



National Shooting Sports Federation Collegiate Grant Program

By Sommer Wood, CMP Program Coordinator

College Connection

There are several great websites available to young shooters who aspire to shoot for a college rifle, pistol or shotgun team, and the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) is definitely one of the websites that needs to be added to any shooters list. The NSSF promotes both competitive shooting and hunting, and they specifically created the Collegiate Shooting Sports Initiative (CSSI) to help shooters in youth programs continue with their sport into college. According to the NSSF website, the CSSI division was created to:

1. Raise awareness of shooting sports opportunities at the college level.
2. Provide financial and non-financial assistance in developing college shooting clubs or teams.
3. Serve as a resource for colleges and students interested in learning more about the shooting sport.
4. Help grow the shooting sports at the college level.

CSSI has taken several steps to help achieve its mission, especially with providing financial support in the form of the Collegiate Shooting Sports Challenge Grant program. According to the NSSF website, <http://www.nssf.org/CSSI/grants/>, the grant is intended to “Grow the shooting sports at the collegiate level by providing direct grant assistance to colleges and universities seeking to establish new shooting clubs and teams or to support their existing programs. The program’s focus is recruitment and retention. The grants are provided by National Shooting Sports Foundation and are meant to supplement the resources colleges and universities have to create or expand their shooting programs; introduce and educate students, coaches, faculty and other school officials about the shooting sports; and/or provide more opportunities for students to participate in the shooting sports at both the club and competitive levels.”

“NSSF is offering a total of \$75,000 to qualified colleges and universities to implement or support their shooting clubs or teams. Of this amount, each selected grant applicant is eligible to receive up to a maximum of \$7,500 in matching grant funding from the NSSF. The amount of funding that selected applicants may be awarded shall be at the sole discretion of the NSSF. NSSF’s award decisions are final and non-reviewable,” according to the website.

If you are an athlete or coach at a college shooting program, or if you are entering college and plan to start or join a program, this program could provide the assistance your team needs. Applications for the Collegiate Shooting Sports Challenge Grant are available to, “Any accredited public or private college or university located in the 50 United States seeking to establish a shooting program or to expand an existing program. Grant applications must be completed and signed by responsible school officials with oversight of the shooting program. Responsible school officials include school administrators, faculty, student advisors or experienced coaches who are employed by the college or university they represent. Grants will only be awarded to qualified colleges and universities on a one-to-one cash contribution or cost-share matching basis only. Schools may accept in-kind contributions from third parties for their shooting programs but will not receive grant funding from the NSSF based on such contributions. All grant applications submitted for consideration MUST identify the dedicated matching cash contributions and/or cost-share support the shooting program will receive.”

If you want to learn more about applying for this grant for the Fall of 2010 contact Zach Snow, NSSF Senior Shooting Promotions Coordinator at (203) 426-1320. Also make sure to check out the NSSF Collegiate Shooting Sports Initiative website, <http://www.nssf.org/CSSI/>, to find a wealth of information about collegiate rifle, pistol and shotgun programs.