation facilitated many positive changes to its well-established beginner shooting program for women. The club began a restructuring process which included expanding the offering of the women's beginner classes to once per month nearly year-round. As a result, the program has since grown from one class of 10 women annually to 10 classes of up to 18 women.

The beginner classes consist of an hour and a half of classroom time, which focuses on the three basic safety rules of gun handling: always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction; always keep your finger off of the trigger until ready to shoot; and always keep the gun unloaded until it is ready to be used. Participants also receive training on gun function, gun handling, range courtesy and firing positions before completing the requisite three hours of range time. On the range the students learn how to load and handle the firearm safely.

Nine handguns acquired by MVSA through grant funding have made it much easier for women who do not own one to participate in the program. As a result, the beginner classes soon became so successful that MVSA developed an advanced women's shooting program which focuses more on self defense. The course, designed to be more scenario-based, is taught using the principles of IDPA. This program has also become extremely successful, having grown from one class of five or six women per month to as many as 18 women in each monthly class.

NRA Foundation grants also enabled MVSA to upgrade and enhance its shooting facility. The needed improvements have made the shooting bays much safer and supported the growth of the beginner and advanced programs. At least 10 women per month graduate from the beginner classes, many of whom had never fired a gun before, and the majority of these women continue on to the advanced class. ■

*Fund educational shooting sports programs in your area by applying for an NRA Foundation grant at [www.nrafoundation.org](http://www.nrafoundation.org)! Learn more about Friends of NRA in Arkansas at [www.friendsofnra.org/AR](http://www.friendsofnra.org/AR).*



# Distinguished Marksmanship TRAINING FOR Civil Air Patrol Cadets

**A**t 8:00 am on a Saturday morning earlier this year, the door to the Centralia Rifle Club & Junior Division's indoor range in Centralia, Wash., flew open, and 42 battle dress uniform-clad teens marched in. So began another Basic Marksmanship Encampment (BME), a twice-yearly rifle training event which the club has put on for Civil Air Patrol (CAP) cadets from Washington and Oregon since 1984.



Photos Courtesy Centralia Rifle Club



Civil Air Patrol is the civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, and its cadet program has over 35,000 teenage members in local units nationwide. On the evening prior to the BME, this group of young men and women had covered the first two hours of an NRA Basic Rifle Course with the Centralia Club's NRA-certified rifle instructors. Throughout the rest of the weekend, the cadets learned to safely shoot .22 target rifles from the prone, sitting, kneeling and off hand positions. Each cadet fired 150 or more rounds, seeking to earn a Winchester/NRA Qualification shooting medal to pin on their Air Force-style blue dress uniforms.

"With about 2,700 cadets taught and over 68 of these events hosted, we've never had a single bullet go anywhere but into the backstop," said Steve Carmick, chief instructor for the event. Carmick, himself a CAP Lt. Col., added that this clean safety record is made possible by the cadets' military style training and discipline. That discipline and dedication also contributes to their success as Winchester/NRA qualified marksmen.

From BB guns to sophisticated air rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders, pistols, and rifles, the Winchester/NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program provides incentive awards for achieving proficiency at various skill levels. The courses of fire take shooters from beginning (Pro-Marksman, Marksman) through intermediate levels (Marksman 1st Class, Sharpshooter, Expert) and up to a nationally recognized skill level—Distinguished Expert—paralleling that of a competitively classified Sharpshooter.

Some of the cadets at this Centralia event had been to several others, and a few were vying for Expert or Distinguished Expert ratings. Some local cadets have gone on to college rifle teams, and two alumni of the program even went on to become captains of the U.S. Air Force Academy smallbore rifle team. And the Centralia club's dedication to supporting youth shooting sports doesn't end there. It is also home to two local high school rifle teams which compete in a local league.

The Anschutz target rifles, shooting jackets, and spotting scopes used by cadets at the Centralia BME events were all obtained through NRA Foundation grants made possible by *Friends of NRA* fundraising in Washington. "Our club hosts one of the biggest junior shooting programs in Washington state, and all our rifles and all our equipment, plus major updates to our range building, came from NRA Foundation grants over a period of years," shared Centralia Rifle Club & Junior Division President Daniel Steffens. "We support our local *Friends of NRA* banquet, big time." ■

*If your club would like more information on hosting a Winchester/NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program event, contact the NRA Qualification Coordinator at [marksmanship@nrahq.org](mailto:marksmanship@nrahq.org). Go to [www.nrafoundation.org](http://www.nrafoundation.org) to apply for a grant for your program! Learn more about Washington Friends of NRA at [www.friendsofnra.org/WA](http://www.friendsofnra.org/WA).*



Above: Rifle slings are removed for offhand shooting, as Dan Steffens explains. Below: Instructor Randy Kerlee explains the fine points of the prone position.



