



# *ON THE MARK*

A NEWSLETTER FOR COACHES AND JUNIOR MARKSMEN\* © SPRING 2023

## *A POLISHED VICTORY*

Camden County earns precision team win at 2023 JROTC Service Championships



\*Restricted 18+ in CA in compliance with CA State Assembly Bill 2571 prohibiting the marketing of firearms to minors in the State of CA.

## ON THE MARK

<https://thecmp.org/news-media/on-the-mark/>

### ON THE MARK Staff:

Gary Anderson DCM Emeritus  
Christine Elder Communications Manager  
Ashley Brugnone CMP Writer/Editor

**ON THE MARK** is published quarterly by the Civilian Marksmanship Program. It is dedicated to disseminating news and information about junior shooting activities to leaders and coaches of junior shooting clubs, teams and camps. Its primary purpose is to help youth shooting leaders teach firearms safety and marksmanship more effectively.

**Subscriptions:** One free **ON THE MARK** subscription is provided to each junior club that is affiliated with the CMP, JROTC unit with a marksmanship program and 4-H Shooting Sports Club. Individual subscriptions to **ON THE MARK** are available at \$8.00 per year. To subscribe to **ON THE MARK**, contact: 419-635-2141, ext. 724 or email [onthemark@TheCMP.org](mailto:onthemark@TheCMP.org).

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**Editorial Submissions:** To submit articles, editorial material or photographs for possible inclusion in **ON THE MARK**, contact: Ashley Brugnone, **ON THE MARK** Editor, P. O. Box 576, Port Clinton, OH 43452; fax 419-635-2573 or email [abrugnone@TheCMP.org](mailto:abrugnone@TheCMP.org).

**Junior Program Resources:** To request information about CMP junior shooting programs, contact: CMP Programs, P. O. Box 576, Port Clinton, OH 43452; 419-635-2141 ext. 724 or email [info@thecmp.org](mailto:info@thecmp.org).

**ON THE MARK Wants Your Input:** We want your correspondence and opinions. **ON THE MARK** will dedicate space to publish letters from readers. Though we may not be able to publish them all, we will make every effort to provide comments that will be beneficial to the broadest audience. If there is a story you feel we should cover, notify us. Send your comments or questions to: Letters to the Editor, CMP Headquarters, P.O. Box 576, Port Clinton, OH 43452 or email your letters or comments to [abrugnone@TheCMP.org](mailto:abrugnone@TheCMP.org).

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The **Civilian Marksmanship Program** is a non-profit organization chartered by the U. S. Congress to promote marksmanship training and firearm safety, with a primary emphasis on youth. The CMP is authorized to receive and sell surplus government rifles and ammunition that are suitable for marksmanship. Proceeds from these sales are dedicated to CMP programs. CMP enabling legislation requires that its highest priority must be given to "activities that benefit firearms safety, training and competition for youth." **ON THE MARK** is a vital part of CMP efforts to fulfill its mission to serve and develop junior shooting in the United States.

Information about the CMP may be viewed on the CMP web site, [www.thecmp.org](http://www.thecmp.org) or on the CMP online newsletter, **The First Shot**, at <https://thecmp.org/news-media/the-first-shot/>.

## © Sighting Shots ©

© **CMP 2023 COMPETITION RULES ARE NOW ONLINE.** CMP rulebooks are updated annually to accommodate new program developments, clarify rules issues and incorporate recommendations from competitors, match sponsors and CMP staff. Along with the already long list of rifle and pistol disciplines offered by the CMP, 2023 will now include Action Pistol for the first time. Learn more at <https://thecmp.org/cmp-2023-competition-rules-are-now-online/>.

© **JUNIOR CAMPS PODCAST. IT'S BACK!** We have a BRAND NEW Podcast episode, where we explore the Junior Rifle Camps! We talk with Ryan Hinson, CMP summer camp coordinator, who tells us all about how the camps began, what types of camps are offered and what athletes and coaches can expect to learn. Also, be sure to visit our Podcast webpage to check out all our CMP Podcasts at <https://thecmp.org/news-media/cmp-podcasts/> or find us wherever you get your podcasts!



© **CMP SLATES QUARTERLY EVENTS AT TALLADEGA MARKSMANSHIP PARK.** The CMP has announced a change to its regular matches held each month at the Talladega Marksmanship Park in Alabama – with the events now moving to a set quarterly match schedule. The Talladega Quarterly Matches will feature both rifle and pistol outdoor events and are set to be held: May 13-14 and Aug. 25-27.

© **TRAVEL GAMES.** If you're searching for a variety of marksmanship matches all in one place, we've got you covered! Each year, we host a series of CMP Travel Games – featuring our own lineup of rifle and pistol outdoor matches held in different areas of the country. These competitions and educational activities are designed to accommodate experienced marksmen as well as those

hoping to learn more about the sport! Find more details at <https://thecmp.org/competitions/cmp-travel-games/>!

© **NEW GCA MARKSMANSHIP MEDAL.** To acknowledge those who consistently score well in the John C. Garand Match with As-Issued M1 Rifles at designated CMP competitions, the Garand Collectors Association (GCA) has designed a new GCA Master Marksman Program. Like the CMP's established Distinguished Badge Program, the new addition will work on an Achievement Award point system, based on performance. Learn more on the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/garand-collectors-association-creates-new-master-marksman-program/>.



© **CMP ACQUIRES SURPLUS AMMO.** The CMP is pleased to announce the recent acquisition of .30 carbine, .22 pistol, M2 ball, and .22 Long Rifle surplus ammunition supply that will soon become available to CMP Clubs and customers. The CMP intends on maintaining a surplus ammo inventory large enough to support CMP Matches for the next several years and to provide discounted surplus ammo to competitors attending CMP events. All sales will include set limits to remain in compliance with guidelines specified in the Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of the Army and the CMP. Commercial ammunition sales are currently available on the CMP E-Store to qualified individuals. More info to come soon! Register for an account or browse the CMP E-Store at <https://estore.thecmp.org>.

**On the Cover:** Capt Tim Daseler, NJROTC Program Director, awards the Teresa Casey Cup to the winning Precision Navy JROTC Team, Camden County High School from Georgia. The match was held in February at three different locations: Ohio, Alabama and Utah (where Camden County competed).

# CMP Announces Schedule for 2023 Monthly Air Gun Matches

CAMP PERRY, Ohio; ANNISTON, Ala. – The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) has released its lineup of 2023 Monthly Matches, featuring air rifle and air pistol events for a variety of ages and experience levels.

Each match is held at the Judith Legerski CMP Competition Center in Anniston, Ala., and the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center at the Camp Perry National Guard Training Facility in Ohio. Both facilities are equipped with 80-point indoor air gun ranges filled with CMP's own electronic target line.

Staple events offered at the Monthly Matches are a Junior 3x10, 60 Shot Air Rifle Standing and 60 Shot Air Pistol as well as 3x20 Three-Position (3P) for Adult and Junior athletes. Top scorers at each range are recognized with special Monthly Match medals. Competitors may also earn EIC points toward a Distinguished Air Rifle, Air Pistol or Junior Distinguished Badge.

"Monthly Matches are a great way to experience both 3P and 60 shot matches in the same event," said Catherine Green, North Range coordinator. "I'm excited about the addition of Adult 3P and hope to see a lot of former juniors come back to 3P Air."

## Remaining Monthly Matches for the 2023 season:

- April 29
- Sept. 16
- Oct. 14
- Nov. 18

For additional fun, a Monthly Match League is available for those athletes who fire in four or more Monthly Matches throughout the year. The top five individuals in Junior 3x20 Precision/Sporter and Open 60 Shot Air Rifle/Air Pistol events earn prize money based on the number of participants. Places first through third also earn plaques for their performances.

For more on the Monthly Matches and registration info, visit <https://thecmp.org/ranges/cmp-competition-centers/monthly-air-rifle-and-air-pistol-matches/>.

## About CMP Competition Centers:

The Judith Legerski CMP Competition Center in Alabama includes the CMP South Store, which is fully stocked with equipment and memorabilia needs. The Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center in Ohio features cases of authentic Olympic



and other memorabilia from the career of celebrated American marksman, Gary Anderson, for observers to enjoy.

Each of CMP's indoor air gun facilities holds an 80-point range, equipped with innovative electronic targets. The venues regularly host local, state and national competitions as well as Open Marksmanship, which allows visitors of virtually any age and experience level to test out air rifles or air pistols with the guidance of qualified CMP staff members.

To learn more, visit <https://thecmp.org/ranges/cmp-competition-centers/>.



# JROTC Air Rifle Match Nearly Sees Largest All-Time Attendance



*The 2023 JROTC Service Championship welcomed the second largest participation numbers in the event's history.*

The JROTC Three-Position Service Championship series is one of the premier scholastic air rifle matches of the year for Junior ROTC cadets around the country. Each year, the annual sporter and precision air rifle competition, facilitated by the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP), regularly attracts hundreds of young high school athletes to the range.

But notably, in 2023, the event received the second highest participation over its 17-year history, with 875 athletes overall – only surpassed by the 2016 match, which saw 890.

"It was great to see the turnout for the 2023 JROTC Service Championships," said CMP's Brad Donoho, JROTC Match Director.

