

Thank you for your interest in our Youth Program! This fall we are only going to be meeting a handful of times; as many as we can fit in before the weather turns and we run out of daylight. Our next meeting is scheduled for 5:30pm on 10/23 at the Casper Trap and Skeet club on JC's way; should last about an hour. The program will really ramp up Spring 2025 (timing somewhat dependent on weather, but aiming for sometime in March for our first live-fire practice) For Spring we are currently looking at Wednesday or Thursday evening practices and every other weekend tentatively planned as of now. Participation level is up to the parent/athlete, but to participate in any competitions that we may go to next spring/summer, the athlete must have attended 6 practices.

The program we run is called Scholastic Clay Target Program. The yearly fee to join that program is \$30. The participant needs to be signed up through this program and the fee paid before participating in live-fire practice. If you are wanting to get moving on getting signed up in that program, please send me your child's name and I will push the forms out to your email. The fee can be paid to me cash or check before the start of the athlete's first live fire practice. If you or the athlete are on the fence, feel free to stop by one of our practices to observe and speak with a coach. The program has multiple Divisions based on Grade level: 5th grade and under, 6th-8th grade, High School, and even College level (must be 25 and under and currently enrolled as a full-time student) We will do our best to group shooters by age and experience level to tailor the coaching and practice plans to the level of the athlete. This program is designed to get youth involved in the Clay shooting sports and have FUN, but also allow interested youth a competitive opportunity.

As of right now the Club has 12ga and 20ga ammunition and clay targets to donate to the program, this list below is an idea of what would be needed to participate:

Basic Equipment List- The items in **BOLD** are absolutely required and must have to be on site during live fire

- Shotgun ● Chokes ○ Improved cylinder ○ Modified ○ Skeet (x2 if shooting over/under) ○ Several other custom chokes ● Choke wrench
- **Safety glasses (If prescription glasses are worn when shooting, those meet this requirement.)**
- **Hearing protection, either ear plugs or muffs ○ Noise reduction rating of at least 25 dB ○ If using foam earplugs, proper insertion is essential.**
- Ammunition
- Range bag
- Shooting towel
- **Either a Shooting vest or a Shooting Pouch**
- Hat/Cap
- Firearm cleaning supplies ○ Bore snake ○ Cleaning rod ○ Oil ○ Extra rags ○ Cleaning pad
- Case

● **If shooting break action, Shotgun rest (foam pad to rest the firearm on while waiting at station)**

- Custom tools or spare parts for your shotgun
- Water bottle

The Program will have loaner shotguns available if your child does not have one to use. For this program we recommend 12ga GAS operated Semi-auto shotgun, however if your child is of smaller stature a 20ga gas operated Semi-auto would work as well. We recommend the GAS operated Semi-auto due to the reduced recoil offered by that action. Over/Under break action shotguns are also acceptable with pump action shotguns being OK but not preferred for inexperienced shooters. Note: If you feel your child is better off with a .410 or 28Ga, that is fine as well just know we may not be able to provide ammunition for those gauges. The biggest factor with gun selection is if the child can comfortably shoulder and hold the firearm horizontal for 15 seconds straight, without trembling or struggling to stay balanced with a weight-forward stance. We want to keep smaller statured kids from experiencing too much recoil, so for very small framed kids the .410 or 28Ga may be the only options, however gun selection and ammunition for both are somewhat limited.(As of now the Program does not have any 28ga shotguns available to use. We do have one .410 but do not have any .410 ammunition).

Please also note that if the Program grows and we get more shooters than we can support for donated ammunition, there may be ammunition costs involved as well. We are hoping we can find local Gun/Sporting Good stores that can work with us for bulk buying to keep those costs down, however, that could end up being an added cost to consider. A box of target shotgun shells will run around \$8-\$9 a box(if we can get a good deal) and we will shoot anywhere from 2-4 boxes a practice. Again, we hope that we can find enough donations and sponsorships to keep the ammunition provided for as long as possible, but it is a possible significant cost that comes with participating in the shooting sports.

My biggest requirements/expectations for the athlete are as follows:

- a. SAFETY!- Unsafe behavior will not be tolerated and will lead to expulsion from the Program
- b. RESPECT, for Coaches, volunteers and peers
- c. Good Sportsmanship
- d. Open Mind, be willing to learn
- e. Appropriate attire- Closed toe shoes and non-offensive shirts/hats.

If you have any reservations about your child being able to adhere to every one of the above requirements, you may want to wait another year to ensure they have the maturity level required. The safety of every athlete, coach and spectator is our TOP priority and there will be ZERO tolerance for attitudes and actions that may put people in danger.

If there are any other questions you have, please let me know!

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