

# TRADITIONS

QUARTER 3 | 2017

A PUBLICATION OF THE NRA FOUNDATION

## HENRY'S REPEATING SUPPORT

More than 100 years of heritage in the firearms industry drives the family-owned business and strong support of the shooting sports at Henry Repeating Arms

## FATHERS IN THE FIELD

How one *Friends of NRA* founder started a program to bring ministry, mentors and youth together through the outdoors.



**YES. 2017**  
YOUTH EDUCATION SUMMIT ANNUAL FEATURE ISSUE

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### Y.E.S., We See the Future of Freedom

The 2017 NRA Youth Education Summit brought 46 young leaders to D.C. for a week of unforgettable experiences and inspirations.

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2017 Youth Education Summit attendees pause in front of the U.S. Capitol building during their busy schedule of activities in Washington, D.C.

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# Reflecting on Family, Freedom and Friends at the 2017 National NRA Youth Education Summit

**Rick  
Tedrick**

*Chief Financial Officer,  
The NRA Foundation*

This summer I had the great fortune of meeting the 46 inspiring young adults who came from all over the country to participate in the 2017 National NRA Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.). In addition to observing their formal debates on a number of significant topics, I was honored to be the guest speaker at the final awards banquet that wrapped up their special week on Saturday, July 29. With that valuable time to address this group of future leaders, I focused on three topics relevant to that and every age group: family, freedom and friends.

Family is something that grounds us and assists in developing who we are. As someone who was fortunate to grow up in a very loving family with a strong mom and dad and four terrific, involved grandparents, I recognize the invaluable impact that has had on my life. After sharing stories about my first shooting and hunting experiences with my dad as well as a post-college cross-country road trip with my grandparents—both important opportunities for bonding and making lifelong memories—I encouraged the group to take the lessons from their own families and build on them.

Freedom is something that a lot of us take for granted. I know that when I was their age, I did not understand the concept like I heard them talk about it at Y.E.S. I don't think it was until I started working at the NRA in 1998 that I truly understood what freedom really means. My time at the NRA has continued to reinforce it as I have met many men and women, including Oliver North, Joe Foss, Charlton Heston and others, who have fought for our country and the preservation of our Constitution.

When I think of freedom, I think of all parts of the Constitution. And when I heard the students present their formal debates, which they handled extremely well, it highlighted the value of exercising the First Amendment right to freedom of speech.

Friendship is something that emerges as the theme of Y.E.S. During the week, students meet peers and make friends from all over the country—many of them will stay in touch for the rest of their lives. Friends like that can offer certain support and understanding that family members sometimes can't. It is no coincidence that we named our fundraising program "*Friends of NRA*."

One important thing I have learned about friends is that, while they may always be there for you, they don't always have to agree with you. I have friends with whom I disagree on political views and other issues, yet we stay friends. We can agree to disagree and respect each other's opinions. This ability to come together despite our differences is what makes America great.

As I concluded my discussion with the Y.E.S. group, I encouraged these young leaders to take back all their experiences from the week to their family, friends and communities at home. And now I encourage all of you, as I did them, to never take family, freedom or friends for granted.

After I had a chance to speak, several Y.E.S. participants shared their own comments and stories about family, freedom and friends. It was so heartening to listen to rising juniors and seniors in high school who have such a positive view on these pillars of American community and citizenship. I came away from Y.E.S. knowing that America is great and the future is promising.







**Y.E.S.**





# WE SEE THE FUTURE OF FREEDOM

By 2017 Youth Education Summit Alumni  
*Gianna Guzzo, Brent Hinchcliff, Simon Sefzik,  
Peter Leonard and Emily Rassmussen*

On Monday, July 24, 46 students from 35 different states embarked on a weeklong journey to Washington, D.C., for the 2017 National NRA Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.). Beginning with introductions and icebreaker activities on that first day and continuing with teamwork on formal debates and discussions of current events throughout the week, participants met and built relationships with peers from around the country.



As the group took in the inspiring sights around the D.C. area, the program brought history textbooks to life and encouraged students to explore their interests in the military, politics and the shooting sports. From museum visits and meeting with a congressman to honoring the fallen at Arlington National Cemetery and shooting at the NRA Range, the week's activities centered around these common themes of history, government, military and shooting.

Every experience during Y.E.S. connected to history in some way. The NRA National Firearms Museum featured weapons from wars and other impactful periods in America's past. The federal government branches the students visited have preserved Americans' rights and freedoms since the establishment of the Constitution. Memorials reminded everyone of the greatest leaders, heroes and defenders of free-

dom in American history.

An important part of America's freedom is her democracy. During the summit, students got a firsthand look at the institutions and procedures involved in the democratic process and American politics. They met with Congressman Jeff Duncan of South Carolina who spoke about the importance of the Second Amendment and continued by sharing encouraging words with the students and answering a few questions. They toured the U.S. Capitol—including a stop in the House Gallery—visited the Supreme Court and explored the National Archives, where they saw the Constitution, Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights. A current events discussion and a formal debate provided the opportunity for the students to engage in the political process by discussing relevant and timely topics.





The military theme also wove through many of the week's events and experiences. The National Museum of the Marine Corps immersed the students in that branch's history before the group honored its members at the Iwo Jima Memorial. On the last day of the summit, a visit to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery provided the opportunity to honor all of the servicemen and women who paid the ultimate price for Americans' freedom and liberty.

While some participants came to Y.E.S. with little to no experience with shooting, many brought with them a background in and enthusiasm for the shooting sports. Everyone had the chance to shoot at the NRA Range after learning how the NRA works to promote firearms safety and education through a variety of different programs. Students left their visit to NRA Headquarters with the tools to bring these programs back to their own communities. All the Y.E.S. students, regardless of their familiarity with firearms, are patriots and protectors of the Constitution. This program has empowered them to go out into the world with each other's support to preserve the rights and liberty granted to every American citizen. The students of Y.E.S. will Lead the Legacy of freedom into the next generation. – *GIANNA GUZZO (NY)*



**“**  
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students of  
Y.E.S. will  
Lead the  
Legacy of  
freedom  
into the next  
generation.  
**”**

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## 2017 **END-OF-WEEK** SCHOLARSHIPS

<b>\$3.5K</b>	Rylie Pennell <small>VA</small> Simon Sefzik <small>WA</small>
<b>\$2.5K</b>	Peter Leonard <small>FL</small> Denise Shaffer <small>TX</small> Allen Slaughter <small>KY</small>
<b>\$2K</b>	Kaitlyn Callaway <small>TX</small> Gage Paris <small>CO</small>
<b>\$1K</b>	Sophia Puliafico <small>AK</small> Amby Tierney <small>MA</small> Krzysztof Gajda <small>IL</small> Cristián Lee <small>AZ</small>

**PHOTOS** Credit Peter Fountain and Tyler Proksa. Previous page: The group gathers on the lawn of George Washington's Mount Vernon. Opposite page, from top: Observing the "Iwo Jima" Marine Corps War Memorial; Interacting with the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. This page, from top: Getting to know each other during field games on Tuesday night; Shooting at the NRA Range; Winning tickets at the mock *Friends of NRA* banquet with NRA Field Rep David Wells. Next page, from top: Viewing the rotunda on a tour of the Capitol; Posing at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial; An impromptu tour at the NRA National Firearms Museum.

# HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY HISTORY

// We are left with memories of the past, and it is time to make our own mark on the history of this great nation. //



From the moment that the airplane began its approach to Reagan International Airport, everything for which this nation has struggled lay before my eyes. With a glimpse of the Washington Monument—standing tall above the rest of the city—through the small window port, I was struck anew with wonder at what great things had been accomplished in this one city, the capital of the United States. Many world-changing decisions were made right here, and now myself and 45 other Y.E.S. participants would walk the same paths that great American and world leaders have for hundreds of years.

The NRA National Firearms Museum provided our first close-up encounter of history in the Washington, D.C., area. Walking through the softly glowing corridors, each turn revealed a new room and a new realm of firearm ingenuity. Students who already had a strong interest in and knowledge of firearms history shared their passion with others, creating their own mini-tours of the collection. From old flintlocks and a rifle used by

John Wayne in filming, to the types of firearms used by our servicemen and women today, we watched the evolution of firearms unfold before us.

The next day's activities continued to awe and inspire. The U.S. Capitol building was one of the most impressive sights of the week. We witnessed the Statue of Freedom, perched high above us atop the dome and standing as a reminder that Americans are a free people. The huge scale of the ornate building truly represents the importance and power of what takes place inside—the passage of legislation to protect the nation's citizens and their personal rights and liberties. Sitting in the House Chamber and watching representatives speak on various issues, we observed the political struggle that Congress goes through every day. "It is amazing to think," remarked Gianna Guzzo (NY), "that this is where everything that allows us to be here today happens."

Walking through the National Mall and Memorial Parks to see the monuments was no less immersive. From the Lincoln Memorial where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his "I Have a Dream" speech to the pattering fountain at the World War II Memorial, each place struck the group with reverence and respect at the moments of history that they stand for.

By the end of the week, we were sad to leave D.C. because of how great it was to learn so much there. But now we are left with pictures and memories of the past, and it is time to make our own mark on the history of this great nation. — BRENT HINCHCLIFF (CA)





# GOVERNMENT **GOVERNMENT** GOVERNMENT



// Our nation needs leaders, especially in its youth, and I know many were made during the 2017 Y.E.S. week. //

“Ever since I was a young child, service in political office seemed to me to be something reserved for only the ‘great’ people,” remarked Jonathan McCormick Jr. (Oklahoma). “But fortunately, I was mistaken. I realized that our government—of, by, and for the people—not only allows but also necessitates that our nation’s leaders arise from the People. With this in mind, I chose to apply for the NRA Youth Education Summit. To my jubilation, I was selected!”

Jonathan is not unlike the 45 other students who attended this year’s Y.E.S.—students who understand the importance of civics, government, current events and respectful discourse. At the summit, the NRA provided us all with a productive and engaging way to learn about our nation’s history and about how we can impact its future.

The group was privileged to meet Congressman Duncan on the steps of the Capitol as he spoke about the importance of civil liberties and self-defense. Being in the nation’s capital alone is incredibly honoring, and we were grateful to meet with and learn from the experience of an elected official.

The same day, we enthusiastically attended a session of the House of Representatives and toured the Capitol, learning about the history and architecture of the legislative branch. Then we heard a presentation on the history and legacy of the judiciary branch at the Supreme Court. Everyone was particularly intrigued to learn that the “Highest Court in the Land” is actually a basketball court on the top floor of the building!