"If not for some last-minute weather-related cancellations, this year would have had the best turnout ever," he went on. "To see the participation bounce back like it has after COVID disrupted everything speaks volumes to the health of JROTC marksmanship."

The JROTC Air Rifle Service Championship is a 3x20 air rifle competition, where competitors fire 20 record shots from three positions: prone, standing and kneeling.

The 2023 regional Service Championships were held in three locations (Utah, Alabama and Ohio) over the weekends of Feb. 2-4 and Feb. 9-11. Both individual and team awards were presented. Top scorers overall will move on to the National Championship, set to be held at the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center at Camp Perry, Ohio, March 23-25.

Earning the top spot amongst Army JROTC sporter individual athletes in the JROTC Service Championships was Jose Gonzalez, 17, of North Brunswick High School in North Carolina, with a score of 1193-39X. Gonzalez narrowly claimed the highest score – clearing the title only by x-count. Leading precision by just one point over the second place finisher was Liv Lusky, 17, of Lumpkin County High School in Georgia, with 1282-73X.

Coinciding with the individual event was the four-person team match for both sporter and precision in each service branch. Army's top sporter team was Webb City High School from Missouri, leading by 40 points over the second place team, while the precision contest was led by Ansbach High School, AE.

In Navy competition, Danjela DeJesus, 17, of Camden County High School in Georgia fired an impressive score of 1290-91X to lead the precision competition. Brianna Benedetto, 16, of Zion Benton High School in Illinois, reached 1183-32X for the overall score in the sporter match.

DeJesus's Camden County was the leading precision team in the Navy event, as Pascagoula High School from Mississippi earned the top sporter spot.

Samantha Zermeno, 18, of Nation Ford High School in South Carolina, fired a score of 1218-49X to overtake the Marine Corps sporter competition, as Granbury High School's (Texas) Caroline Martin, 18, led the Marine Corps precision event by a margin of 15 points, with a total score of 1295-104X.

Nation Ford and Granbury were also the leading Marine Corps sporter and precision teams, respectively.

The Air Force competition saw Charles Bratton II, 18, of Clover High School in South Carolina, accumulating a score of 1196-40X to take a commanding 24-point lead in sporter match, with Chloe Shannon, 17, of Union High School in Oklahoma earning the top score by nearly 30 points in the precision event after obtaining a score of 1271-80X overall. Bratton's Clover High School went on to claim the overall spot in the sporter team match by nearly 50 points. The overseas Alconbury High School led the precision team event by a smaller margin of only four points.

Find a complete list of results of the JROTC Service Championships, including top scorers from each location, on the CMP's Competition Tracker page at <https://ct.thecmp.org/2023JROTCServiceResults>. View a list



*Pascagoula High School from Mississippi earned the top Navy JROTC sporter team trophy at the JROTC Service Championships.*

of National JROTC Championship Selections at [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vTIWdASv\\_oOBxiCU7CfrwnnkMS5fyKW1WD3RPAOpyCcqHXyFkjtHB-SNXnFTDAXI9SsniQQd8ukqeSLg/pubhtml#](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vTIWdASv_oOBxiCU7CfrwnnkMS5fyKW1WD3RPAOpyCcqHXyFkjtHB-SNXnFTDAXI9SsniQQd8ukqeSLg/pubhtml#).

More info on the JROTC Air Rifle Championships can be found on the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/youth/jrotc/>. Photos from all locations are available for free viewing and downloading at <https://cmp1.zenfolio.com/f967656369>.



*The 2023 JROTC Service Championship was held in Utah, Ohio and Alabama in February.*

## AMERICA'S DISTINGUISHED BADGES

# AMERICA'S DISTINGUISHED BADGES Golden Symbols of Marksmanship Excellence

*By Gary Anderson, DCM Emeritus*

### ***DISTINGUISHED BADGES — Excellence-in-Marksmanship***



One of the highest honors a competitor in the sport of Shooting can achieve is to become “Distinguished.” Becoming Distinguished means earning a gold Distinguished Badge for “Excellence-in-Marksmanship” (EIC). These badges hold a quasi-sacred place of honor among marksmen and markswomen because they can only be earned by making multiple top ten percent placings in designated competitions where EIC credit points are awarded. In short, you must have a series of excellent performances in major competitions to earn a Distinguished Badge. When someone is identified as a “Distinguished Shooter,” they deserve your respect because these distinctive badges are very difficult to earn.

The Distinguished program was inaugurated by the U.S. Army in 1884. The first Distinguished Marksman Badges were awarded in 1887. Those first badges were awarded for excellence in service rifle marksmanship, while today, badges are awarded for excellence in several rifle, pistol and even shotgun disciplines. For 20 years there was only one Distinguished Marksman Badge and for 75 years there were just three badges. Today there

are eleven Distinguished Badges. For its first 40 years, this was a military marksmanship award program, but in 1926, civilians became fully eligible to earn Distinguished Badges and it became an American marksmanship award program open to all U.S. citizens. This ***On the Mark*** article examines the history of this icon of American marksmanship, the Distinguished Badge’s unique appeal, today’s opportunities to earn Distinguished Badges, and how newer competitors can pursue their own personal quests to become “Distinguished.”

### **Early Distinguished Badge History**

Distinguished Badges trace their history to efforts by American military leaders in the 1870s and 1880s to improve military marksmanship. New York National Guard officers founded the National Rifle Association in 1871 to improve the marksmanship skills of National Guardsmen. General Phil Sheridan, who became Commanding General of the U.S. Army in 1883, was an advocate for marksmanship who encouraged the creation of an Army competition program. These military leaders believed that

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Every year a new class of outstanding Junior 3-Position Air Rifle athletes earn **Junior Distinguished Badges**. These Junior athletes received their badges during the 2022 National Precision Championship at Camp Perry.

by having soldiers use their weapons in competitions, they would be better prepared to teach marksmanship skills to other soldiers and more effective in using them in combat. Today's Distinguished Badge Program began with U.S. Army shooting competitions that awarded prizes at department, division, and Army levels.

A problem troubling those early competitions was that the same soldiers were winning most of the prizes. This discouraged other soldiers from participating. War Department General Order No. 12, issued by General Sheridan in 1884, endeavored to solve this problem by directing that *"whenever any marksman has been three times a member of a department team or has won any of the three authorized prize medals, he will be announced in general orders from these headquarters as belonging to a distinguished class..."* Competitors in the Distinguished Class were thus removed from the pool of regular competitors and put into a class of their own. That decision became a permanent feature of Distinguished Badge regulations. Competitors who compete for Distinguished Badges compete against Non-Distinguished competitors. Competitors who are already Distinguished are not ranked in EIC Matches.

This program began as a military rifle program. Army competitions included carbine and pistol events and by 1889, prize credits for those events were also counted.

A separate **Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge** was established in 1903. The U.S. Marine Corps established its own Distinguished Badge program in 1908. It wasn't until 1959, after World War II, that Distinguished Marksman Badges officially became Distinguished Rifleman Badges.

Originally, the top twelve competitors in military rifle championships were awarded prize medals or credits. The stipulation that any soldier who won three prize credits became Distinguished led to the three credits being called "legs," perhaps from a three-legged stool analogy. As Distinguished Badges gained in acceptance and popularity, this three legs requirement evolved into a practice of awarding EIC credit points to



The Distinguished Badges, which were first awarded in 1887, were "Distinguished Marksman" Badges that could be earned by winning U.S. Army rifle, carbine, or pistol prizes. Oval targets were standard in that era because cartridge powder charge variations caused greater vertical dispersions of shots on the targets.

# AMERICA'S DISTINGUISHED BADGES

## A DISTINGUISHED VOCABULARY

*Distinguished Badges have become such a vital part of America's marksmanship culture that they have their own vocabulary.*

- **EIC.** Excellence-in-Competition. The purpose of the Distinguished Badge Program is to recognize and promote "excellence-in-competition."
- **EIC Matches.** Competitions where Non-Distinguished competitors can win credit points that count towards earning a badge.
- **EIC Credit Points.** Competitors who place in the top ten percent in EIC Matches receive "EIC credit points." 30 points are required to earn a badge.
- **Leg.** An EIC credit point award won in an EIC Match.
- **Cut Score.** The score of the lowest-ranking competitor who won credit points (legs) in an EIC Match.
- **First Leather.** The highest-ranking competitor who did not win EIC credit points in an EIC Match.
- **Leg Day.** The day of an EIC Match. Distinguished competitors used this term to put more pressure on Non-Distinguished competitors.
- **Gold Leg.** The top one-sixth of the top ten percent receive gold legs.
- **Silver Leg.** The next two-sixths of the top ten percent receive silver legs.
- **Leg Out.** When a competitor wins the EIC credit points that give them 30 points—they have "gone Distinguished!"
- **Hard Leg.** Most badge regulations require that at least one EIC credit point award must be a gold or silver leg.
- **Badge Pinning.** A ceremony where a competitor's new Badge is presented by pinning it onto their military uniform or clothing.



*President John F. Kennedy presented the first International Distinguished Badge to the author in April 1963.*

competitors who placed in the top ten percent of Non-Distinguished competitors in designated competitions. Starting in 1963, individual leg medals were assigned points. A gold leg (top 1/6th of top 10%) was worth ten points; a silver leg eight points (next 2/6th of top 10%) and a bronze leg six points (next 3/6th of top 10%). 30 total points were required to receive a Distinguished Badge. The requirement to accumulate 30 EIC credit points to receive a Distinguished Badge is now standard for every badge.