Below: NRA Instructor Randy Kurlee explains that the correct shooting position feels less awkward with practice.



A person wearing a dark cap is shown in profile, holding a silver handgun. The background is a clear, bright blue sky. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

# CELEBRATING SPORTING & *SAYING* *THANK* *YOU*

By Coleen Morris  
*Friends of NRA Volunteer*



5 Dogs Shooting Range outside of Bakersfield, Calif., was the place to be on November 1, 2014, as 200 excited sporting clay shooters along with family and friends gathered for the 8th Annual Kern County Cattlemen's Association Sporting Clay Shoot to enjoy a day of shooting, a delicious BBQ lunch and an exciting raffle.

The Taft Union High School (TUHS) Trap Club had three teams of five at the lively event, and it was fortunate to have each team sponsored by local businesses or clubs: Stubblefield Field Service, Temblor Ranch and Taft Sportsman Club.

The TUHS Trap Club is in its third year, having been organized and coached by Gary Morris, recently retired M.O.T. Manager at Taft High. Gary is an NRA Certified Instructor and NRA Certified Coach, and has been shooting trap for 40 years. Sarah Hamblin is an NRA Certified Coach, an AVID English teacher at TUHS, devoted shooter, and serves as the assistant coach and advisor.



Photo Courtesy TUHS Trap Club



“ Club members appreciate that without the fundraising *Friends of NRA* does for The NRA Foundation grant program, the Taft Union High School Trap Club would not exist. ”

Each potential trap club member must complete the NRA 1st Steps Shotgun Orientation Training and possess the physical, mental and emotional maturity to participate in a team shooting sport, and maintain a minimum GPA to be eligible to participate.

Several members of the club enthusiastically volunteer at local *Friends of NRA* banquets. Why? Without the fundraising *Friends of NRA* does for The NRA Foundation grant program, their trap club would not exist! The Taft Union High School Trap Club applied for their third NRA

Foundation grant in 2015. The grants awarded by the Central California *Friends of NRA* State Fund Committee fund the teams' trap guns, ammo, clays, eye and ear protection and cleaning supplies.■

Apply for a grant at [www.nrafoundation.org](http://www.nrafoundation.org)! To learn more about the California *Friends of NRA* events that raise money for programs like this one, go to [www.friendsofnra.org/CA](http://www.friendsofnra.org/CA).



Henry Repeating Arms' involvement with The NRA Foundation began years ago with their participation as a reliable vendor for the *Friends of NRA* program. This year the manufacturer of classic rifles "Made in America, or not made at all" expands on that commitment as a 2015 Defender Level sponsor of *Friends of NRA* donating more than \$50,000 in monetary support and firearms to the program. On top of that, the company sponsored the Wall of Guns and NRA Foundation Banquets at both the 2015 Great American Outdoor Show (GAOS) and NRA Annual Meetings.

In 2015 Henry donated more than \$55,000 in firearms alone to The NRA Foundation's national events at GAOS and Annual Meetings, including guns used for the live auctions and bucket raffles, Henry Golden Boys for the new Gold Line Incentive on silent auction, and two American Beauty rifles for a Valentine's Day raffle at the GAOS Wall of Guns and for the silent auction at Annual Meetings. "We are humbled by the endless generosity and steadfast support shown to the NRA by Henry Repeating Arms," said NRA Director of Volunteer Fundraising Sarah Engeset.

President of Henry Repeating Arms Anthony Imperato came up with the idea to recognize and thank local heroes of the community including first responders, veterans and active military members by inviting them to the NRA Foundation Banquet at the Great American Outdoor show and presenting them each with a rifle from Henry's line of commemorative tribute rifles. It was such an emotional and moving moment—bringing people to tears and engaging the whole crowd in honoring how American freedoms like the Second Amendment are protected and preserved—that he wanted to do it again at Annual Meeting.