One of the most exciting activities of the week, especially for the students interested in pursuing a future in politics, was the current events discussion. Groups used their research and analysis to formulate answers to relevant policy issues. For example, our group answered questions about stand-your-ground laws and the importance of the castle doctrine. These discussions were moderated and observed by NRA staff from various departments including legal, executive and grant management. Though groups and individuals disagreed on some topics, all discussions proceeded in a direct yet respectful manner—a refreshing thought in today’s polarized political environment.

Students also participated in formal team debates at Hillsdale College’s Kirby Center. Engaging in constructive conversations, we discussed topics such as drug abuse, gun violence, violent video games and society’s obligation regarding social welfare. Each student did research and preparation ahead of time in coordination with their assigned teammates, and it was a rewarding experience to work in the debate groups to formulate and present our arguments. Everyone not only did a fantastic job, but also learned a lot in the process.

I will never forget my Y.E.S. experience—neither the organized activities provided by the NRA nor the valuable one-on-one conversations with my peers. I was engaged, empowered, challenged and inspired. Our nation needs leaders, especially in its youth, and I know many were made during the 2017 Youth Education Summit. – SIMON SEFZIK (WA)

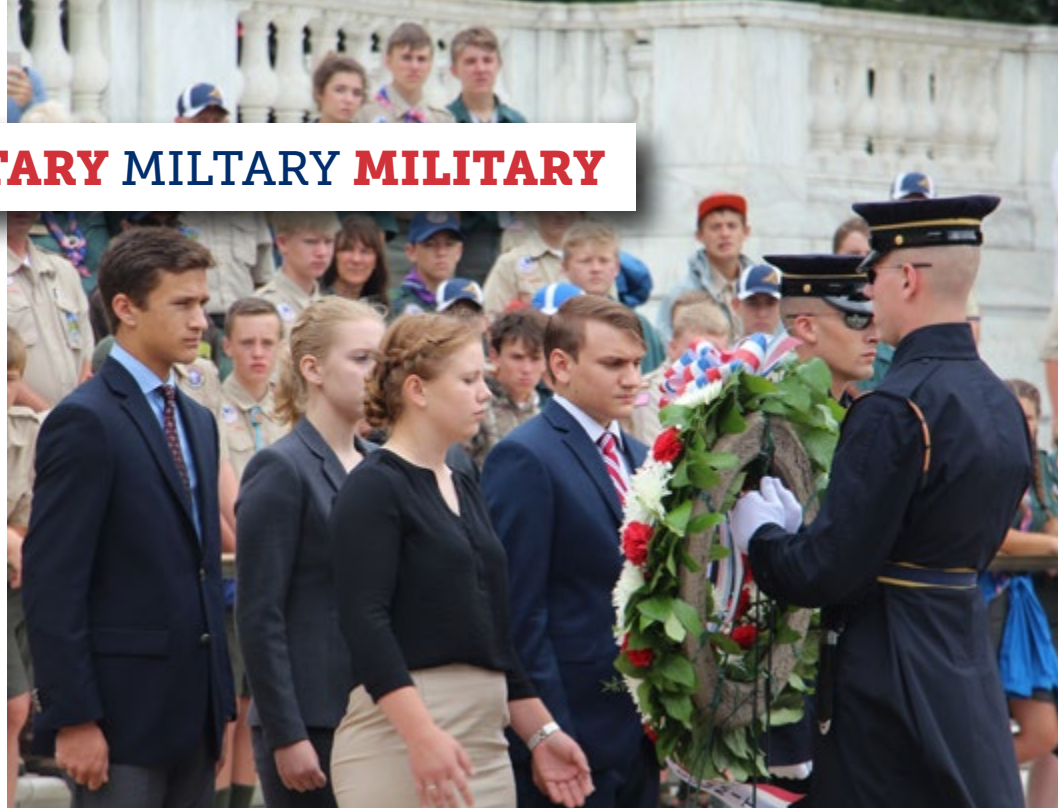




MILITARY **MILITARY** MILITARY **MILITARY**

// In our desire to serve, we have steeled our will. We will seek to preserve our country's legacy of freedom.

//



On Thursday afternoon, the Y.E.S. group toured the National Museum of American History. As I walked through the exhibits with Canlin Dionne (LA), I felt a spark of curiosity. On the spur of the moment, I asked Canlin how the military history exhibit—The Price of Freedom: Americans at War—made him feel. Despite the broadness of the question, he handled it very deftly.

“Peter, I don’t really know how I feel, per se,” he began in his Louisiana accent. “But I do now know that these people were real. They fought for us and died for us. They’re not just names in books but people who lived. This place has really made that clear for me.”

That sentiment has stuck with me ever since he spoke those words. All of my peers were af-

fected by the monuments we visited in unique ways. To each of us the museums carried different messages. Statues and exhibits alike portrayed valorous and honorable people from American history. As we visited several memorials, including the Vietnam, Lincoln, Korean, World War II, Iwo Jima and Thomas Jefferson, each imparted unique meanings to us all.

But there was a subtle, shared nuance in my interpretation of the monuments that the rest of my peers who also want to serve in the military understood. We all learned that military service isn’t all action and heroics, but that—when it comes down to duty on the battlefield, in the sky or at sea—as a soldier, airman or sailor one must be prepared to make the same sacrifice as so many have before us.

“The monuments and museums inspired me in a couple of ways,” shared Stephen Garner (TX). “One thing that struck me is that we have never gone to conquer but rather to liberate others or to defend ourselves. Most people don’t have the freedoms of Americans, and these monuments are devoted to the men and women who have sacrificed their lives so that others can experience those freedoms and so that we may continue to experience ours.”

Despite this insight, none of us have faltered in our desire to serve our country in the military; we have steeled our will. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to visit all of the historic and sacred locations afforded to us by Y.E.S., and we will seek to preserve our country’s legacy of freedom. — PETER LEONARD (FL)





## SHOOTING SHOOTING SHOOTING SHOOTING

// For the first time in my life, I was in a place where I didn't have to explain what competitive shooting was. //

It's a situation that many people are familiar with—the first time you meet someone new and begin the process of answering their questions about you, your interests, your hobbies. Usually for me it goes something like: “What’s your name? Where are you from? What do you do for fun?” “Emily. Wisconsin. I shoot.” “Shoot? Like, ‘pew pew?’” “Well, kind of...”

When I came to Y.E.S., for the first time in my life I was in a place where I didn't have to explain what competitive shooting was. Sure, I had to explain some of the specific clay target disciplines, but in this group it wasn't abnormal to be a competitive shooter. Everyone at the summit had shot at least once, and many did recreationally or competitively. On day one it already felt like home.

The first place we got to visit during the week was NRA Headquarters. This included hearing from NRA program leaders, participating in a mock *Friends of NRA* banquet, a tour of the NRA National Firearms Museum, and—my favorite part—shooting at the NRA Range. After receiving a safety briefing and eye and ear protection, we spread out across the lanes and took turns shooting a variety of pistols and rifles. For some students this was one of their first shooting experiences; for others this was just another Tuesday. No matter where we fell on the spectrum, each of us beamed with excitement and joy. The range also filled with quite a bit of yelling since we were still trying to get to know each other through ear plugs and the noise of bullets.

Throughout the week we continued to learn more about the Second Amendment from leaders at the NRA, from our peers during the current events discussions and from the Bill of Rights itself at the National Archives. But what stuck with me most was the conversations I had with my peers. Talking with Quinton Taylor (OH) and Cristián Lee (AZ) revealed that we had all been at the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) Nationals just a week before. Grayson Davey (AK) and I compared which top competitive shooters we knew and followed.

It was interesting to talk with some of the students who just shot for fun and weren't out on the line at least twice a week. I learned a lot from their mentality when it came to shooting. And even though we came from different states, had different backgrounds and shot differently, our passion for the Second Amendment and our desire to protect it brought us together.

I thought the hardest part about Y.E.S. week would be being away from my shotgun. But, in reality, leaving all the wonderful people who changed my life for the better was much harder. — EMILY RASSMUSSEN (WI) ■

*Now it's your turn! NRA is calling all young leaders interested in Leading the Legacy for the 2018 Youth Education Summit! The summit will run for two, one-week sessions: July 9–July 15 and July 23–July 29. To apply please email [yes@nrahq.org](mailto:yes@nrahq.org), call (800) 672-3888, ext. 1351, or visit [yes.nra.org](http://yes.nra.org). Application deadline is January 12, 2018.*

**PHOTOS Credit Peter Fountain and Tyler Proksa.** Page 9, from top: The group gathers on the southeast steps of the Capitol to hear from Congressman Duncan; students participate in the current events discussions; Jonathan McCormick looked the part of a future politician at the final banquet. Opposite page, from top; Four students were selected for the honor of laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier; Reflecting on history at the National Museum of the Marine Corps; Walking the Vietnam War Memorial; Receiving a welcome to the National Museum of the Marine Corps. This page, from top: Taking aim at the NRA Range; Showing off a tight grouping; Posing in front of the White House.



# Y.E.S. GRAND SCHOLARSHIPS

**\$5,500** Emily Saltarelli



Emily's main focus in the year following her National Y.E.S. program was founding the Montgomery Junior Shooters and working to make it an official NRA-affiliated youth club. She filed all the required paperwork with NRA, found the club a place to meet, made sure they had supervision, recruited members, wrote a welcome letter for new members, and made sure that all members learned the range rules. Emily also presented three Eddie Eagle GunSafe® classes to three different age ranges. She contacted her local police department to help present the program, made and distributed flyers, and got the event posted on the city's marquee. In addition to the Eddie Eagle supplies provided by NRA, Emily decided that she wanted to add another activity to the presentation and worked with a local graphic designer to create a "Pin the Beak on Eddie" game. Additionally, Emily gave two presentations about Y.E.S.—one at her local *Friends of NRA* event and one at a local church.

**Brytanni MacNamara** **\$2,000**



Bryttani focused her energy by presenting the Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program three times, reaching more than 370 students. Bryttani worked with three different elementary schools to make these presentations as impactful as possible. Several weeks after these programs were held, she had the opportunity to speak with some of the participants, and they still remembered Eddie's song: "Stop! Don't Touch. Run away. Tell a grownup." One of the schools even decided to show the video to the entire student body!