## The U.S. Distinguished International Shooter Badge

The **U.S. Distinguished International Shooter Badge** was approved by the Department of Defense in 1962. This Badge was a product of the Cold War of the 1950s and 1960s between the USA and Soviet Union (USSR). The NBPRP<sup>1</sup> and military marksmanship leaders envisioned this badge as an incentive for U.S. shooters to challenge the marksmanship superiority of USSR shooters who were dominating Olympic and World Championship competitions at that time. President John F. Kennedy presented the first International Distinguished Badge to Army Corporal Gary Anderson<sup>2</sup> in April 1963. Anderson was selected to receive the first badge because he had won four World Championships and set three World Records during the 1962 World Championship.

<sup>1</sup>The National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice, founded by Congress and President Theodore Roosevelt in 1903 to promote marksmanship practice among U.S. citizens. The NBPRP was the predecessor agency to today's Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP).

<sup>2</sup>Anderson was a member of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit International Rifle Team.

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David Lange, from New Jersey, had the distinction of earning the first **.22 Rimfire Pistol Distinguished Badge**, the first **Air Pistol Distinguished Badge** and the first **Distinguished Service Revolver Badge**. Here DCM Emeritus Gary Anderson is pinning Air Pistol Badge #1 on Lange.

The original criteria for earning this Badge was to win an individual or team medal in the Olympic Games, World Championship or Pan American Games. The significant difference in competition levels between Olympic or World Championship and American Continental Championships eventually made it necessary for the NBPRP to adopt a 30-point system that awards varying credit point totals for these championships (i.e., *an Olympic medal earns 30 points; Pan American Games medals earns 5 or 10 points, etc.*). To date, and now under CMP administration, 544 of these prestigious badges have been awarded. A 2009 policy change added the Paralympic Games and World Shooting Para Sport Championships to the international competitions where International Distinguished Badges can be earned. The first Paralympic athlete to receive the Badge was 1984 Paralympic Games gold medalist Roger Withrow.

### Transition to the New CMP

Responsibility for deciding the rules and administering the Distinguished Badge program has always involved the Armed Services that govern their Distinguished programs. The NBPRP and the Department of the Army's Office of the Director of Civilian Marksmanship (ODCM) became involved when civilians started earning badges in the 1920s. A major change occurred in 1996 when Congress privatized NBPRP programs to establish the CMP as a federally-chartered, non-profit corporation. The CMP is



In 2001, Cadet Brandon Green, Bogalusa, LA, Army JROTC, was presented with **Junior Distinguished Badge No. 1**. Green subsequently became a member of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit Service Rifle Team. SFC Green is shown in this 2018 photo after he won President's Rifle Match with a National Matches Record score of 400-20X.

now the lead organization in determining Distinguished Badge regulations and administering the program for non-military competitors.<sup>3</sup>

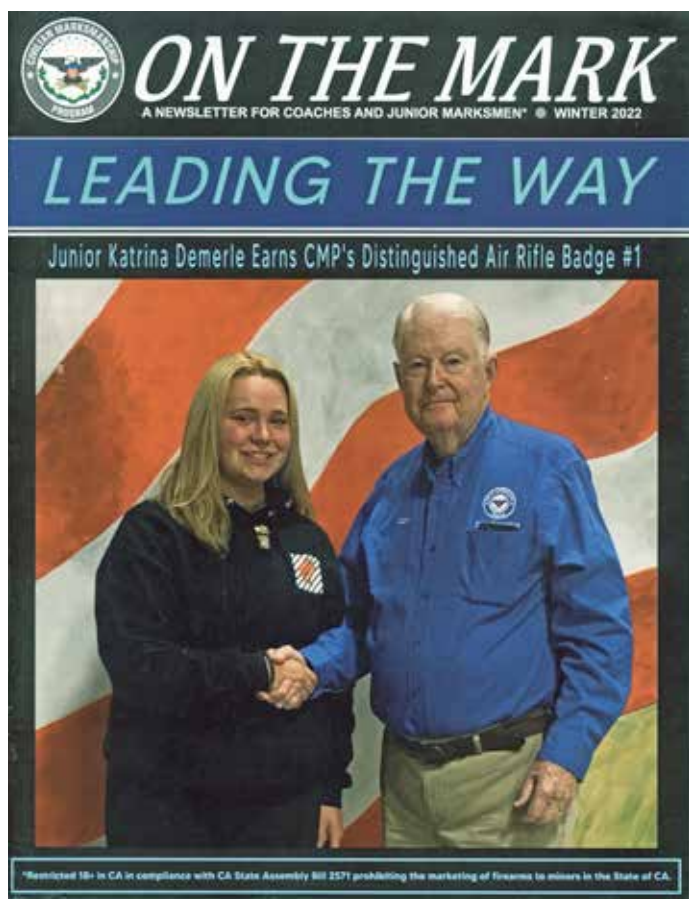
For the first 78 years of its existence, the Distinguished Badge program was dedicated to celebrating marksmanship excellence with military rifles and pistols. However, the 1962 NBPRP decision to award International Distinguished Badges introduced a change in program orientation from marksmanship with military rifles and pistols to marksmanship as a sports skill. The International Distinguished Badge recognizes excellence in Olympic and internationally recognized events that are practiced with rifles, pistols and shotguns designed solely as sports equipment.

The 1996 law that created the new CMP mandated that it **"shall give priority to activities that benefit firearms safety, training, and competition for youth."**<sup>4</sup> One manifestation of that priority was the CMP's adoption of the **Junior Distinguished Badge** that is awarded for excellence by school-age juniors in Three-Position Air Rifle competitions. The first of these Badges were presented in 2001. Today, more than 1650 Junior Distinguished Badges have been presented through a program governed by the National Three-Position Air Rifle Council and administered by the CMP.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup>USC 36 §40722 authorizes the CMP "to conduct competitions in the use of firearms and to award trophies, prizes, badges, and other insignia to competitors."

<sup>4</sup>36 USC, §40724

## AMERICA'S DISTINGUISHED BADGES



The presentation of the first **Distinguished Air Rifle Badge** to Junior shooter Katrina Demerle from Ohio was recognized with a cover story in the previous issue of *On the Mark*.

A significant program expansion began in 2015 when the CMP adopted rule changes designed to expand participation in bulls-eye pistol. One of those new opportunities was the introduction of a **.22 Rimfire Pistol Distinguished Badge**. Today more competitors participate in .22 Rimfire Pistol EIC Matches than in traditional Service Pistol EIC Matches.

For several years, the CMP struggled with concerns that competitors with disabilities who participate in shooting could not earn Distinguished Badges because their adaptive firing positions and equipment (wheelchairs, etc.) did not comply with EIC Match rules. In 2019, the CMP introduced a new **Distinguished Marksman Badge** that could only be earned by competitors with disabilities. Rules for pursuing this badge offer eligible competitors opportunities to earn this badge are published in the CMP Highpower Rifle, Pistol, Smallbore Rifle or Air Gun rulebooks.

The CMP also sought to respond to appeals from participants in other shooting disciplines who wanted Distinguished Badge opportunities. In 2020, the CMP introduced Distinguished Badges for **Smallbore**

**Rifle Position** and **Smallbore Rifle Prone**. Three more Distinguished Badges were added in 2022, the **Distinguished Service Revolver Badge**, the **Distinguished Air Rifle Badge**, and the **Distinguished Air Pistol Badge**. A U.S. Army program that recognized one "distinguished class" of competitors in 1884 has now evolved into a comprehensive CMP program with 11 Distinguished Badge programs in 2023.

### The Appeal and Prestige of Distinguished Badges

Distinguished Badges awarded by the CMP and the U.S. Armed Services preserve their direct lineage with those first Distinguished Badges awarded by the U.S. Government in the 1880s. CMP Distinguished Badges are authorized by federal law.<sup>6</sup> The badges' classic design is also part of their appeal. When the first Distinguished Classes were announced in the 1880s, the Army wanted to provide awards of substantial value that conveyed the prestige of this accomplishment. After consultation with famed New York jewelers Tiffany's and Jens Pedersen, and the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia, the cross bar and shield design still used in today's badges was adopted. The earliest Distinguished Badges were made of pure gold. Badge winners were authorized to wear those impressive medals on their uniforms. This enduring authorization contributes to the program's appeal for military personnel who can wear Service Rifle, Service Pistol, and International Distinguished Badges on their uniforms. JROTC Cadets are authorized to wear Junior Distinguished Badges on their uniforms. The other Armed Services adopted Distinguished Marksman Programs with slightly different badge designs, but their badges never ventured far from this original design.

Today, badges are no longer made of pure gold, but all still display the badges' traditional gold finish. Distinguished Badges have serial numbers and recipients' names engraved on their backs. The CMP maintains a master list of all Distinguished Shooters, including military personnel who earned badges. Distinguished shooter records can be looked up at [https://ct.thecmp.org/app/v1/index.php?do=reportDistinguishedShootersByCriteria&filter=distinguished\\_type](https://ct.thecmp.org/app/v1/index.php?do=reportDistinguishedShootersByCriteria&filter=distinguished_type). Many badge listings include fascinating, downloadable biographies. Those records indicate that since the Distinguished Program began 135 years ago,

<sup>6</sup>The Council is an organization of 11 youth-serving organizations, including the CMP, that conduct Three-Position Air Rifle competitions for school-age youth.