At the banquet in Nashville, Imperato called forward 19 first responders, veterans, and active military members to join him on stage, reading aloud their accomplishments of service to our country and its citizens. The emotional response from both Imperato and the crowd was once again an incredible sight as they gave a deafening standing ovation to the heroic men and women. The presentations were inspired by Imperato's desire to highlight the positive side of firearm ownership. "I wanted to show the world how great the firearm industry is

and how good law-abiding gun owners are," he said.

Continuing to think out of the box for ways to generate awareness about the Foundation and its mission while raising money to support the grant program, Imperato developed Henry's newest donation of a one-of-a-kind Henry Repeating Arms 2015 Ford F-150 Lariat 4x4 SuperCrew® custom wrapped by SkinzWraps of Dallas, Texas. It is available now for auction on GunBroker.com through August 30, 2015, and the winning bidder will also receive a Henry Big Boy rifle in .44 Mag customized with the serial number of his or her choice.

"My patriotic juices started flowing the minute it dawned on me to combine the Ford Motor Company and Henry Repeating Arms into a donation that would benefit the National Rifle Association," explained Imperato. "Henry's contribution of two legendary American-made products, the Ford F-150 and the Henry Big Boy .44, was made as part of our ongoing and unwavering commitment to support the NRA."

Outside of the Foundation and Friends program, Henry also supports the efforts of NRA General Operations, the Institute for Legislative Action (ILA) and NRA Publications. Along with its contributions to NRA programs like Women's Wilderness Escape, youth programs, special drawings and more, Henry is the title sponsor of NRA Gun Gurus TV for the second year in 2015 and a co-sponsor of NRA All Access. It also ran numerous pages in American Hunter this year, donated a three gun set to the NRA-ILA Dinner and Auction event for which it was also a presenter, and donated an American Beauty rifle to the Women's Leadership Forum at Annual Meetings. Overall, Henry has donated more than \$650,000 in cash and product to the NRA in 2015.

"We are grateful for the continued support and involvement from Henry in several areas of the NRA including The NRA Foundation, NRA Annual Meeting events and NRA Gun Gurus, to name a few. All are important to the NRA's mission, and Anthony Imperato and Henry Repeating Arms are making a big difference," shared NRA Director of Industry Partnerships John da Silva. "I'm honored to work alongside Anthony and share his passion for ensuring our shooting sports freedoms and traditions for the next generation."

## GOING ABOVE AS 2015 NATIONAL OF THE FRIENDS





# AND BEYOND CORPORATE SPONSORS OF NRA PROGRAM



Above, from left: NRA Director of Volunteer Fundraising Sarah Engeset, President of Henry Repeating Arms Anthony Imperato, NRA Director of Industry Partnerships John da Silva, and NRA Director of Field Staff Philip Gray. Below, from left: Gray, Engeset, O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. Vice President of Sales and Marketing John MacLellan and National Key Accounts Manager Bill Brown, and da Silva.



Photo Credit National Rifle Association



O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc., also shares that enthusiasm for preserving America's shooting sports traditions. Having long supported the NRA with donations to national events, sponsorships of television shows and more, this year Mossberg also sought to have more involvement with The NRA Foundation. Not only is it a new National Corporate Sponsor for *Friends of NRA* in 2015, but it also sponsored games at the 2015 NRA Foundation Banquets at GAOS and NRA Annual Meetings.

"Since 1919 Mossberg has been a family-owned, American company with deep manufacturing roots," explains CEO Iver Mossberg. "The *Friends of NRA* program hits home for us due to the family friendly environment with one common goal: fundraising for the shooting sports. ... Supporting the dedicated *Friends of NRA* volunteers and programs by becoming a corporate sponsor is consistent with our values."

The new "Turkey Stab" game introduced at GAOS was a hit thanks to the hunter-pleasing prizes donated by Mossberg. The lucky winner received both a Mossberg 702 Plinkster Duck Commander and an MVP Predator. Mossberg again sponsored a game at the Annual Meeting banquet, donating four guns which went to two winners: one package included a 535 Duck Commander and a 500 Duck Commander, and the other featured the MVP Flex 7.62mm and the Plinkster Duck Commander. In addition to the firearms used for the games, Duck Commander Signature Editions appeared on the live auctions at both banquets.