**\$1,000** Aiden Thomason



Aiden wrote a letter to The NRA Foundation Board of Trustees detailing her Y.E.S. experience. She discussed the friends she made, the sights she saw, and the experience in public speaking she gained through current events discussions and debates. Additionally, Aiden held a Y.E.S. information session at her school and passed out flyers to other interested students encouraging them to apply and reach out to her for additional information.



The NRA Foundation awards Grand Scholarships to proactive Y.E.S. alumni every year. These 2016 Y.E.S. students took what they learned and returned to their communities as ambassadors committed to furthering the mission to Teach Freedom. The NRA Foundation is proud to invest in these young leaders as they take steps to promote change and positively impact America's future.

2016

## Serena Juchnowski \$6,500

Serena started her Grand Scholarship efforts by giving a presentation at her school about Y.E.S. and her experiences during the program. She made flyers, handed out cards, and even had several morning announcements made. Serena's school newspaper also featured her in an article about her background in firearms and her thoughts on the Y.E.S. program. Beyond her school, Serena reached out to several local and statewide sportsmen's groups and published articles about Y.E.S. She also had an article published in Junior Shooters Magazine and wrote a letter to future Y.E.S. applicants—an encouragement that the time-consuming application is worth the effort because it helps to solidify one's beliefs when it comes to the Second Amendment and patriotism. Additionally, Serena spoke at a local *Friends of NRA* event, thanking them for their support of the Y.E.S. program and sharing with them about the impact that the program has on its participants. Last but not least, Serena is working to start an Ohio Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC), which is one of the many NRA programs highlighted at Y.E.S.



# #GIVINGTUESDAY™

## GIVE THE GIFT OF Y.E.S. ON NOVEMBER 28

HELP US LEAD THE LEGACY BY DONATING TO THE NRA FOUNDATION  
TO SUPPORT NRA'S YOUTH EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

THE NRA YOUTH EDUCATION SUMMIT IS GROWING TO TWO, ONE-WEEK SESSIONS IN 2018!

### JULY 9-15 AND JULY 23-29

Since its 1996 inception, NRA's Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.) has encouraged young adults to become active citizens and leaders of tomorrow by learning about the Constitution and Bill of Rights, the federal government and the importance of engaging in civic affairs.

Competitive team debates and casual current events discussions highlight the diverse backgrounds and beliefs of participants while fostering fellowship and respect.

The program's nonstop agenda also includes exciting activities and opportunities from meeting with members of Congress and visiting NRA Headquarters to touring historic sites and monuments in the D.C. area and reflecting on the dedicated service of the nation's military.

Through participation in the program's events, students compete for \$55,000 in college scholarships—this is where you come in!

**SAY "Y.E.S." ON NOVEMBER 28 AND SUPPORT TOMORROW'S LEADERS!**

# Fathers IN THE Field

By John Smithbaker  
Founder and CEO, *Fathers in the Field*



Who introduced you to the outdoors and to shooting? I sure hope you have looked that person in the eyes and said a heartfelt “Thank You.”

Generally speaking, it is from a father that a boy learns to appreciate nature, to value conservation, to hunt and to responsibly use and respect firearms. It is from a father that a boy learns to be a man, and there may be no greater classroom than the outdoors in which to learn those lessons.

Sadly, this traditional teaching path and rite of passage journey is breaking down with the generational crises of increasing fatherlessness. Fifty percent of this country’s children—more than 25 million kids under 18 years of age—are growing up in homes without their fathers.

Malakhi is one of those children. At a young age, he began to ask about his father. Knowing she would not be able to fill all the roles of a father, Malakhi’s mother Karlin worked hard to find outlets that would put Godly men in his life. It was in this search that she came across

*Fathers in the Field* and rejoiced to find its ministry directed at fatherless boys.

The effects of our society’s fatherless epidemic are growing in every community around the country. The statistics are terrifying and profound. The fatherless account for 63 percent of youth suicides and more than 70 percent of youth in jail, teen pregnancies, high school dropouts and teens in treatment for drug addiction.

Thankfully, I did not become a statistic. My dad took off when my mom was pregnant. I owe a debt of gratitude to my uncle and a couple of friends’ fathers who invited me along on their outdoors adventures. Those men, heroes in my mind, did something very simple, something they already enjoyed doing themselves—they took me hunting and fishing. Looking back, those efforts were small amounts of time that made a huge difference in my life. Because of those unselfish acts of kindness, I formed a lifelong passion and was able to build a career in the outdoor industry.

Karlin didn’t want Malakhi to

become a statistic either. She reached out to me through our website seeking a church in Vancouver, Wash. Our Western Regional Missionary connected her to 6:8 Church, where Church Champion Russ Manning helped Karlin begin the process of getting Malakhi a Mentor Father through *Fathers in the Field*.

*Fathers in the Field* mentoring ministry





works through local churches to pair up outdoorsmen with a fatherless boy in their community. Boys aged seven to 17 in urgent need of male role models meet four times a month with their Mentor Father. While gaining insight and understanding, they serve others, worship and plan an outdoor activity so they have a year-end 'rite of passage' celebration to prepare and look forward to.

*Fathers in the Field* seeks to remove any apprehension towards taking on the role of a mentor. It doesn't require its mentors to learn anything, just to share the outdoor skills and interest that they already have. By taking a little bit of time to pass them along to someone who would never have that opportunity unless he makes that simple gesture, the impact a Mentor Father will have in his Field Buddy's life will be far reaching. The program also takes a holistic approach to the family—the Mentor Father commits to caring for the fatherless boy, the local church commits to caring

for the single mom and the rest of the family.

Mentor Father Jon Steinmann was the perfect fit for Malakhi; he is a strong leader and a Christian man who desires to see Malakhi heal from his wounds of abandonment. "Jon is the Christian male influence my heart longed for Malakhi to have," reflects Karlin. "When Malakhi knows Jon is coming, he gets excited; he can't wait to go and do manly things. He is becoming a better-rounded person who is able to express his emotions and needs in healthier ways than he could

before. But the greatest gift is watching his relationship with God getting deeper because of Jon's influence."

This program that has impacted the lives of so many boys like Malakhi is solely funded by charitable sponsors and participating churches. Since 2013, The NRA Foundation has awarded 32 grants to our programs for a total of more than \$300,000. We are so grateful to The NRA

Foundation and *Friends of NRA* for their support in helping us reach the next generation.

Our outdoor and hunting heritage and legacy is at risk. The traditional method of how we communicate and pass along this outdoor passion is broken, and the next generation's involvement is diminishing.

We all need to take a hard look at how each of us can be of help to the next generation. It is the critical question we need to ask and solve. We can turn the tide. If not us, then who? ■



*Apply for a grant for your educational shooting sports program at [nrafoundation.org](http://nrafoundation.org)! Learn more about Fathers in the Field at [www.fathersinthefield.com](http://www.fathersinthefield.com).*

**PHOTOS** courtesy *Fathers in the Field*. Clockwise from top left: John Smithbaker with Field Buddy Laine; Mentor Father Jon Steinmann with Field Buddy Malakhi; Mentor Father Scott with Field Buddy Masen; Mentor Father Kevin with Field Buddy Morgan; Mentor Father David with Field Buddy Isaiah.





# SNAP



This year's snag featured the newly redesigned logo revealed for the Youth Education Summit's 20 year anniversary in 2016.



Close friendships quickly formed as students shared experiences in and around Washington, D.C.



Students practiced public speaking skills in front of their peers.

Current event defend their



The Y.E.S. photo booth captured memories and patriotic enthusiasm



Taking a ride with Chesty the bulldog at the National Museum of the Marine Corps



It's not a true Y.E.S. experience without a day at the NRA Range! Students learned firearms safety and proper technique to hit their targets.

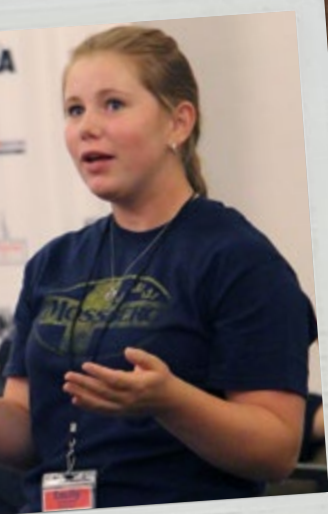


Students arrived at the airport and awaited transportation to the hotel, passing the time by getting to know each other and playing games.

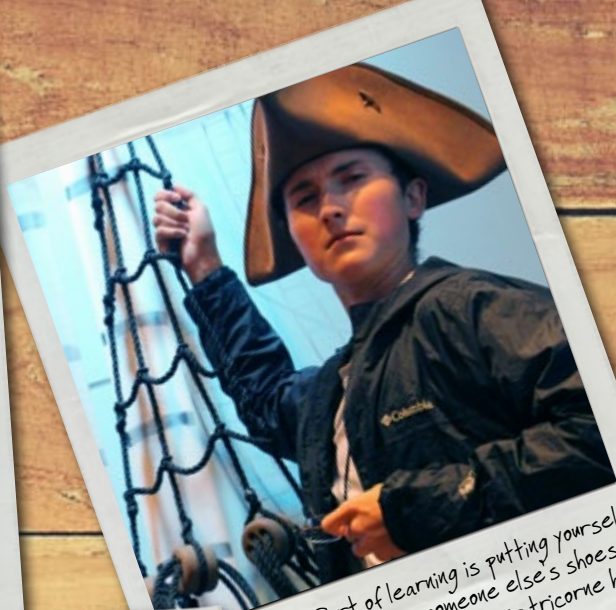


After a day in the capital, a tour of the monuments and memorials in Washington, D.C., began with a stop at the White House.





discussions allowed students to opinions in a more relaxed setting than the formal team debates.



Part of learning is putting yourself in someone else's shoes ... or their tricorn hat.



Taking a moment to listen to the fountains at the World War II memorial



## A LOOK AT THE FUN AND FACES OF THE 2017 NRA YOUTH EDUCATION SUMMIT

Submit your Friends of NRA and NRA Foundation photos to [friends@nrahq.org](mailto:friends@nrahq.org)! Help us celebrate more memories and milestones.



Dressing up for a final night of fun, food and friendship at the closing banquet.



Congressman Jeff Duncan of South Carolina shared educating and inspirational words with the students.



The group closes the week with an enthusiastic "Y.E.S.!" in a final bittersweet celebration of their time together.



Cristián Lee representing his team debating the correlation between gun violence and video games.

# SHOT



# BIG CHECKS\$ REPRESENT BIG SUPPORT FOR THE SHOOTING SPORTS

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

“There was so much enthusiasm from the grant recipients and volunteers regarding the funding that The NRA Foundation has provided.”