<sup>36</sup> 36 USC § 40722 stipulates that the "Functions" of the CMP are "to conduct competitions in the use of firearms and to award trophies, prizes, badges, and other insignia to competitors."

at least 8,400 Service Rifle Badges and just over 5,200 Service Pistol Badges have been issued. Moreover, the search for missing Distinguished Badge records is ongoing.

*Distinguished Badges are the highest individual awards authorized by the U.S. Government for excellence in marksmanship competition*

The formal ceremonies in which Distinguished Badges are presented is part of their appeal. Whenever possible, Distinguished Badges are presented in special badge presentations during National Match Award Ceremonies for Service Rifle, Pistol, Smallbore Rifle and Air Gun Championships. Junior Distinguished Badge presentations are staged during award ceremonies for major three-position air rifle championships. In these ceremonies, previous badge winners, often national champions, have the honor of pinning badges on new badge winners. For so many Distinguished shooters, receiving their badges from a national champion in front of their peers becomes the highpoint of their marksmanship careers.

## Distinguished Badge Opportunities and Regulations

The course of fire used to determine those initial Distinguished Classes was adapted for the U.S. Rifle M1873 Trapdoor Springfield, which had to be loaded one round at a time. Competitors fired seven-shot slow-fire series in standing at 200 yards, kneeling at 300 yards and in any prone position at 600 yards. Service Rifle courses of fire changed over time as new U.S. Rifles were introduced that made rapid-fire stages feasible. Today with 11 different Distinguished Badges, each discipline has its own EIC Match course of fire where EIC credit points may be earned.

The “Distinguished Badge Program” chart (below) lists each badge, the year it was first presented, the shooting discipline, the EIC Match course of fire for that badge and the rulebook where regulations for that badge are published. Rulebooks with detailed regulations for each badge are posted on the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/competitions/cmp-competitions-rulebooks/>. Competitors who are working to earn EIC credit points should know:

- The EIC Match course of fire—with specific firing procedure regulations to be followed.
- Specific requirements for legal rifle, pistols and



A highlight in Junior Three-Position Air Rifle Championships is the pinning on of **Junior Distinguished Badges** earned by athletes competing in those championships. Here CMP Summer Camp Counselor Addy Burrow (#978) pins badge #1632 on Camryn Camp, from the Texas Hill Country Team that won the 2022 National Precision Team Championship.

equipment that can be used in EIC Matches.

- EIC credit points may only be earned in designated EIC Matches that are sanctioned by the CMP or a military authority.
- The formula for awarding EIC credit points; credit point awards must be confirmed by CMP Competitions.
- The number of EIC Matches a competitor may fire in one year is generally limited to one or two National Championship events and a maximum of five EIC Matches.



Every year during the National Matches, shooters who earned Distinguished Badges during the previous 12 months have their badges “pinned on” by national champion shooters in especially meaningful ceremonies. This 2019 Service Rifle presenter was SSG John Coggsall, ARNG (r.), winner of the 2019 President’s Rifle Match.

# AMERICA'S DISTINGUISHED BADGES

DISTINGUISHED BADGE PROGRAM				
Badge	Year	Discipline	EIC Course of Fire	Rulebook
Distinguished Rifleman	1887	Service Rifle	50-shots NMC at 200, 300 and 600 yds.	Highpower Rifle
Distinguished Pistol Shot	1903	Service Pistol	30-shots NMC at 50 and 25 yds.	Pistol
Distinguished International Shooter	1963	ISSF Rifle, Pistol, or Shotgun	ISSF Olympic rifle, pistol, or shotgun events	Smallbore Rifle or Air Gun
Junior Distinguished Badge	2001	3-Position Air Rifle	60-shots 3x20 kneeling, prone, standing	3-Position Air Rifle
22 Rimfire Pistol	2015	22 Rimfire Pistol	30-shots NMC at 50 and 25 yds.	Pistol
Distinguished Marksman	2019	Rifle or Pistol for competitors with disabilities	Varies according to discipline; approved competitors use adaptive positions and equipment	According to Discipline
Smallbore Rifle Position	2020	Smallbore Rifle	60-shots 3x20 kneeling, prone, standing	Smallbore Rifle
Smallbore Rifle Prone	2020	Smallbore Rifle	160-shots prone at 50 yds, 50m and 100 yds.	Smallbore Rifle
Distinguished Service Revolver	2022	Service Revolver	40-shots Presidents course at 50 and 25 yds.	Pistol
Air Rifle	2022	Air Rifle	60-shots standing	Air Gun
Air Pistol	2022	Air Pistol	60-shots precision	Air Gun

## The Path to a Distinguished Badge

EIC and National Trophy Matches are every competitor's championship. Every Non-Distinguished competitor who places in the top ten percent in an EIC Match is a match winner! Most competitors do not expect to win national or even state championships, but everyone who competes in one of the 11 events that offer Distinguished Badges has the possibility of earning one of those gold badges. There is a common path that virtually all competitors follow in their journeys from new shooter to Distinguished. Typical

milestones on this path are:

**1. Interest in Sport Shooting.** Every shooting sport adventure must have a beginning. The first decision a prospective Distinguished shooter must make is to decide that they want to learn how to shoot.

**2. Learning Basic Skills and Acquiring Equipment.** This starts with picking a shooting discipline. Learning how to shoot goes better if it is fostered by good instruction. New shooter clinics, Small Arms Firing Schools, or being mentored by an experienced shooter are all excellent ways to learn good marksmanship skills and get proper guidance for acquiring suitable equipment.

**3. Engage in Competitions.** Once a new shooter is able to complete an EIC Match course of fire, they need to

start going to local and regional competitions. It's at this step where they learn how much they enjoy participating in competitions.

**4. Striving for Excellence.** This is a fork in the road for competitors who earn Distinguished Badges. Their competition experiences inspire them to want to do better; they want to excel; they become excited about the idea of developing the ability to fire scores that place them near the top of match results lists.

**5. Learning about Distinguished Badge Opportunities.** The path to Distinguished does not start with this as a goal but somewhere during this journey, competitors become inspired by the traditions and allure of becoming Distinguished (*Competitors who are excited by this challenge can use the "Distinguished Badge Resources" chart to learn more.*).

**6. Goal Setting—I Want to Go Distinguished.** Most quests for Distinguished Badges succeed because these competitors made earning one of those badges a conscious goal and made a personal commitment to do the practice and competitions necessary to reach that goal.

**7. Learning Advanced Skills.** For most competitors in most Distinguished disciplines, the best way to learn advanced skills is by attending national competitions. The National Matches offer a treasure trove of learning possibilities. Their advanced clinics and opportunities to learn from experienced competitors are unparalleled.

## DISTINGUISHED BADGE RESOURCES

*If you want to obtain more information about America's Distinguished Badge programs, here are some resources to examine:*

- "Distinguished Badge Program," <https://thecmp.org/competitions/distinguishedbadges/>. This CMP webpage provides basic information and answers many questions about CMP Distinguished Badges.

- The following articles can be downloaded from the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/competitions/distinguishedbadges/>:

- o Culver, Dick; *In Distinguished Company; a history of the Distinguished Badge program from its inception in the 1880s until the beginning of the 21st century.*

- o Rocketto, Hap; *A Short History of the Distinguished Shooter Program; a detailed history of the Distinguished program with lots of supplemental statistical data.*

- o Anderson, Gary; *U.S. Distinguished International Shooter Badge History; explains the origin of this badge during the Cold War and why it is so difficult to earn.*

- Emerson, William, *Marksmanship in the U.S. Army: A History of Medals, Shooting Programs, and Training*, University of Oklahoma, Norman, 2004, pages 162-163.

continued...



*Young athletes who earn Junior Distinguished Badges have a lifetime of shooting sports challenges to look forward to. Some of them will go on to try to earn Distinguished Badges in other shooting disciplines like these Service Rifle competitors who received their badges during their 2022 National Matches Award Ceremony.*

**8. Motivation—Practicing and Preparing.** The indispensable elements in developing the ability to shoot top ten percent scores are practice and preparation. Competitors may do this with air gun practice at home, frequent trips to the range for live fire practice, or regular dry fire sessions, but the ability to fire top ten percent scores in EIC Matches can only be achieved with a great work ethic. Equipment preparation is also part of this. In every Distinguished discipline, it is necessary to acquire and prepare rifles or pistols and equipment capable of producing top ten percent scores. Distinguished shooters earn their badges by dedicating lots of time and hard work to practice and preparation.

**9. Making Top Ten Percent Match Performances.** You can't earn 30 EIC points unless you go to EIC Matches and make good performances in them. Learning to compete successfully in competitions requires mental preparation, establishing and following a shot plan, goal setting, and scorebook discipline (*evaluating and learning from previous performances*).

**10. Enjoying the Badge Pinning Ceremony.** When you finally “leg out” and win those last points for your badge, enjoy the moment! Achieving a hard-earned goal is rewarding both because of the experiences you have along the way and because of the feeling of pride and accomplishment, even joy, you will have when they pin that badge on you!