"Support of the NRA and *Friends of NRA* is critical to the future of the shooting sports and our hunting heritage," said O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc., Vice President of Sales and Marketing John MacLellan. "No organization does more to protect our Second Amendment rights than the NRA. Our support of *Friends of NRA* ensures that the next generation of Mossberg owners will have hunting and shooting opportunities and the educational programs to safely and fully enjoy their firearms freedom."

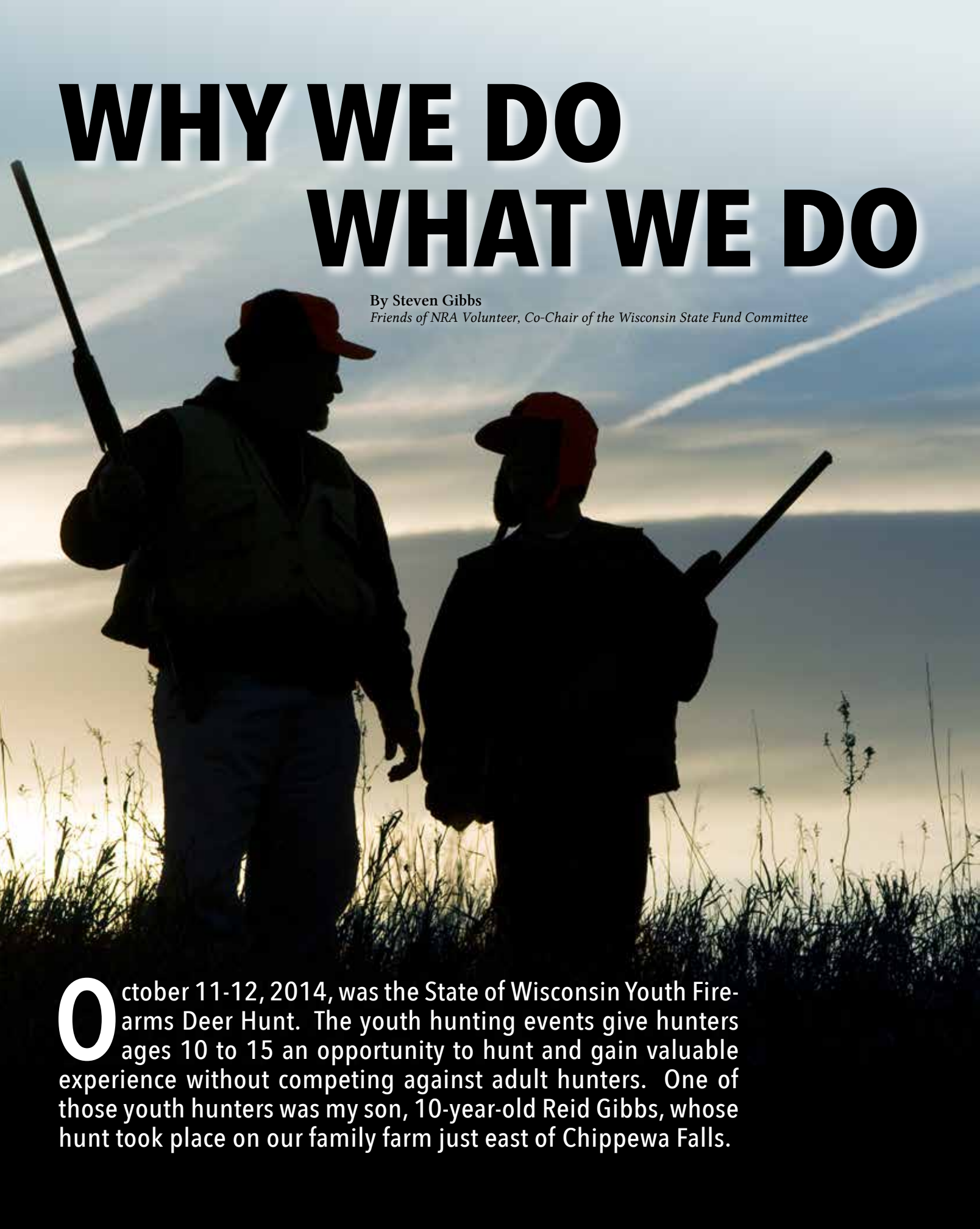
Thank you to Henry Repeating Arms and O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc., for their support of the NRA and The NRA Foundation. Their contributions help raise millions of dollars for the protection of America's shooting sports traditions and Second Amendment freedoms. ■

Visit [www.friendsofnra.org/Corporate-Sponsors.aspx](http://www.friendsofnra.org/Corporate-Sponsors.aspx) to learn more about becoming a Corporate Sponsor. See the back cover for more information about the Henry 2015 Ford F-150 auction on [GunBroker.com](http://GunBroker.com).

# WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

By Steven Gibbs

*Friends of NRA Volunteer, Co-Chair of the Wisconsin State Fund Committee*

A photograph showing the silhouettes of an adult and a child standing in a field of tall grass at sunset. The adult, on the left, is wearing a red cap and a light-colored vest over a dark shirt, holding a rifle. The child, on the right, is also wearing a red cap and a dark jacket, holding a rifle. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with wispy clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

**O**ctober 11-12, 2014, was the State of Wisconsin Youth Firearms Deer Hunt. The youth hunting events give hunters ages 10 to 15 an opportunity to hunt and gain valuable experience without competing against adult hunters. One of those youth hunters was my son, 10-year-old Reid Gibbs, whose hunt took place on our family farm just east of Chippewa Falls.



Reid and I spent the summer preparing for this hunt. He practiced his marksmanship, learning to pinpoint his accuracy using his .22 cal. rifle on the home shooting range. Later in the summer, Reid honed his skills with his Savage .243 cal youth model to prepare for the season. We also planted a small food plot in the early fall to entice the deer into shooting range.

Bright and early on the morning of Saturday, October 11, we sat in the ground blind that we'd set on the edge of the food plot one week before. That first morning a doe came into the food plot in the dark and left before shooting light. We saw four deer in the evening, but they were all too far away for a safe killing shot.

Sunday morning dawned without any wildlife sightings. Sunday evening was overcast and windy, but we went out to the blind for the last night of the youth hunt. Around six o'clock Reid spotted movement in the soybean field. He got his rifle and shooting rest ready for a shot. As the deer approached, I kept reminding him to let the deer get closer. As I watched him, Reid was getting a big case of buck fever. He began to shake and breathe so heavily that I thought that the deer was going to hear him as he waited for the shot.

As the deer came into safe shooting distance, I told Reid to take a deep breath, pick a spot behind the shoulder, and squeeze the trigger. At the sound of the report, the deer jumped into the air and ran off through the bean field into the woods. After a short tracking job in the rain, I spotted the deer 20 yards ahead, but I didn't tell Reid. I wanted him to discover it on his own. I told Reid to keep following the blood trail and soon he yelled, "Dad! Here it is!" Hugs came first with pictures of the successful hunter close behind. I was a very proud father as I instructed Reid how to field dress a deer. This mentor hunt provided a great memory not only for Reid, but for me as well.

Since that night, I have had time to reflect on my heritage of hunting and firearms. Reid is named after my grandfather, who was a great hunter. My grandfather passed away from a brain tumor when I was only seven, but I have very fond memories of him. He lived across the road from us and taught me how to shoot a .22 cal. rifle. After he passed, I inherited his Ithaca Model 37 Featherweight 12 gauge shotgun and his red-wool hunting coat, which became two of my most prized possessions. My grandfather and father instilled the pride of firearm ownership and hunting into my life by being my mentors and by providing me the opportunity to learn shooting and hunting under their supervision.

This brings me full circle to why I am a volunteer for *Friends of NRA*, a member of

the NRA Field Support Team, an NRA Firearms Instructor and an NRA Training Counselor—to pass on this passion and legacy to today's youth. The funds we raise through *Friends of NRA* and the programs they support, the ranges we fix and the firearms we provide, give countless people the same opportunity I had growing up. We may sometimes complain about the amount of work we put into raising those funds, but with our time and effort we may provide that invaluable opportunity that changes the life of that one kid. That one kid who might be on the edge of turning the wrong way in life. That one kid who seems lost and needs some guidance. That one kid who will connect with the shooting sports or hunting when he struggles to relate to anything else. If we keep that one kid out of trouble, all of our efforts over the years will have been worth it.

We have an obligation to pass on these traditions to the next generation, with instructions for them to do the same. You never know when you might be the "game changer" in someone's life, but we all have the opportunity. Keep fighting the good fight; keep working for the cause. ■



Photo by Steven Gibbs

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Virginia

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Arizona

**Mr. Edward C. Laikin**

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Virginia

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