Every year, NRA Foundation grants benefit communities and individuals across the country, helping to Teach Freedom and ensure a bright future for America's shooting sports traditions. Through 2016, the NRA Foundation has awarded more than

## \$335 MILLION

through 42,000 individual grants in support of eligible programs and projects.

Rick Tedrick, Chief Financial Officer for The NRA Foundation, has been able to personally experience and recognize the impact that these grants have played in many local communities. His travels as a judge for the Miss America pageant have taken him across the country and provided special opportunities to meet with the programs and people who receive and benefit from NRA Foundation funding.

Last month, Tedrick visited Roanoke, Va., to judge the Miss Virginia scholarship pageant—a preliminary to Miss America. “Even though that was a great honor,” he says, “the real honor during my visit was meeting the volunteers and the kids who have benefited from the NRA Foundation grants.”

On June 24, the Sportsman's Warehouse in Roanoke hosted an event for grant presentations from *Friends of NRA* to seven different organizations in the Roanoke area. Tedrick joined a crowd of *Friends of NRA*

volunteers and grant recipients who attended to receive their symbolic checks representing nearly

## \$335 THOUSAND

in grants awarded over the past 20 years.

“These grants are generated through your local *Friends of NRA* events,” Tedrick reminded the recipients in attendance. “You should be very proud of the hard work that the Virginia volunteers have provided throughout the years.”

The first presentation recognized Amherst County 4-H Shooting Education Club. Since 2002 it has received eight grants totaling \$23,752. The BB guns, air rifles, .22 rifles, shotguns, ammunition and targets provided through the grants have helped the club to ensure its focus on education, safety, training and advancing members' skills in the shooting sports and to achieve its goal of investing in the children's development as good citizens and future leaders.

Up next was the Bedford County 4-H Shooting Team, which has benefited from nine NRA Foundation grants totaling \$26,371 since 2003. The Bedford County team has been focusing on their shotgun skills for skeet, trap and sporting clays, and NRA Foundation grants have assisted the team with ammunition and clay targets that allow participants to get more practice. That

extra practice is key to achieving the team's goal of developing its members for competitions and representing Virginia at the National Shotgun Championship in Nebraska. Most importantly, the team helps these youths to develop the life skills of safety, teamwork and focus while having fun pursuing the shooting sports.

The Craig County 4-H Shooting Stars Club has also received nine grants, with a total of \$29,405 awarded by The NRA Foundation since 2002. Funding has supported its “Youth in the Outdoors” program, which fosters an appreciation of the outdoors, teaches firearms and hunting safety and builds marksmanship skills. Grants have also provided funding for competitions

“Without these funds our program would not exist.”

and camps, for educating and training adult volunteers, and for equipment including .22 rifles, air guns, eye and hearing protection, ammunition and targets. All that supports Craig County 4-H Shooting Stars Club in helping youth mature into well-rounded and contributing adults through relationships with caring mentors and through the development and practice of life skills, such



as responsibility, self-discipline and focus. "The Shooting Stars are appreciative of the grants we receive," shared Mike Hinson, Craig County 4-H Shooting Stars Instructor. "Without these funds our program would not exist."

The theme of 4-H continued with Botetourt County 4-H. Since 2005, it has received 11 grants totaling \$37,034 for a variety of 4-H shooting education programs. From a skeet thrower and new over/under shotguns to BB guns, air rifles and .22 rifles, NRA Foundation grants have furnished the program with essential equipment. In its most recent grant, Botetourt County 4-H was awarded archery gear, 20 gauge shotguns, ammunition and various targets. Each item plays a role in providing youth not only with training in responsible firearm safety and marksmanship fundamentals but also with the opportunity to gain and improve leadership, responsibility and communication skills while having fun in the shooting sports.

The next presentation featured the Ridge Rifle Association. Throughout the years the association has supported many NRA programs, and NRA Foundation grants have helped it to conduct them. Since 2007 they have received 19 grants totaling nearly

## \$43 THOUSAND

Many of those grants have been for Women On Target® and Brownells/NRA Day events, impacting nearly 900 people in the Roanoke area. Thanks to grant support, the Women On Target® event now includes

AR-15 sport rifles. Ridge Rifle has also partnered with Virginia Fish and Game to teach hunter safety and with the Roanoke Police Department to teach self-defense techniques. Other grants have gone towards range improvement projects such as safety walls and upgrades to the trap range.

The final 4-H group to be recognized was the Appomattox 4-H Shooting Education Club. This club has benefited from the NRA Foundation grant program since 1995, making it one of the earliest grant recipients in Virginia. Throughout more than two decades, Appomattox 4-H has received 14 grants totaling over

## \$51 THOUSAND

for shotguns, ammunition, air rifle equipment, BB guns, archery gear, a sporting clays trap machine, shooting accessories, safety gear and an equipment trailer—all helping to introduce more local youth to shooting and to keeping participants engaged.

Last, but certainly not least, was the Boy Scouts Blue Ridge Mountain Council. Nationwide, Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is the second largest recipient of NRA Foundation grants, after 4-H. The Blue Ridge Mountain (BRM) Council has been a large part of the BSA grant history, having received 30 grants since 1999 for a total of nearly

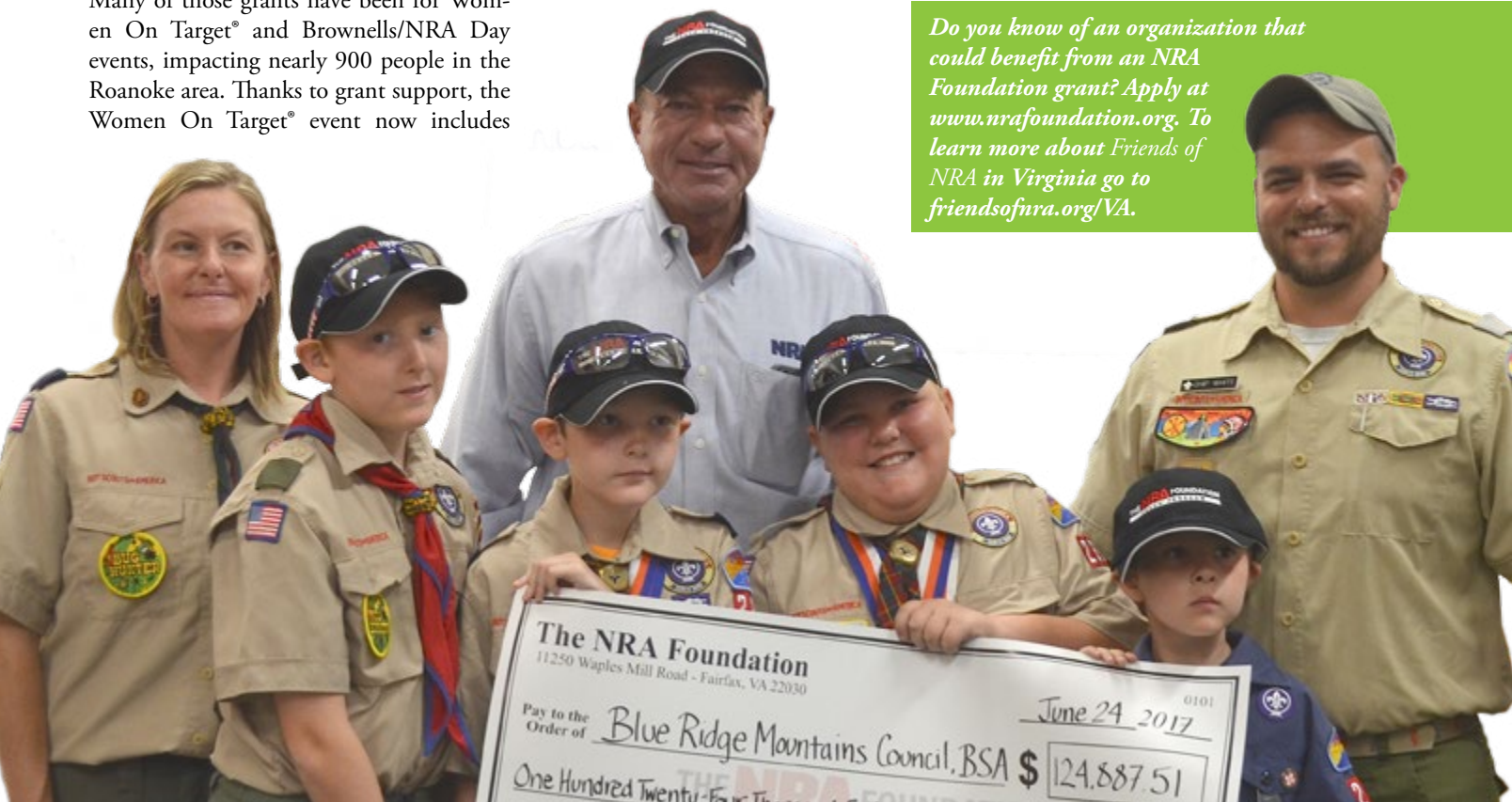
## \$125 THOUSAND

The NRA Foundation grant program has helped the BRM Council remodel their rifle range, construct range shelters and teaching areas, build a new shotgun range, purchase new trap machines and receive firearms and ammunition. That support has benefited nearly 23,000 scouts and venture crew members of BRM Council's six districts. "If it wasn't for the funding provided by *Friends of NRA* and The NRA Foundation," explains Chip White, Great Valley District Senior Executive, "our Boy Scout Shooting program would not exist."

These numbers speak for themselves to illustrate the incredible impact that the NRA Foundation grant program has on fostering future generations of shooting sports enthusiasts. But hearing the personal stories of success from the volunteers and youth participants of these programs truly bring that mission to life.