### About the Author

Gary Anderson, Director of Civilian Marksmanship Emeritus, retired as the full-time CMP Director at the end of 2009. He continues to work with the CMP as the senior marksmanship instructor. During his remarkable career, he won two Olympic gold medals, seven World Championships and 16 National Championships. He served as a Vice President of the International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) from 1990 through 2018. He is a former Nebraska State Senator and Past President of USA Shooting. He served as a Technical Delegate for Shooting during the 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games as well as for the 2014 and 2018 World Shooting Championships.

In 2012, the International Olympic Committee awarded Gary Anderson with the Olympic Order, its highest honor “for outstanding services to the Olympic Movement.”

In 2014, the CMP expanded its world-class air gun center at Camp Perry and renamed the facility the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center, in honor of Anderson's contributions to the organization and the marksmanship community.



# Smallbore, Air Matches Return to CMP's 2023 Camp Perry Open

**SAVE THE DATE**

## CAMP PERRY OPEN

CAMP PERRY, OHIO

**MAY 19-22, 2023**

**AIR RIFLE • AIR PISTOL • SMALLBORE**

<https://thecmp.org/cmp-matches/camp-perry-open/>

camp perry  
open

CAMP PERRY, Ohio – The Civilian Marksmanship Program's (CMP) annual Camp Perry Open is set to resume May 19-22, ready to offer a full schedule of air gun opportunities as well as a corresponding smallbore rifle match – all held at the Camp Perry National Guard Training Facility in Ohio. Registration is open and capacity is limited, so sign up early for this fun and challenging event!

Such competitions offered at the 2023 Camp Perry Open include a junior 3x20 air rifle match and 60 Shot air rifle and air pistol competitions for adults and juniors, with adaptive athletes also welcomed and encouraged to attend. Additionally, a free air gun clinic will provide an educational opportunity for participants. All air gun events will be held within CMP's Gary Anderson Competition Center indoor air gun range.

Outside, a 3x20 smallbore rifle match will take place on Camp Perry's Petrarca Range, conveniently located next to the air gun facility. The match will be fired on KTS electronic targets at 50 meters.

Adding even more excitement to the Camp Perry Open will be the event's celebrated Super Final – featuring costumes, music and other attention-grabbing effects that bring fun to the match. During the Super Final, the top 38 competitors from each of the day's air rifle and air pistol qualification round meet on the firing line to compete in an intense elimination event. The competition goes on until only one athlete remains standing in each discipline.

To register for the Camp Perry Open or to learn more, visit <https://thecmp.org/cmp-matches/camp-perry-open/>. We hope to see you there!

# CMP Releases 2023 Junior Rifle Camp Schedule

Those looking for junior athlete learning opportunities in air and smallbore rifle should seek the Civilian Marksmanship Program's (CMP) esteemed Junior Rifle Camps – set to be held around the country in 2023.

Each year, the CMP hosts a series of hands-on, informative Junior Rifle Camps for high school age students and coaches during the summer months. Participants in the camps receive valuable lessons on intermediate and advanced marksmanship skills through various exercises and demonstrations, all led by current NCAA rifle athletes.

Junior Rifle Camp coordinator and former Morehead State University team member Ryan Hinson, who took over the leadership role last summer, is back again in 2023 – ready to enhance the program even further through updated lessons and trainings inspired by participant feedback.

"Camps were a great success last year," Hinson said. "Not only are we expanding the number of athletes we reach, but we are learning along the way. With this, we are excited to offer a number of changes to the camp experience in 2023 for both the athletes and coaches involved."

"The most exciting, in my opinion, is the coaching curriculum aimed at providing new tips and techniques to all coaches, regardless of experience level," he went on.

The Junior Rifle Camps are designed to train rifle fundamentals and techniques through group discussions and personal guidance from collegiate mentors on the firing line. The full schedule also includes instructional smallbore camps for even more opportunities to learn on the range.

During the week-long camp sessions, juniors learn tips such as:

- Positioning
- Goal setting
- Anxiety control
- Optimizing equipment performance
- Building self-confidence on the firing line
- Many other meaningful lessons to use on and off the range

The camps are excellent tools in developing each athlete's strengths within the physical and mental aspects of the sport while additionally refining trouble areas that may need more attention. Students are able to apply the constructive lessons learned in camp to their own budding marksmanship careers, with many moving on to college programs and beyond.



Outside of the week-long curriculum, other options for juniors include Advanced Standing Camps and Outreach Clinics – all aimed at providing an elite experience for young marksmen and coaches.

"We had a great group of athletes working for us last year, and they play a large part in providing a positive and first-class camp experience," Hinson said. "With our exciting schedule and new camp improvements, we hope to continue this long tradition of hiring great counselors and growing the sport we all love."

Registration for the 2023 Junior Rifle Camps is now open! Camps and clinics fill quickly, so sign up early! Find a list of dates and more detailed camp information on the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/youth/junior-air-rifle-camps-and-clinics/>.



# NATIONAL MATCHES 2023

- **National Rimfire Sporter:**

July 7-8

- **National Smallbore:**

July 7-16

- **National Trophy Pistol & Games:**

July 10-16

- **National Air Gun Championships:**

July 13-16

- **National Trophy Rifle and HP Events:**

July 17-28

- **CMP Games Matches:**

July 27-31

- **Long Range Rifle:**

July 31-Aug. 5

**\*With several camps and clinics\***



<https://thecmp.org/cmp-national-matches/>

## JUNIOR OPPORTUNITIES

The annual National Matches has been a staple at Camp Perry, Ohio, since 1907. Over the years, the schedule of events has evolved to fit contemporary needs, with the addition of several competitive, educational and other enlightening experiences. Offering air gun, pistol, highpower, vintage, smallbore and long range rifle opportunities, along with some of today's leading vendors in the industry on Commercial Row, there's so much to explore at the National Matches!

### NATIONAL RIMFIRE SPORTER:

The Rimfire Sporter rifle matches feature .22 caliber competition in open sights (O-Class), telescopic (T-Class) and tactical/unlimited (TU) classes, fired at 50 and 25 yards. The event is perfect for those just beginning in the sport or those looking for some nostalgic fun on the range.

### NATIONAL TROPHY PISTOL & GAMES:

Adult and junior competitors are invited to participate in this year's National Pistol events. Juniors are able to participate using .22 caliber pistols during these matches. Prestigious matches include the President's Pistol, National Trophy Individual and National Trophy Team events. A series of 900 Aggregate matches will also be held, including for .22 Pistol. For even more opportunities, Service Revolver and GSSF GLOCK National Challenge events will add unique fun to the schedule.

## NATIONAL SMALLBORE and AIR GUN CHAMPIONSHIPS:

For the first time, all National Smallbore events will be fired on electronic targets! The smallbore schedule includes iron sights and any sights prone events as well as 3x20 (three-position) individual matches.

For air rifle or air pistol competitors – check out the National Air Gun Matches, held on the electronic target range within the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center. This series features training, followed by two days of 60-shot competitions.

In 2023, the National Smallbore and National Air Gun schedules have been combined to allow athletes the option of competing in both disciplines. Anticipated events for both smallbore and air rifle include a 3-member elimination team event as well as an aggregate for those firing in air rifle and three-position smallbore competitions.

## NATIONAL TROPHY RIFLE, HP, GAMES EVENTS:

Like Pistol, adult and junior athletes alike are welcome to participate in this year's National Trophy Rifle events. These prestigious matches include the President's Rifle, Hearst Doubles, National Trophy Individual and National Trophy Team events. For juniors, a special paired **Junior Team Match** is also on the schedule.

The CMP will also continue to offer an assortment of vintage and modern military rifle events during the Games series like the John C. Garand and Springfield individual competitions and the Vintage Sniper paired match. Likewise, the CMP's own Highpower (HP) Rifle series will add a 4-man team event and 800 Aggregates to the schedule.

## NATIONAL MID-RANGE and LONG RANGE RIFLE:

This year, the CMP will host a Mid-Range event with a course of fire of 20 shots slow prone at 600 yards. The Long Range series features both individual and team competitions, fired from 1,000 yards on Camp Perry's Viale Range.

## NATIONAL MATCHES CLINICS:

- **CMP/USMC Junior Rifle Clinic:** The three-day clinic gives focus to more advanced training outside of fundamentals, including weather conditions, how to read wind, equipment use, shooting positions and rulebook standards. Juniors in the clinic spend one day in the classroom, followed by two days of live-fire on the range at 200, 300 and 600 yards. Those young athletes who would like to attend this clinic must first attend the Rifle Small Arms Firing School.

- **CMP Junior Rifle Clinic:** Open to intermediate and advanced junior athletes (ages 12-20) in three-position smallbore and standing or international air rifle, the clinic covers safety, fundamentals and several other points of interest. Instruction is held on CMP's outdoor Petrarca Range and within the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center indoor air range – each featuring electronic targets. Those hoping to move their marksmanship careers on to college are encouraged to sign up for this valuable course!

- **Small Arms Firing Schools (SAFS):** The National Matches currently features SAFS courses in Pistol, Rifle and Smallbore. The course is led by current members of military marksmanship teams and includes classroom instruction on firearm safety, positioning and other fundamentals. Participants will also engage in live-fire practice and real competition on the range. No previous experience is required, with firearms and ammunition provided. All are welcome!

