An Introduction to CMP Programs

The CMP is, in many respects, a grass roots organization that places a high priority on encouraging new shooters and helping them learn gun safety and marksmanship skills to get them off to a good start in target rifle and pistol shooting. Several CMP programs focus on this objective. If you are new to the shooting sports, this brochure describes CMP programs for new shooters and how to take advantage of the opportunities they offer.

CMP Program Announcements

With so many programs for new shooters being available, a key to taking advantage of the opportunities offered is finding out when and where program events take place and how to register for them. The first step in doing this is to get on the CMP email distribution list so you will receive CMP Shooting News email updates. The CMP releases these updates two or three times a month and contain announcements of all major CMP programs. CMP email notices also provide links to official event programs and instructions on how to register. Click on the “Subscribe Now” link on the CMP website or visit www.thecmp.org/email/. The CMP also provides a printed newsletter for junior coaches and shooters, On The Mark. Subscriptions are available for $8.00/year. Visit www.thecmp.org/onthemark/ to sign up.

The next step in finding out about CMP program opportunities in your area is to become familiar with the upcoming events lists in the CMP Competition Tracker website, https://ct.thecmp.org. The CMP uses this website to manage information for all of its training and competition activities. For shooters, this page can be the entry point to a wealth of information. It provides lists of CMP-affiliated clubs, upcoming matches and results from completed CMP sanctioned matches.

Programs for New Shooters

The CMP continues to develop resources that new shooters can utilize to learn gun safety and basic marksmanship skills as well as to help them get started in different types of competitions. Some resources are available to download for free on the CMP website, while others are available for purchase from the CMP E-Store at https://estore.thecmp.org or visit https://www.thecmp.org/publications/.

- The CMP Guide to Target Shooting with Vintage Military Rifles: A 284-page, soft-bound, fully-illustrated first edition is likely the most comprehensive manuscript ever written about the methods of training and competing with popular American and foreign vintage military rifles. Authored by Gary Anderson, Director of Civilian Marksmanship, Emeritus and two-time highpower rifle Olympic gold medalist.
- Coaching Young Rifle Shooters: The most comprehensive guide to instructing junior shooting, written by one of the nation’s premier shooters, Gary Anderson. In the 200-page book, loaded with illustrations, Gary provides coaches with all the tools needed to develop the young shooter and improve the skills of us and coming juniors.
- CMP Guide to Rimfire Sporter: A 48-page booklet with information on basic marksmanship skills, instructions on how to shoot the Rimfire Sporter course of fire and guidelines for organizing Rimfire Sporter Matches.
- A Junior Shooter’s Guide to Air Rifle Safety: A 20-page booklet; written for junior air rifle shooters, but it provides safety rules, procedures and guidelines that can be used by youth or adult shooters in any range firing situation.
- CMP Guide to Junior Pistol Shooting: The Guide provides information and instruction to inspire and motivate youth, parents and club leaders to become active in junior pistol programs.
- CMP Poster Sets for BB Gun, Rimfire Sporter and Air Rifle: The 11x17 poster series highlights the most important teaching points for getting young competitors started in marksmanship. The full-color posters are designed so they can be used in presenting instruction or they can be posted on the range.
- USAMU Service Rifle Marksmanship Guide and USAMU Advanced Pistol Guide: Illustrated books, written by the U. S. Army Teams, with detailed instructions on the basic and advanced skills of service rifle, service pistol and bullseye pistol target shooting.

Visit the CMP website for Additional Resources at https://www.thecmp.org/coaching-resources/ or email info@thecmp.org.
The CMP recognizes that not everyone can get to Camp Perry, Ohio, where its headquarters is located. For this reason, the CMP inaugurated the Western CMP Games in 2005 to offer Garand, Springfield and Military Rifle Matches to competitors in the Western USA, while the Eastern Games (which began in 2006) accommodates competitors to the East. Western Games has been held at Camp Pendleton, California, in the past and most recently Phoenix, Arizona. Eastern Games are held at Camp Butner, North Carolina. Giving competitors even more competitive opportunities are additional Travel Games held at the Oklahoma City Gun Club in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Camp Ethan Allen in Jericho, Vermont. All of these matches feature clinics for new competitors and a match organization that strives to be “new-competitor-friendly.” Visit https://thecmp.org/competitions/cmp-travel-games/ for more information.

The CMP offers growing opportunities for smallbore rifle, long range rifle and archery. CMP hosts the National Matches for Smallbore and Long Range at Camp Perry each summer. The Smallbore Small Arms Firing School (SAFS) along with a Junior Rifle Clinic are offered each summer. CMP Affiliated Clubs also offer sanctioned Smallbore and Long Range matches throughout the country. Find a match near you by visiting https://thecmp.org/clubs/clinics/.

The CMP Talladega Marksmanship Park offers a public 3D Archery Range with 20 lanes of life-size 3-D targets, especially painted to look like live animals in their natural habitat. Visitors can purchase a 30-yard archery practice range. Visit https://www.thecmp.org/Talladega/ for additional information.

Contact us for more on these and other CMP Programs at info@thecmp.org.