"There was so much enthusiasm from the grant recipients and volunteers regarding the funding that the NRA Foundation has provided," Tedrick says. "Several kids told me during our meeting that their respective organizations have made major impacts in their lives. It is always great to see smiles from so many kids thanks to the efforts of the volunteers and The NRA Foundation." ■

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

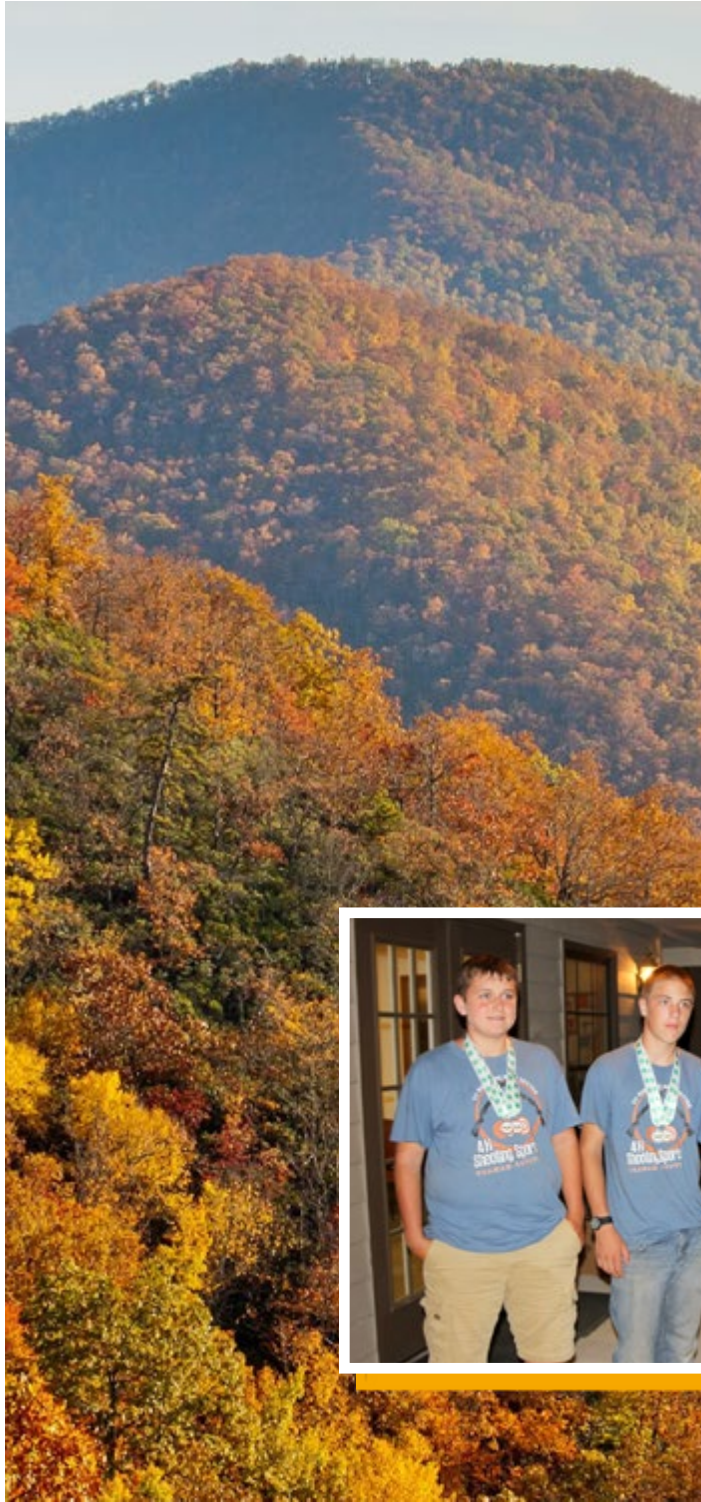




# *From the Mountains* *Rural Teams Climb to the Top*

By Christina Paladeau

*Event Marketing & Communications Coordinator,  
National Rifle Association*



In a rural landscape of fertile valleys, rising peaks, protected forests and dammed lakes, Graham County, N.C., sits at the border of Tennessee and the edge of the Great Smoky Mountains. Despite being one of the state's least populous counties, it is home to two shooting sports programs creating valuable opportunities for local youth.

Graham County 4-H Shooting Sports has grown by leaps and bounds in the last five years. With the support of NRA Foundation grants, enrollment has risen from just a handful of participants to 36 kids enrolled in the current year.

The program allows local youth to compete in a variety of events, including air rifle, air pistol, .22LR pistol, muzzleloader, trap, sporter and match divisions of .22LR rifle, compound bow and recurve bow. In 2016, 17 of the then 32 members competed at the district competition. Fifteen went on to compete at the 4-H State competition, where four members—Grady Garland, Justin Lynn, Garrett Holder and Drey Keener—received individual awards.

Since 2014, The NRA Foundation has awarded Graham County 4-H more than \$9,500 in grants, including nearly \$3,700 this year. The grants have empowered the team to grow rapidly by pro-





**Photos credit Cheri Lynn and Lisa Keener.** From left to right: Winners at the 2016 NC 4-H State shooting competition—Grady Garland, Justin Lynn, Garrett Holder and Drey Keener; The 2017 Robbinsville Hunter Education Shooting Team; Robbinsville Middle School Shooting Team participants at the 2016 State NC Wildlife Hunter Education Shooting competition—Cole Carver, Sabrina Orr, Gabe Roberts, BJ Collins, Kyle Jenkins, Myson Phillips, Samuel Cable, Drey Keener, Archery Coach Mark Cable and Head Coach Andy Lynn.



viding funds for safety equipment, sporting clays, targets, guns and ammo.

Robbinsville Shooting Sports is also bringing firearms education and training to the area's youth. The program is run by the local middle and high schools in conjunction with the North Carolina Wildlife Hunter Education Program. All students must complete the North Carolina Hunter Safety class to join the team, which has been led by head Coach Andy Lynn—an certified NRA Pistol Instructor, Range Safety Officer, and instructor for Personal Protection Inside the Home and Outside the Home—for the past three years. Students in sixth through twelfth grade can participate in trap, .22LR rifle, compound bow, and hunter skills, which entails land navigation with a compass and a written test on the *Today's Hunter* book.

Robbinsville Middle School is small in comparison to others in the state, and the shooting sports team roster of 20-30 students often makes up more than 10% of the school enrollment. Nonetheless, the team is holding its own. In 2015 it made its first ever trip to the State Hunter Education competition, an accomplishment in itself for the rural school to face off against schools of all sizes. In 2016 the Robbinsville Middle School team once again participated in the State Hunter Education competition, this time bringing home a team Third Overall for its cumulative score in the four events.

The team suffered a setback in 2017 with the loss of its practice range, but the program still enjoyed a successful season. Although the high school team missed an invitation to the state competition by a mere 14 out of 4,000 points, the middle school team again received an invitation. At the 40th annual North Carolina Wildlife Hunter Education State Tournament on April 29, 2017, team member BJ Collins took home three individual junior trophies: Second Overall,

Second Hunter Skills and Third Rifle. With a new range in development and scheduled to be ready for practice by the beginning of next season, 2018 will hopefully bolster the program's winning trend.

Robbinsville Shooting Sports' team also participate in several smaller competitions in the area that culminate at the district competition held at Polk County Gun Club in Columbus, N.C. At the 2016 Polk County District shooting competition, the Robbinsville High School and Middle School teams both placed first in Trap and third Overall, with one middle school student outshooting five other competitors to win first place in individual trap and several other students finishing in the top 10 overall.

Robbinsville Shooting Sports functions solely on donations, with students helping to fundraise and The NRA Foundation playing a large part in funding the program's activities. Since 2009, The NRA Foundation has awarded five grants totaling nearly \$40,000 to the program. The grants, including nearly \$10,000 in 2017, have provided skeet throwers, safety equipment, guns, ammo and sporting clays. Because of the generosity of The NRA Foundation's Western North Carolina *Friends of NRA* State Fund Committee and other donors, students are able to participate on the team at no charge.

Programs like Graham County 4-H and Robbinsville Shooting Sports provide youth with a positive environment to develop an understanding of firearms safety while gaining self-confidence and engaging with a community of their peers. By making these programs accessible and affordable for these young shooters, *Friends of NRA* and The NRA Foundation invest in the next generation of Second Amendment supporters and protectors of America's firearms freedoms and traditions. ■

*Apply for a grant for your educational shooting sports program at [nrafoundation.org](http://nrafoundation.org). Support programs like these in your area by attending a Friends of NRA event! Go to [friendsofnra.org/Events](http://friendsofnra.org/Events) to find one near you. To learn more about Friends of NRA in North Carolina, go to [friendsofnra.org/NC](http://friendsofnra.org/NC).*

# EMPOWERING ROCKFORD

By Andrew Sisson

2017 NRA Youth Education Summit Participant



This summer I participated in the National NRA Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.). During the program, I learned a lot and met many inspiring people—including a young man by the name of Krzysztof Gajda.

I discovered that my Y.E.S. classmate Krzysztof is president of the Winnebago County 4-H shooting sports club in Rockford, Ill., and I found myself fascinated by all the stories he told me about the club. When the opportunity arose to delve deeper into those stories for this article, I knew it was too good to pass up.

The Winnebago Shooting Sports 4-H Club was founded six years ago, and for the past one and a half years Krzysztof has acted as president of the organization. Under his leadership the club has incorporated several different NRA shooting programs in their meetings, enabling it to teach firearm safety to its

40-plus members and to allow them to have fun out on the range.

“We place a very high emphasis on firearm safety and make sure to incorporate it into every meeting,” said Krzysztof. “Educating individuals on firearm safety can transform them from being hesitant to use a firearm to being enthusiastic about it.”

The club meets roughly five times a month for five hours at a time, practicing at either Northern Illinois Rifle & Pistol Club (NIRPC) or Plug and Pellet, both local Rockford shooting ranges. There the club’s coaches work with everyone from first time shooters to sportsmen as experienced as Krzysztof,



making sure that everyone has a safe and fun time.

When they are not at the range, you will likely find club members volunteering at the local Winnebago-Boone County *Friends of NRA* event, doing anything and everything in their power to help out and ensure the event runs smoothly. They also keep in touch with local NRA Field Rep Mike Huber throughout the year and help him out whenever they have the chance.

The Illinois *Friends of NRA* State Fund Committee has generously recommended NRA Foundation grants to the club for the past two years, enabling it to grow into the thriving organization that it is today. More than \$8,100 in grant funding has provided equipment from air rifles and ammo to gloves and scopes. It has all been put to good use promoting NRA Foundation values and spreading the love for the Second Amendment that we all have in the bottom of our hearts.

Under Krzysztof's leadership, the club has only one direction to continue going—up. He is truly passionate about the program and cherishes every moment that he spends running it. As he enters his senior year of high school, his time as president is nearing an end. But he remains optimistic about the future of the program and has great ideas for the next generation of its leadership.