- **Advanced HP Clinic:** More classroom and live-fire practice – this course is open only to those who have attended the Advanced Small Arms Firing School at least once and have an "Expert" classification with the CMP or National Rifle Association.

# Registration is OPEN!

Register today at  
[www.THECMP.org](http://www.THECMP.org)

# CMP's Junior Rifle Club Welcomes Introductory Training and Fun

CAMP PERRY, Ohio – Dedicated to marksmanship training, the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) created a group at Camp Perry designed to introduce youth to the sport of air rifle – the Junior Rifle Club.

The club, focused on fundamentals and competition prep, began in September 2022 and eventually reached a total of 12 juniors who attended weekly sessions within the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center air gun range. Now, the CMP is ready to welcome new athletes to the club in 2023, with the hope of familiarizing even more individuals with the fun of marksmanship.

“Last year was great, and we loved getting to meet everyone that came in and tried the sport!” said Ryan Hinson, CMP Summer Camp coordinator who helps facilitate the Junior Rifle Club. “While not everyone stuck around and made it to a competition, we like to think that the juniors enjoyed their time while getting to try something new and different.”

Each training session is led by former NCAA Division I rifle athletes, including Hinson, who was an athlete at Morehead State University, along with CMP program coordinator Alana Kelly, who was previously a member of the University of Mississippi team. Those involved in the Junior Rifle Club will learn the firearm safety and the basics of the sport, strategies to compete successfully and tips on becoming a well-rounded athlete.

There is no initial cost to join, with equipment provided by the CMP in introductory weeks.

The current group is now working on positioning – readying themselves for a true match as CMP’s competition season kicks off in February. Team practices have also begun on Tuesday evenings, allowing the members to work on the same fundamentals at once, to learn from one another and to enjoy each other’s company.

“In 2023, we hope to keep introducing the sport as a unique, fun and safe way to compete with your friends,” he went on. “If they decide to stick with it and choose this as their sport, that’s icing on the cake!”

The Junior Rifle Club at Camp Perry is conducted every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 5 to 8 p.m. at



*CMP Summer Camp coordinator Ryan Hinson helps lead instruction during the Junior Rifle Club at Camp Perry.*

the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center’s 80-point electronic indoor air gun range. Intended for ages eight and above, the club’s purpose is to introduce the shooting sports (specifically three-position air rifle) to local juniors – with an emphasis on safety and education.

If you’d like to become involved in the Junior Rifle Club or if you have questions, contact CMP’s Ryan Hinson at [rhinson@thecmp.org](mailto:rhinson@thecmp.org) or call 419-635-2141 ext. 751. Or, you may simply show up to the range during Open Public timeslots, hosted every Tuesday and Thursday from 5-8 p.m., to learn more.

**Additional Open Marksmanship Times.** The Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center is also open by appointment only – Monday through Thursday (9am-3pm). The CMP Competition Center is also available for local groups to hold meetings or conferences. For questions or to make an appointment, please call Catherine at (419) 635-2141, ext. 704.

Outside the range doors, the facility features authentic Olympic and other memorabilia from the career of celebrated American marksman, Gary Anderson, and includes a retail center for equipment and memorabilia needs. Learn more about the CMP’s air gun competition centers at <https://thecmp.org/ranges/cmp-competition-centers/>.

## Junior Distinguished Badge Program

The National Three-Position Air Rifle Council established the Junior Excellence-In-Competition Award Program to provide incentives for junior three-position air rifle competitors to improve and excel.

This program awards prestigious badges of distinction to the most outstanding junior shooters. Junior shooters earn EIC credit points by placing in designated competitions in accordance with the requirements of this program.

The Junior Distinguished Badge is awarded to school-age junior three-position air rifle shooters who attain a series of high rankings in designated major junior air rifle championships that include the State Junior Olympic Qualifiers, CMP Cup Matches, National Junior Olympic Championships and other National Council Three-Position Air Rifle Championships.

Congratulations to the juniors listed here who recently earned their badges. **ON THE MARK** will recognize all juniors who achieve this outstanding goal in each issue.

For more program info, log onto <https://thecmp.org/youth/junior-distinguished-badge/> or email CMP Competitions at [3PAR@TheCMP.org](mailto:3PAR@TheCMP.org).



Badge #	Name	Hometown	Badge #	Name	Hometown
#1639	Rachael Paddock	Perry, NY	#1647	Abril DeCastro	Fort Mill, SC
#1640	Hailey Singleton	Bellevue, OH	#1648	Sophia Merk	Lawrenceburg, IN
#1641	Victoria Koenig	Yorktown, VA	#1649	Julia Czernik	Granbury, TX
#1642	Carley Seabrooke	Helena, AL	#1650	Nathan Krokstrom	Cape Coral, FL
#1643	Riley Dunn	Washington, PA	#1651	Hannah Dufresne	Boerne, TX
#1644	Mela Lin	Trenton, OH	#1652	Kees Vandergriff	Fort Mill, SC
#1645	Gabriella Sprague	Falls Creek, PA	#1653	Abigail Manson	Freeport, IL
#1646	Jake Moody	Gray, TN	#1654	Jasmine Hays	Pierre, SD



## CMP Welcomes New State Directors: Oklahoma, Illinois, Utah



The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) would like to announce the addition of three new assisting State Directors: Rachael Miller-Lansdown, Master Chief Dan Hackstein (United States Navy, retired) and Scott Asbell. Asbell will serve as the State Director of Utah, while Miller Lansdown will be joining current Oklahoma State Director George Tabor. Hackstein will team up with Illinois State Directors Tina and Raymond Odle.

The CMP State Directors are representatives who help boost marksmanship programs by providing leadership, resources, program information, coordination, networking, motivation and publicity for marksmanship activities within their respective states.

### **Rachael Miller-Lansdown – Oklahoma State Director:**

Rachael Miller-Lansdown lives in Jenks, Okla. She began in highpower service rifle around nine years ago with her husband, Allen. Her first competition experience was at CMP's Oklahoma Travel Games where she fired

in the Garand/Springfield/Modern/Vintage Military (GSMM) matches. She has since collected several marksmanship achievement pins and even made the Congressional 30 at the Talladega 600 Match.

She currently oversees the CMP Highpower Across the Course Matches at nearby Red Castle Gun Club and has completed the first level of Range Officer certification.

"I really have a desire to see shooting sports continue to grow and to see women and more young people enter the shooting sports," she said on becoming a CMP State Director.



**Rachael Miller-Lansdown**

"The Civilian Marksmanship Program has been such a welcoming community for me as a female athlete, from the beginnings, even with not having any previous knowledge concerning marksmanship shooting," she went on. "CMP events and matches have also provided a sport that my husband and I can compete together. This is what we do together – shooting."

Miller-Lansdown and Allen have been married almost 14 years. The couple share two bonus-children and a daughter-in-law. Outside of marksmanship, Miller-Lansdown loves the outdoors and outdoor activities, sports (especially football), travel, rodeo, cooking, cooking on my grill, old movies and reading.

#### **Master Chief Dan Hackstein – Illinois State Director:**

Master Chief Dan Hackstein is from Zion, Ill. As coach of the Zion-Benton Navy JROTC Rifle Team, he's a certified JMIC Marksmanship Instructor and Master Instructor as well as an air gun armorer. With Zion-Benton, Hackstein has earned eight Navy JROTC Championship titles and two CMP National Championship titles, among other accolades.

"In my 20 years of being a marksmanship coach at Zion-Benton Township High School, this has become a passion of mine," he said of marksmanship. "I've worked very hard to get to the level of where I am now. I coach and spend countless hours at Zion-Benton, practicing and taking my cadets to many competitions for these opportunities – many once in a lifetime."

He continued, "I want to pass on all the knowledge I've obtained to the coaches in my state, with the hope they'll become better at what they do and get their teams more involved."

As a CMP State Director, Hackstein says he is ready to do whatever it takes to help units in Illinois get more involved, obtain more equipment, participate in more competitions and answer any questions they may have.

"Most importantly, be there for them if they need anything," he added.

In his personal life, Hackstein has two children (Ryan, 38, and Melissa, 37), and loves hunting, fishing and playing any sport in existence.



**Dan Hackstein**

#### **Scott Asbell – Utah State Director:**

Born in Heidelberg, Germany, Asbell began his shooting career with a smallbore rifle team at Heidelberg American High School's JROTC program in the 1970s. He continues to shoot service rifle, highpower and .22 pistol matches today in the hunt for "Excellence In Competition" (EIC) points toward a Distinguished Rifleman Badge and a Distinguished Pistol Badge.

A leader, Asbell is currently the High Power Rifle Director for the Utah State Rifle and Pistol Association, coach and director of the Utah Shooting Team Junior Program and president of the Utah Service Rifle Club.



**Scott Asbell**

While a State Director, Asbell hopes to:

- fulfill the CMP's mission and vision in Utah by coordinating ranges, raising funds and discovering new resources.
- better market the many assets Utah has to offer to our youth and adults who desire to learn true marksmanship.
- publicize the varied opportunities available through the Distinguished Badge Program.
- develop more junior programs.

Outside of marksmanship, his interests include mountain climbing, swimming, hiking and international travel. He's also a former Scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts of America and Eagle Scout. Amazingly, Asbell studied ballet and ballroom dance at Brigham Young University and holds four World Championship Ballroom Dance titles as well as the special collegiate ballroom championship win during ABC's "Dancing with the Stars" in 2010, as coach of the Utah Valley University Wolverines.

Asbell has been married to his college sweetheart since 1985. The couple has six daughters and three grandchildren.

Learn more about all the CMP State Directors at <https://thecmp.org/training-tech/state-director/>.

**Current CMP State Director Openings:** The CMP is currently taking applications for the following states: Delaware, Maine, Nevada, Tennessee, Vermont and Washington. For more information on applying for a State Director position, visit <http://thecmp.org/training-tech/state-director/> or contact Sylvia at (419) 635-2141, ext. 726 or email [sschoewe@thecmp.org](mailto:sschoewe@thecmp.org).

# UT MARTIN RIFLE

*In order to increase awareness of the sport and to provide insight to juniors looking to continue their marksmanship careers into college and beyond, the CMP highlights some of the nation's current collegiate rifle programs. Read along as we feature the coach and athletes of the Wofford College Rifle Team!*

*Throughout its history in the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC), the University of Tennessee at Martin has accumulated nearly 90 all-time postseason wins, including over 30 All-OVC air rifle honors, 24 All-OVC smallbore honors and more than 30 combined OVC All-Newcomer air rifle and smallbore honors. The team has also cultivated six at-large participants in the NCAA Championships, two OVC air rifle MVP athletes and six OVC Freshmen of the Year.*

*Before the Skyhawks came under the direction of current head coach MJ Vowell, the team was led by coach Bob Beard for over 30 years. Beard is the longest-tenured member of the UT Martin athletics department and was inducted into the UT Martin Athletics Hall of Fame in 2014. During his time as coach, Beard earned five OVC Coach of the Year titles. A member of the United States National Guard shooting team for 12 years and a Hall of Fame rifle athlete at Murray State University, Beard now acts as a volunteer assistant coach for the UT Martin Skyhawks.*

## JOSEPH KOVACH



**Hometown/Junior Team:** Bedford, Pennsylvania. Shot for Everett High School Rifle Team.

**What is your major?** I am a civil engineering major. I chose this major because I want to be involved with the transportation aspect of civil engineering and work for a major railroad. My favorite class currently would have to be trig.

**Outside of rifle, are you part of any other organizations or clubs?** I am a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity.

**How old were you when you got involved in rifle?** I was 13 years old in 8th grade when I started shooting.

**Favorite rifle and stage?** My favorite is the .22 because I like being able to switch positions. My favorite position would be standing.

**What do you do outside of rifle to train and better yourself?** I watch what I eat, especially when it comes to food with high sugar content and typically avoid sugary beverages like soda.

**Future plans/goals for rifle and life?** My goal for rifle is to improve each year and shoot a personal record at least once per year. My goals for life are to graduate college and work at one of the major railroads as an engineer.

# Q&A WITH ATHLETES AND COACHES

## NICK FARES



**Hometown/Junior Team:** I am from Springboro, Ohio. I would meet with a few other juniors at a local range where a couple former athletes and coaches would help us train.

**What is your major?** My major is Business Management. I want to be able to run my own business but also have a degree that would allow me to work for several different kinds of companies if I wanted to. My favorite classes have been economics and a supply chain management class.

**Outside of rifle, are you part of any other organizations or clubs?** I am one of our team's representatives in the student athlete advisory committee.

**How old were you when you got involved in rifle?** I was about 15 when I started shooting smallbore, but I was involved in other shooting sports before that.

**Favorite rifle and stage?** I look forward to air rifle more than I do smallbore because it is less stressful.

**What do you do outside of rifle to train and better yourself?** Outside of rifle, I pay attention to caffeine intake and plan to sleep well the nights before shooting. I also make sure I eat and drink prior to shooting.

**Future plans/goals for rifle and life?** By the end of my college rifle career, I would like to make the NCAA championship as an individual in at least one rifle. I would also like to compete in some highpower matches after college to stay involved in shooting sports.

**Any additional comments/stories/advice you'd like to add?** If you want to shoot in college, I recommend attending the junior smallbore & air rifle camp at Camp Perry. I went twice and I consider that a big step in getting me to where I am now.

NOTE: The CMP website now has an entire page dedicated to College Resources. Located under the "Youth" dropdown, College Resources provides a full list of colleges with NCAA Rifle Teams, along with contact registries and other info on how to continue your career after high school. See more at <https://thecmp.org/youth/college-resources/>.

**STORY CONTINUED AHEAD...**

# UT MARTIN RIFLE

## ALAYNA WALTHER



**Hometown/Junior Team:** Avella, Pennsylvania; Frazier Simplex

**What is your major?** My major is agricultural engineering. I chose this major because I love agriculture and math! My favorite class is any agriculture class, especially the ones that allow the class to be outside.

**How old were you when you got involved in rifle?** I was eight or nine years old when I was introduced to rifle shooting

competitively.

**Favorite rifle and stage?** My favorite rifle is .22, and standing is my favorite position.

**What do you do outside of rifle to train and better yourself?** Outside of rifle, I workout a few days a week and try to meditate throughout the week and before matches or practice.

**Future plans/goals for rifle and life?** My plan for this year is to be in the 580's for smallbore consistently and 590's consistently for air rifle.

**Any additional comments/stories/advice you'd like to add?** Being on a sports team while in college is the best thing a college student could be a part of. From the first day I moved in, I had teammates who I could rely on and would always have my back, which is true to this day.

## RACHEL SPRAGUE



**Hometown/Junior Team:** DuBois, Pennsylvania. I competed for my high school as well as our club team, DuBois Rifle and Pistol Club.

**What is your major?** My major is Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Veterinary Technology. I plan to continue my education to earn my license to become a veterinary technician. My favorite class I have taken was animal anatomy and physiology.

# Q&A WITH ATHLETES AND COACHES

## RACHEL SPRAGUE

**Outside of rifle, are you part of any other organizations or clubs?** UTM Vet Science club

**How old were you when you got involved in rifle?** I was 10 years old when my father had me take my NRA Safety Course, and I eventually started competing in small local competitions.

**Favorite rifle and stage?** I prefer shooting smallbore. My favorite position to shoot in is prone.

**What do you do outside of rifle to train and better yourself?** Outside of rifle, I often refer to “Bullseye Mind” by Raymond Prior to reflect and train my mind to become a better athlete mentally. Before a match, I always play a sudoku puzzle to get myself focused.

**Future plans/goals for rifle and life?** I plan to continue shooting. I would like to return to Camp Perry for the outdoor smallbore National Matches and shoot alongside my dad and sister. Career-wise, I plan to work at an animal hospital and eventually earn my veterinary technician license.

## COACH MJ VOWELL



**Hometown:** Louisville, KY

**Were you an athlete before coaching?** I was a team member at UT Martin from 1985-1988 under Coach Bob Beard; assigned to the U.S. Army Marksmanship International Rifle Section 1991-1993; participated on the women’s team for the National Matches at Camp Perry each summer and a total of four Conseil Internationale du Sport Militaire (CISM) games. I have a BS in Natural Resources Management (UT Martin 1988) and several military schools and professional accreditations. Retired from the U.S. Army in 2014.

**Favorite reason for coaching?** The opportunity to “give back” to a program that afforded me many opportunities.

**STORY CONTINUED AHEAD...**

# UT MARTIN RIFLE

## COACH MJ VOWELL

**What is a day as your athlete like?** We get up EARLY and practice before classes even start. I started this a few years ago, and it has worked well for the student-athlete (once they get used to the schedule). I get their minds “fresh” before the academic day weighs them down. At the end of the season, I always review the early practice schedule with the team, and they continue to prefer it. Once practice is over, the rest of the day belongs to them and a focus on academics.

**What is your biggest challenge as a coach?** Translating the mental approach to a practice or a match. I was an athlete, so I can remember what “right” feels like. It’s not always easy to put that into words.

**Advice for juniors wanting to compete in college and for college athletes and graduating college seniors?** Participate in as many matches as you can to get your name out there and seek out a coach, even if you must video call sometimes. Reach out to college coaches early and visit their campus.

Graduating college seniors—apply lessons learned as a collegiate athlete (leadership, patience, problem solving, service to others, etc.) to your professional and personal life going forward.

**Any additional comments/stories/advice you’d like to add?** Enjoy being in the moment, whether it is preparing to be a collegiate athlete, a recent college graduate or seeking personal and professional excellence. Best wishes for your future success!



# Talladega Marksmanship Park Offering Monthly Shotgun, Archery Events

TALLADEGA, Ala. — If you're a seasoned Sporting Clays or 3D Archery athlete, or if you've ever been interested in giving either discipline a try, get out your calendars! The Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) recently announced a full lineup of ASA (Archery Shooters Association) and NSCA (National Sporting Clays Association) events for 2023.

Talladega's monthly 3D Archery Tournaments are open to the public, with both new and experienced individuals welcome to compete. The competitions are designed for archery enthusiasts who are hunters or who simply love to use a bow and arrow.