Organizations like the Winnebago Shooting Sports 4-H Club spread coast to coast, and if their leaders are half as dedicated as Krzysztof is, the shooting sports have a bright future. These clubs,

programs and people are the backbone of the NRA Foundation's efforts to Teach Freedom, working tirelessly in support of the shooting sports. By teaching firearm safety, they work to eliminate the fear of firearms and make shooting a fun and safe activity for everyone. Krzysztof and his 4-H chapter are fighting for the Second Amendment in Rockford and empowering new members every single day. Each one is another advocate for our American firearms traditions and liberties. ■

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

*Organizations like the Winnebago Shooting Sports 4-H Club spread coast to coast, and if their leaders are half as dedicated as Krzysztof is, the shooting sports have a bright future.*



Photos courtesy Krzysztof Gajda. Clockwise from left: The club trap team at practice; Older team members mentor new team members; The team does a lot of community service together, including a clean up project at a local park; The beginning group tries the standing position for the first time; Krzysztof (right) and two rifle team members help at a *Friends of NRA* event; Krzysztof and teammate Cheyenne Enderson competed in NRA Silhouettes, NRA 3 Position and CMP Rimfire Sporter at the National 4-H Shooting Sports Championship in NE in June.

# TEXAS WOMEN TAKING CHARGE

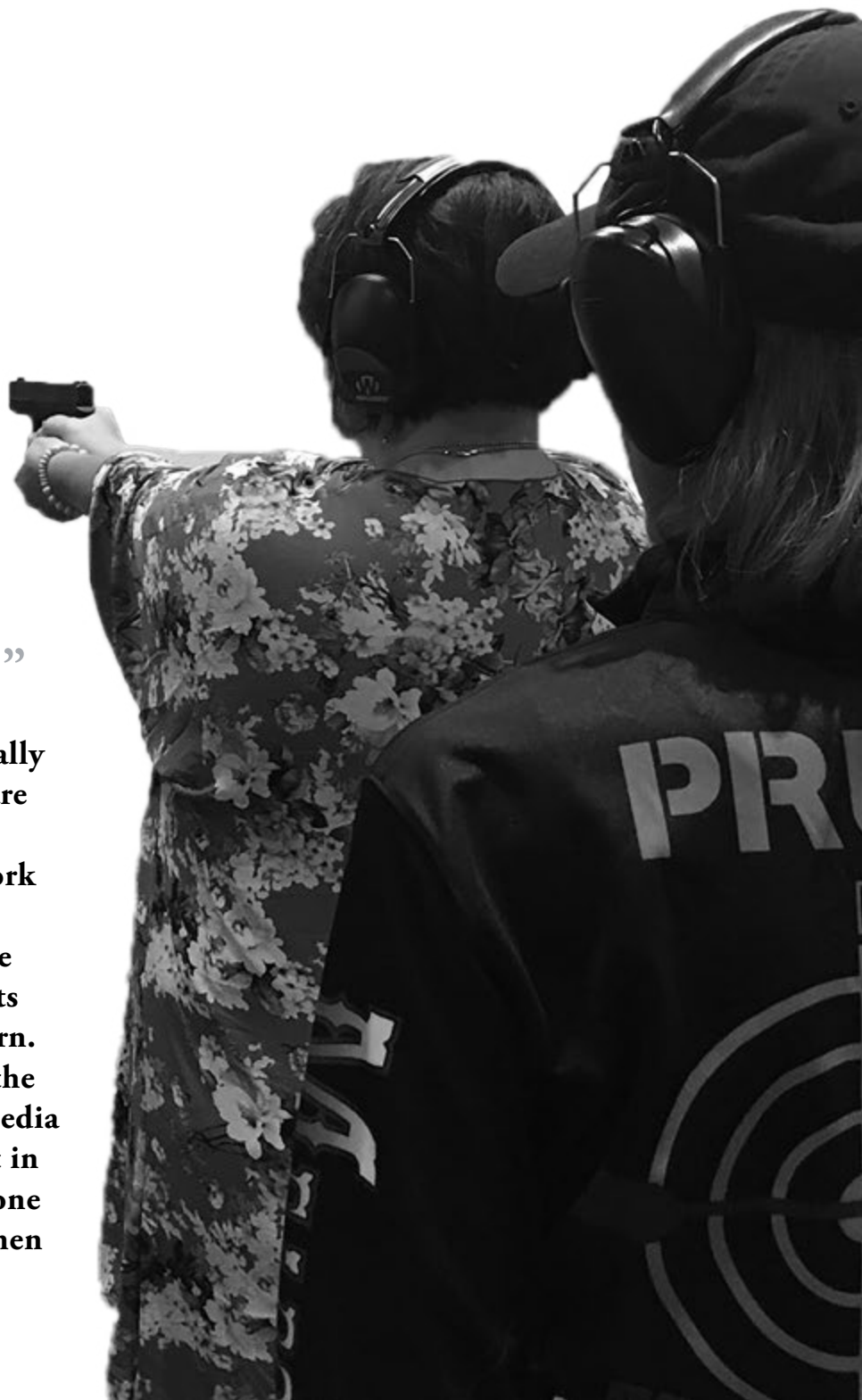
By Jamison Sapp

2017 Youth Education Summit Participant



***“Women are oppressed”***

is a common phrase uttered across today's mainstream media, essentially claiming that women in America are marginalized by society. At fault, supposedly, are the people who work individually to make America the astounding country it is today. The media blames the system that fights for the rights of those yet to be born. It blames those who speak up for the America they believe in. Today's media highlights all that is deemed sexist in our society, and it's time for someone to speak up for the incredible women overcoming the media's injustices.





Texas, a hot spot for shooting sports, boasts some of the biggest shooting communities in the country. In a male-dominated field, many women have worked their way to the top of the industry as leaders in shooting activities. In fact, the fastest growing demographic in the shooting sports is female shooters. Across Texas the strength of the female community is inspiring hope for the future, and three incredible women are leading the charge in their local areas.

The first of these powerhouse ladies, Jerah Hutchins, has created a name for herself as the Event Director for Defender Outdoors, the second biggest range in the United States. Based in Fort Worth, Texas, the 43,000-square foot venue offers dozens of programs to get the community involved in shooting. Lead by Jerah, an avid shooter and hunter, the range works to broaden the scope of shooting sports in the community. With the goal of eliminating the stigma of guns being dangerous, the team works to provide a safe environment for all shooters. And as the event director, Jerah continues to pave the way for more female shooters to get involved and get active.

Slightly south of Jerah Hutchins, Renee Bustilloz is making waves in her community as a certified NRA Instructor and member of the Lady Hawks women's shooting group at the Hawkeye Shooting Academy Range in Bell County, Texas. As an instructor, Renee gets the chance to work with women and broaden their horizons with respect to shooting activities. What motivates her? "I didn't understand why girls were so nervous about guns," said Renee, "so I started sharing my knowledge with other women."

*"I started sharing my knowledge with other women."*

In regard to the growing number of females in the shooting sports, Renee sees the trend in her classes. "Twenty to thirty women showing up is not unheard of," she noted. Renee is active not only at the range, but off it too. Working on her

local *Friends of NRA* committee, along with a full time job as a paralegal, Renee continues to positively affect the Belton area. As a dedicated community member and female NRA Instructor, Renee hasn't let anything hold her back from being a leader in sharing the passion for guns and shooting.

For our final woman taking charge in shooting, we head to Nacogdoches, Texas. Here Lori Pruitt works as a Managing Partner at the Meadow Ridge Archery and Gun Center. Lori originally got involved in the shooting business after gaining experience in the industry through her daughter's 4-H club. With her family's support and involvement, Lori was able to launch Meadow Ridge Archery and Gun Center in July of 2016. Lori's credentials also include certified NRA Instructor, basic shooting educator and Certified Texas License to Carry Instructor.

*"I am very passionate about supporting women in shooting sports."*

As a teacher for women's shooting courses, Lori's work comes from the heart. "I am very passionate about supporting women in shooting sports," she shared. Emphasizing the importance of teaching women confidence in this field, programs like Lori's continue to boost the participation of women in shooting. As we closed out our discussion, the topic of America's future came up—a brighter future. "I really do have hope for the future of this country," Lori said. The future of our shooting traditions and Second Amendment freedoms may sometimes seem uncertain. But one thing is for certain; with women and men across the country working to diversify shooting, we have reason to see a brighter tomorrow for the United States of America. ■

Apply for an NRA Foundation grant at [nrafoundation.org](http://nrafoundation.org). Find a Friends of NRA event near you at [www.friendsofnra.org/Events](http://www.friendsofnra.org/Events). Learn more about Friends of NRA in Texas at [friendsofnra.org/TX](http://friendsofnra.org/TX).



Renee Bustilloz



Lori Pruitt



By Catherine Parks  
Divide Camp Volunteer

# Finding Peace on the Other Side of War

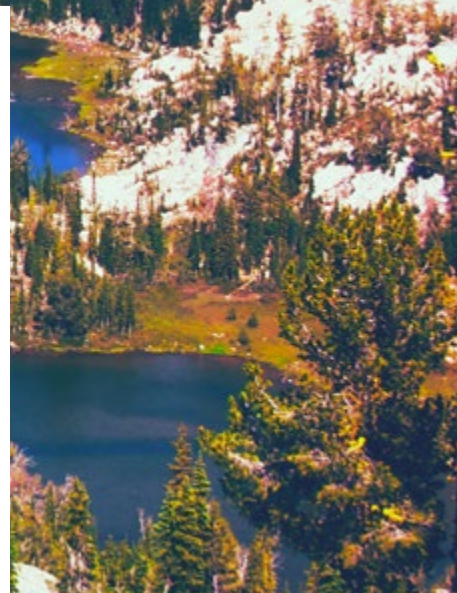
For combat veterans there is a great divide between life pre-war and life post-war. Soldiers prepare, train and are equipped to go to a war zone, but, upon returning home, physically and psychologically injured veterans struggle to assimilate back into a normal life. Divide Camp, located in the scenic mountains of north-eastern Oregon, honors the service of post 9-11 combat veterans through small-group outdoor adventures. The non-profit camp offers hunting, fishing and other sporting and recreational activities.

Divide Camp provides comfortable lodging, home-cooked meals and transportation at no charge to the veterans served. The camp features 40 acres of remote forestland, six cabins, a shop and an outdoor picnic shelter. In 2014 The NRA Foundation funded its first grant to Divide Camp—\$15,000 for an Action Trackchair—to allow amputee veterans to traverse the mountain terrain. Another grant in 2015 funded pistol range construction, safety gear and targets. Initial range work for a competition 3-D archery course shootable from a Trackchair began with funding from an NRA Foundation grant in 2016.

Army veteran Jose Martinez stepped on an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan. Following numerous surgeries and months of therapy, Jose was fitted with prosthetics, which allowed him to walk. Still, extreme depression set in and two suicide attempts followed.

On his first day at Divide Camp, Jose used the new all-terrain wheelchair to hunt. “I missed the first couple of times, but my friends didn’t give up on me and Divide Camp didn’t give up on me, and I got one the next morning,” Jose said. “Elk hunting was one of the best experiences I’ve ever had. How many amputees in California can say they shot an elk?”

“*Elk hunting was one of the best experiences I’ve ever had. How many amputees in California can say they shot an elk?*”







The rest of his time at the camp was spent viewing wildlife, including a bald eagle, and enjoying a rare view (for him) of the Milky Way. "It's gorgeous. Even if we hadn't gone hunting and just saw wildlife I would have loved it." Jose stayed in a new cabin built to accommodate veterans with disabilities. He appreciated the camp's efforts to make him comfortable. "It doesn't take much, really, but it let me know how much they cared," he said.

Julie Wheeler, Divide Camp executive director, has served as a critical incident stress worker to help others prevent post-traumatic stress disorder. She is familiar with what happens when people

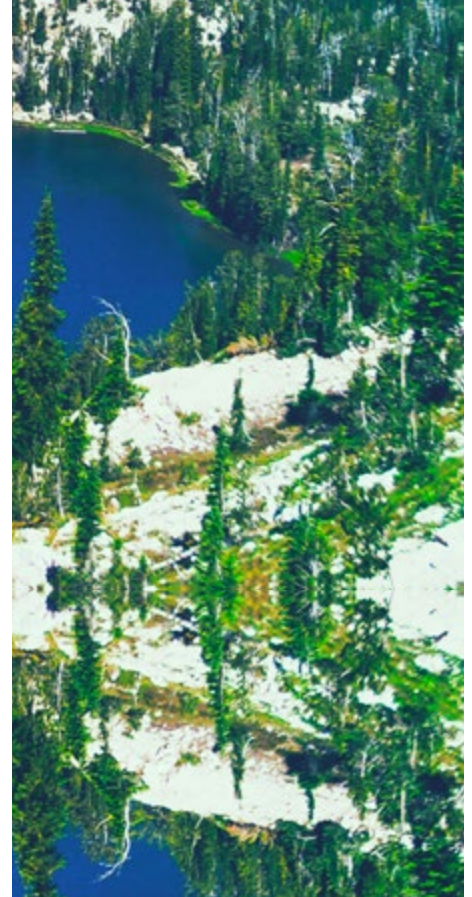
are exposed to high stress and trauma. "I know it takes a long time to overcome," Julie said. "I think they need help beyond what's provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, which is drugs and therapy. Just being in nature is an amazing healer."

Julie has seen the benefits of Divide Camp, including utilizing veterans as volunteers, staff and board members. "They get a lot out of doing something for their fellow vets, especially as they miss a sense of purpose and camaraderie they had in the service," she explained.

*"We do this because it is an honor to serve those who have served our country, and because there is great need."*

"We do this because it is an honor to serve those who have served our country, and because there is great need."

Divide Camp aims to help veterans regain a sense of wellbeing, to restore their confidence, and to bring them purpose and hope by promoting spiritual healing and wellness and creating community and camaraderie. With the support of NRA Foundation grant funding, Divide Camp will continue to accomplish these goals and impact the lives of veterans who risked all to keep this country safe. ■



Photos credit Julie Wheeler and Caleb Samples


*Apply for a grant to support your organization at [nrafoundation.org](http://nrafoundation.org)! Learn more about Friends of NRA in Oregon and find an event near you at [friendsofnra.org/OR](http://friendsofnra.org/OR). Divide Camp serves Oregon, Idaho and Washington but encourages veterans from other states to apply. Learn more about Divide Camp programs at [dividecamp.com](http://dividecamp.com).*



# Colusa County Ducks TAKE FLIGHT

By Melissa Doherty

Co-founder of Colusa County Youth Shooting Sports



**I**n a small town like Arbuckle, Calif., traditional sports are often the only options for young boys and girls—but they’re not always a platform for success. When our son Gus was younger, we put him in sports like baseball, basketball and soccer, but he just wasn’t athletic that way. By third grade he was feeling left out and defeated as his friends excelled at those sports.

As a mom, it worried me sick to have a nine year old suffering depression and low self-esteem, and I knew there had to be an activity that would be the right fit for him—a chance to excel. One thing he loved and was good at was hunting. When I came across an online video of a young girl competing in a 3-gun competition, I thought, “That is what I need to find for my son.”

A search for local youth shooting sports programs led me to a California Youth Shooting Sports Association (CYSSA) team in Lincoln, Calif., and we quickly headed over to check it out. Gus, a very shy kid, was incredibly nervous for that first visit. But the team and coaches were

so welcoming, and he got to shoot that first night. He was hooked! It was amazing to see how something that simple changed his life forever. He learned how to socialize with his peers. He learned how to speak with adults. And, for the first time ever, I saw him truly focus and excel at a task. His confidence soared and he became a wonderful helper to the younger kids as he progressed.

During Gus’ three years on the team in Lincoln we had numerous people from our town ask about the sport of trap. Interest was clearly there, but when they learned that we drove over an hour each way to practice twice a week, enthusiasm faded. I began to think about the possibility of starting our own local program.

My husband, Sean, and I first considered building a range on our own property, but we couldn’t spare any of our farmland. We started looking for property that the county might want to donate, but the best option we found was too close to a waterway. Still, we didn’t give up. We couldn’t give up. We felt that if we could just help one kid in the area by offering this kind of sport, we would be giving back to an organization that saved our son.

The CYSSA has such a great program for youth shooters, and we wanted to join the organization, follow its guidelines, and

spread the impact of its opportunities. Luckily, we were able to find a home for our own program in Colusa—a private skeet range that was the perfect spot to build our trap range.

With our planned location and county-wide program, we decided to call our nonprofit Colusa County Youth Shooting Sports (CCYSS). And since duck hunting is huge in our area, the mallard duck was the natural choice for a mascot—the team has come to be affectionately referred to as “The Ducks.”

Discussions with the gun club and the facility revealed that we would need an estimated \$85,000 to construct and outfit our practice range. That was a daunting number. Fundraising in a small town is tough, because the same businesses always get asked for contributions. We learned about the NRA Foundation grant program from Karen Marks, co-chair of Colusa County *Friends of NRA*. It was the opportunity needed to help bridge that funding gap and start the project, so the newly created CCYSS applied for a grant.

In February, Karen Marks and her co-chair Renee Ross reached out to Sean to invite the Ducks to the Colusa County *Friends of NRA* event as volunteers and for a special presentation. After the Ducks presented the colors and led those gathered in



the flag salute, Karen kept the team standing front and center. Then she told them that their grant request had been approved and presented them with The NRA Foundation grant check awarded to the CCYSS. "I first showed it only to the team," Karen remembers. "Their parents were behind me and did not see the amount. But the kids were shocked—I have a photo of the looks on their faces. It was a priceless moment! The crowd gave a standing ovation and the room overflowed with pride. We explained that this is the reason we do what we do."

That grant check was for \$40,000 in funding from The NRA Foundation. We were expecting to get some money to offset the cost of shells, clays and safety equipment. In our wildest dreams, we were not prepared for the amount recommended by the Northern California *Friends of NRA* State Fund Committee and awarded by The NRA Foundation. Through that

CCYSS does not strive to turn out professional shooters or Olympic ready shooters. We simply want kids to learn safe handling of a firearm, to practice respect for their peers and to have fun learning a new sport. Many dads of team members took coaching classes and actively participate in the program. I like to think of our entire team as a family. We are so proud of these kids and love the message they send to the community: guns are not just for hunting—they are also for sport. And these kids, in fourth grade through high school, are perfect examples with their safe, respectful handling of their firearms.

We have already seen so much personal growth from the kids, a few in particular. I can see some of them getting frustrated with their scores and wanting to give up. But with encouragement and reminders of perseverance, they come back more confident and able to push through their

frustrations. These are the kids my husband and I hoped to reach. We feel that all our hard work and personal donations have all been paid back tenfold just by reaching those few kids in whose lives we could make a difference.

"I asked Gus how he felt about his parents starting the club," Karen says. "He said that it made him feel very loved that they would do so much not only for him and his sisters, but also for kids in the community that they don't even know. He says that the sport of shooting is the one thing that makes him feel comfortable, at ease and happy. It feels like home."

Guns have been a part of the Doherty family's way of life for generations. Now The NRA Foundation has helped us give even more youth the opportunity to enjoy the experience of learning firearms safety and a new sport. ■



*Apply for an NRA Foundation grant at [nrafoundation.org](http://nrafoundation.org) to grow your shooting sports program. This fantastic new club is already making waves in the youth shooting sports world. Don't miss the chance to see where they go from here! **Stay tuned to the NRA Blog for part two of the story**—a trip to the US Open Youth Clay Shooting Championships in Las Vegas and more success stories from the Ducks' growing team. Learn more about Friends of NRA at [friendsofnra.org](http://friendsofnra.org).*

support and other generous donations, we were able to build the range and begin building our program.

"Colusa County Youth Shooting Sports used the generous funds from the NRA Foundation grant to purchase clay throwers, cement and lumber to build trap houses and walkways, and a gun safe to store NRA Foundation grant-awarded shotguns for our introductory shooters who don't own their own," Sean Doherty shared. "We could not have done all we have without the support of The NRA Foundation and our local community." The grant, which also provided shells and safety equipment, allowed the cost of practices to be reduced so that more shooters could afford the sport they loved.



# HENRY'S REPEATING SUPPORT



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

## MADE IN AMERICA, OR NOT MADE AT ALL.

The Henry Repeating Arms motto proclaims the company's dedication to American production, and it also represents a much deeper passion for ensuring the future of American firearms traditions and freedoms.

Photo by NRA Photographer Jesse Snyder

Started in Brooklyn in 1996 by Louis Imperato and his son Anthony, Henry Repeating Arms has become the leading lever action manufacturer and one of the most productive firearms companies in the U.S. Anthony Imperato now continues his family's more than 100-year history in the gun business as the owner and President of Henry Repeating Arms. Between the headquarters established in Bayonne, N.J., in 2008 and a second manufacturing facility in Rice Lake, Wis., it produces more than 300,000 rifles annually. Many of the models in that lineup are incorporated into the *Friends of NRA* fundraising program, including the signature Golden Boy and Big Boy lever action rifles along with the Henry US Survival AR-7 semi-automatic takedown .22LR and the newly introduced Henry Lever Action 410 gauge shotgun.

Having started working in the family's gun shop—the country's oldest, still open in downtown Manhattan—in 1978, Imperato has 39 years in the gun business. Growing up in the firearms industry and

as part of a family-owned business has helped shape him and shaped the company he runs today. "Working behind the retail counter at our family-owned gun shop laid the foundation for our reputation for providing exceptional customer service at Henry Repeating Arms," he says. "Earning respect is what motivates me, and it's earned by keeping our consumers, dealers, distributors, employees, vendors and industry partners happy."

Despite its size, Henry Repeating Arms maintains a distinct sense of family. The family-owned and operated business views its 400 employees and thousands of customers as family members and a key part of its success. That philosophy is reinforced by the company's award-winning customer service and the accessibility of its owner and President to the public, along with a lifetime guarantee on all Henry firearms.

The company's reputation for engaging and enthusiastic support carries over into its 20-year relationship with *Friends of NRA* and The NRA Foundation. When

Imperato and his father started Henry Repeating Arms in 1996, *Friends of NRA* reached out to bring them into the Vendor Direct merchandise program that supplies much of the product used for fundraising at its events nationwide. Attendees value the "Made in America" label and Henry's rifles offered that in a historical firearms package.

In 2015 the company expanded on that commitment as a *Friends of NRA* National Corporate Sponsor and sponsor of the Wall of Guns and NRA Foundation Banquets at both the Great American Outdoor Show (GAOS) and NRA Annual Meetings. As a 2016 and 2017 sponsor of *Friends of NRA*, Henry has donated tens of thousands more dollars in monetary support and firearms to the program, including 1,150 Frontier Model lever action rifles to be used at *Friends of NRA* events across the country. On top of that, the company sponsored the Wall of Guns and NRA Foundation Banquets at both the 2016 and 2017 GAOS and NRA Annual Meetings.



This year Imperato also continued the tradition he established in 2015 with his idea to recognize and thank local heroes of the community including first responders, veterans and active military members by inviting them to the national NRA Foundation Banquets at GAOS and Annual Meeting and presenting them each with a rifle from Henry's line of commemorative tribute rifles. The presentation is always an emotional highlight of the events, reminding everyone in attendance of the true meaning of fighting for American freedom.

At the NRA Board of Directors Meeting at the 2017 NRA Annual Meetings in Atlanta, Ga., NRA Past President Allan Cors and NRA President Pete Brownell presented Imperato with an award for Distinguished Philanthropic Leadership, recognizing the contributions Henry Repeating Arms has made to the fight to protect and promote the Second Amendment. In addition to donating the 1,000 Golden Boy Silver rifles fired simultaneously at the world record-breaking 1000 Man Shoot in November 2016—some of which were then donated to *Friends of NRA's* fundraising efforts—Henry Repeating Arms is also an annual sponsor of NRA Gun Gurus TV and supporting sponsor of NRA All Access.

For two decades Henry Repeating Arms has stood firmly with *Friends of NRA*, The NRA Foundation, and the NRA, contributing more than \$2.7 million in cash, gifts-in-kind and sponsorship support. "We are grateful for the endless generosity, steadfast support and enthusiastic involvement from Henry and the impact it has had on our fundraising," emphasizes NRA Director of Volunteer Fundraising Sarah Engeset. "It is an honor to work alongside Anthony and share his passion for ensuring our shooting sports freedoms and traditions for the next generation."

As *Friends of NRA* celebrates 25 years of fundraising in 2017, Henry Repeating Arms continues to provide the program with unwavering support. "Congratulations to *Friends of NRA* on achieving this great milestone!" Imperato shares. "The hard work at all levels, from the top down to the volunteers around the country, has paid off. The program has done so much good in so many areas—firearms safety,



#### HENRY BIG BOY SILVER .44 MAG

As featured in the *Friends of NRA* 2017 Standard Package. Bound to satisfy the needs of big-game hunters and Cowboy Action shooters alike.



#### HENRY GOLDEN BOY SECOND AMENDMENT TRIBUTE EDITION .22LR

As featured in the *Friends of NRA* 2016 Standard Package and now at limited 2017 events through Vendor Direct.



#### HENRY LEVER ACTION .410 SHOTGUN

As featured in the *Friends of NRA* 2017 National Sponsor Program, Pioneer Level.

youth shooting sports, and on and on."

The relationship between The NRA Foundation, its *Friends of NRA* program and Henry Repeating Arms looks to have only more good things ahead, including another National Corporate Sponsorship in 2018. "It's been a great partnership since day one, and that is an understatement," Imperato remarks. "It is a significant part of our overall support of the NRA and the Second Amendment, and I look forward to the future. We understand each other, and we have similar goals—like protecting our Second Amendment rights, promoting youth shooting sports, and firearms safety amongst many others."

Not only are firearms a family business for Imperato, they are also a family pastime; he notes the value of clubs and shooting ranges' efforts to create safe, fun and accessible environments that welcome families and make their time together at the range more commonplace. Protecting, sharing and passing on passion and support for the shooting sports

lifestyle and American freedoms is also a personal effort for him. "My favorite is taking people who have had no experience with firearms out to the range, where they quickly become hooked on the discipline and beauty of the shooting sports lifestyle," Imperato says, then continues with a nod to his New York roots. "Taking them for a great sausage pizza after doesn't hurt either!"

We want to thank Henry Repeating Arms and its staff for all the support they provide The NRA Foundation as an American company providing an American product for use at our national and local events. Their commitment to The NRA Foundation, the National Rifle Association, and Second Amendment supporters across our great nation helps us continue our mission to Teach Freedom. ■

*Interested in becoming a Friends of NRA donor or sponsor? Contact the NRA Corporate Development Team at 703-267-1356 or visit [friendsofnra.org/Corporate-Sponsors.aspx](http://friendsofnra.org/Corporate-Sponsors.aspx).*

# DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO APPLY!

## 2018 **GRANT APPLICATION** SUBMISSION DEADLINES

### WESTERN REGION

<b>AK</b>	12/01/17	<b>ND</b>	11/09/17
<b>HI</b>	10/03/17*	<b>OR</b>	11/14/17
<b>ID</b>	10/31/17	<b>SD</b>	11/09/17
<b>MN</b>	11/15/17	<b>WA</b>	11/17/17
<b>MT</b>	11/03/17	<b>WY</b>	11/10/17

### CENTRAL REGION

<b>IA</b>	9/19/17*	<b>MO</b>	11/12/18
<b>ILN</b>	11/30/17	<b>MI</b>	12/01/17
<b>ILS</b>	10/26/17	<b>NE</b>	10/17/17
<b>IN</b>	12/12/17	<b>WI</b>	10/03/17*
<b>KY</b>	11/30/17		

### EASTERN REGION

<b>CT</b>	11/07/17	<b>NYU</b>	09/07/17*
<b>DE</b>	10/19/17	<b>OH</b>	11/02/17
<b>MA</b>	11/07/17	<b>PAE</b>	10/12/17*
<b>MD</b>	11/15/17	<b>PAW</b>	10/12/17*
<b>ME</b>	11/01/17	<b>RI</b>	11/07/17
<b>NH</b>	11/01/17	<b>VA</b>	11/03/17
<b>NJ</b>	11/07/17	<b>VT</b>	11/01/17
<b>NYL</b>	11/07/17	<b>WV</b>	11/08/17

### SOUTHWEST REGION

<b>AZ</b>	10/05/17*	<b>CAS</b>	10/18/17
<b>CAC</b>	10/18/17	<b>NV</b>	11/09/17
<b>CAE</b>	10/18/17	<b>UT</b>	11/01/17
<b>CAN</b>	10/18/17		

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<b>KS</b>	11/01/17	<b>TXS</b>	11/16/17
<b>NM</b>	11/15/17	<b>TXW</b>	11/16/17

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<b>AL</b>	02/15/18	<b>MS</b>	02/15/18
<b>FL</b>	09/05/17*	<b>NCE</b>	10/03/17*
	02/02/18	<b>NCW</b>	10/03/17*
<b>GA</b>	11/17/17	<b>SC</b>	12/01/17
<b>LA</b>	12/15/17	<b>TN</b>	12/29/17

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

*GRANT APPLICATION AND  
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\*Contact your NRA Field Representative  
for information about applying  
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**Liz Foley**

**SOUTH TEXAS FRIENDS OF NRA**

*Field Rep since November 2010*

### Tell us something unique about you...

Each year I pick a “Color of the Year” for all my area’s *Friends of NRA* activities. Favorites have been blue and green—our most successful, record-setting years! This year we are definitely having fun with silver in honor of *Friends of NRA*’s 25th Anniversary. I keep my toes painted in various shades of the Color of the Year and use the color in all things *Friends* throughout the year. I also have lucky socks! About the same time I began the Color of the Year tradition, I started coming up with themed wardrobes for special meetings. The past summer was black and white, and one of my favorites was the Annual Meeting in Louisville, Ky., where I went with a “roses” theme. I can’t wait for the 2018 Annual Meeting in Dallas—it’s going to be all Texas, all day, every day!

### Favorite firearm and why...

My first and favorite gun is the 1911 .45 ACP. The 1911 is classic and beautiful, strong and dependable. It just feels right in my hand. It’s very empowering. I also love shooting the .50 cal machine gun!

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

I’ve had several past lives—in corporate America, hospitality and nonprofits. I’ve done everything from restaurant management and training, community outreach and volunteer management to corporate relocations, facilities management and special projects. The things I learned in those roles, and from playing sports all my life, have certainly helped make me the Field Rep that I am.

### How did you get involved with Friends of NRA?

I did not own or shoot a gun until I was 30, when I was introduced to firearms and self-protection by someone who cared. It created a passion in me that has driven me to promote firearms safety, training and education. After getting involved with the NRA by volunteering for NRA-ILA, I decided that I wanted to make protecting the Second Amendment my job. I began volunteering at my hometown *Friends of NRA* event and about nine others around Texas, learning about the program and meeting the volunteers and staff involved. When the previous South Texas rep retired, I jumped at the chance to apply... And here I am!

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

“God, Country, Family” is my motto, but to get to five I’d have to add chips and queso and accessories (guns, shoes, bling)! Or Texas... I don’t think I can live without Texas.

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