The tournaments follow official ASA rules and are fired upon professional Delta McKenzie Targets. Practice bags will also be available for sighting and warm up. Entry fee is \$7.50 for Juniors (ages 6-17) and \$15 for Adults (18 and over).

Though the events are held over two days, individuals may choose one day to complete his or her 20 total targets for score. Points from the ASA State feed into the Alabama ASA State Shooter of the Year Program.

## Monthly CMP/ASA Archery Matches for 2023:

**CMP:** April 22-23, June 24-25, Aug. 19-20, Sept. 16-17, Oct. 7-8

**ASA:** May 20-21, July 15-16

The 3D Archery Range at Talladega Marksmanship Park is located on the shotgun side of the grounds and outfitted with 20 lanes of life-size 3D targets, specially painted to look like live animals in their natural habitat. The foam Delta-McKenzie targets are designed to fit along pathways tucked between the trees of Talladega's terrain and can be arranged from 15 to 50 yards. The archery area also contains a 30x60-yard practice range.

More info on Talladega's Archery events may be found on the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/archery/>.

Likewise, Talladega's Monthly NSCA Registered Target Sporting Shotgun Shoots are open to new or experienced competitors, featuring 100 targets for score. Cost to register is \$55. Individuals will be required to shoot registered targets in order to qualify to shoot in the NSCA Alabama State Championship.



The Sporting Clays Shoots are held on CMP's own 15-station loop, located on the grounds of Talladega.

**Monthly NSCA Shoots for 2023 include:** April 15-16, June 3-4, July 8-9, Aug. 5-6, Sept. 9-10, Oct. 14-15, Nov. 18-19

More info on Talladega's Shotgun events may be found on the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/shotgun/>.

Questions on either the Shotgun or Archery matches may be directed to William Chapman, Talladega Archery/Shotgun supervisor, at 256-474-4408 ext. 421 or [wchapman@thecmp.org](mailto:wchapman@thecmp.org).

## About the CMP Talladega Marksmanship Park:

Aptly named "The Home of Marksmanship," the park is a worthy destination for firearm supporters and guests looking for practice, competition and mindful learning opportunities. Featuring CMP electronic targets and scoring monitors that can only be found at the 500-acre facility, the park regularly hosts rifle, pistol, shotgun and archery events all year long. The CMP's Unknown Distance Range at Talladega also allows guests to practice their skills in the field of over 100 steel targets, out to 625 yards, and provides even more marksmanship fun at the Park.

The public is welcome daily, all year long, to test out their firearms or to simply take a tour of the grounds. Off the firing line, the Club House holds a fully stocked Pro Shop that includes an exclusive collection of rifles, ammunition, marksmanship accessories and CMP memorabilia that is always open during park hours. Learn more at <https://thecmp.org/ranges/talladega-marksmanship-park/>.

# Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois Air Rifle Team

*CMP regularly receives letters and emails from our club leaders. Here's a letter from a Girl Scout Program Officer which explains his journey on adding a rifle camp to the Girl Scout camp program. We are sharing this article as a resource for other leaders. If your club needs assistance to start or expand their marksmanship programs, please contact the CMP at [info@thecmp.org](mailto:info@thecmp.org).*

**Dear CMP,**

I'm from Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois, and we were the first Girl Scout Council to form a CMP team. We started just as Covid was breaking up. I've had the team officially since before Covid, but it took time to get the rest of my ducks in a row.

It was a five-year battle for me to get my CEO at the time to get on board with allowing us to have air rifles at the camps. In my role with the council, I manage all office properties and all our camps, along with managing all the outdoor programs. This translates into the fact that beside running the properties, I facilitate programs with the girls directly.

I've been an archery instructor for the girls for 38+ years. Working with the girls, they have always asked to shoot guns. I was able to help, being a trained rifle and pistol instructor and a Chief Range Safety Officer. I could train enough people to run the program.

We worked on long range plans for our camps. We held 22 town hall meetings with hundreds of girls attending to voice their opinions on what they wanted to do to keep them engaged in Girl Scouts. At 21 of those 22 town hall meetings held across the northern quarter of Illinois, the girls said they wanted shooting sports.

We still have not asked for any funding, although, like us, I'm betting many teams could use some funding. We are limited because we can't use council funds. Despite all the hurdles, we have now competed a few times a year with Tina Odle, CMP Illinois State Director, in Kankakee, Illinois.

I have six girls that have stuck with it, and I have many more wanting to join. We have tryouts in April where we will try to grow the team to 12 girls. We have funded this by each girl paying \$5.00 (now \$10.00) each practice to cover the cost of ammo and targets. Council did invest to purchase 12 Daisy 599 rifles, and the girls parents purchase them directly from us, at cost, to be on the team.

We've also built an indoor range at one of our camps and hold practice there (it was an old dining hall), and we did receive four air rifles donated by the CMP to help us with a junior team.

I have lofty goals. In my time, I have taught archery for

many years. Two of the girls that I introduced to archery have actually competed in the Olympics. I was not their coach, I just introduced them because they were friends of my daughters and fell in love with archery. One was an alternate and the other won a bronze medal, many years ago now.

I would love to see one of the girls from a Girl Scout team compete in the Olympics before I die, which I'm not planning on for a while yet. I will be retiring and moving away from Illinois to Georgia in a few months. I found a good person to take over as coach of the team.

Although my CEO is now retired, she was not afraid to let us be the first in the country to form a team. Others have followed, which is why you now have three Girl Scout council teams. I am so happy the CMP does the work it does to educate firearms and safety of using firearms to youth.

Beside the small air rifle team we have, we have ranges at all three of our camps, so any girl whose parents sign the waiver to allow her girl to shoot can come to our camps, where we have 22 trained Range Safety Officers and eight rifle instructors to teach, spark interest and learn proper safety procedures.

Just this year, we put software in place to properly track numbers of users, and we had over 500 girls shooting at our ranges. At each of our three camps, we have different range setups just to keep it unique. Each of the girls go through a safety talk, handling instructions and what to do if they find a gun laying on the ground. Then, the girls get to shoot, which is all they really want.

I wanted you to know a little of what it took to get some Girl Scout teams started. I'm not a person to help spread the word other than by mouth, face to face. I'd love to promote our team through your newsletter. The girls' program deserves to be known.

When I visited Camp Perry, I walked down what I would call a Hall of Honor. I saw the Boy Scouts of America awards cabinets. I also knew, at that time, there was no active team, and it was just an honor given to the Boy Scouts. I was saddened to know there were no Girl Scout awards cabinets. Someday, I hope there can be a Girl Scout display case.

I'm hoping, when I'm retired, to make it over to Camp Perry during your big events during the summer to see some of what I can only imagine through seeing pictures.

I just wanted to let you know how proud I am of our little Girl Scout Air Rifle team – of how far they have come.

**Charlie Qualls**

**Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois**

# CIVILIAN MARKSMANSHIP PROGRAM

## upcoming events

### 2023

AIR RIFLE/PISTOL



MARCH 11 • APRIL 29 • SEPT 16 • OCT 14 • NOV 18

## MONTHLY MATCHES

GARY ANDERSON CMP COMPETITION CENTER

RIFLE

APRIL 15 (GSMM) • JUNE 24-25 (GSMM/HIGHPOWER) • SEPT 23 (GSMM)

## OUTDOOR EVENTS

PETRARCA RANGE • VIALE RANGE



AIR/SMALLBORE



MAY 19-22 • ALL MATCHES HELD ON ELECTRONIC TARGETS!

## CAMP PERRY OPEN

GARY ANDERSON • PETRARCA RANGE

RIFLE/PISTOL/AIR

JULY 7 - AUG 5 • ALL EXPERIENCE LEVELS

## NATIONAL MATCHES

ALL INDOOR/OUTDOOR CAMP PERRY RANGES



AIR RIFLE



DEC 2 • 3P JUNIOR EVENT

## GARY ANDERSON INVITE

GARY ANDERSON CMP COMPETITION CENTER

# CAMP PERRY, OHIO

LEARN MORE AT [www.thecmp.org](http://www.thecmp.org)





*Throughout its history, the CMP has prepared an ever-growing number of shooters with firearm safety and marksmanship skills through its programs, clinics and other events. With the hope to spread the promotion of marksmanship and shooting sports, other organizations have joined CMP in its efforts by creating their own hometown clubs. Whenever possible, we recognize these clubs and their achievements in our publications. If you would like your club recognized, please email photos, captions and a short article to [abrugnone@thecmp.org](mailto:abrugnone@thecmp.org).*

## Fort Smith JROTC Sweeps First Places at Arkansas State Air Rifle Championship

Fort Smith Arkansas Northside High School has a lot to be proud of, thanks to their JROTC Rifle Team. The Northside JROTC teams, under the direction and leadership of LTC (R) Thomas Johnson, took high honors at the Arkansas CMP State Championship. The teams swept the competition with first place showings in the sporter class for both individual and teams along with wins in the precision class.

Some of the best air rifle competitors in Arkansas competed at the 15<sup>th</sup> annual CMP Three-Position Air Rifle Championship. The event was held at White Hall High School. Over 65 competitors representing teams from JROTC, 4-H, NRA and CMP attended the match.

Top teams and individuals earned the right to advance and compete at the CMP Regional Championship:

### **SPORTER DIVISION: INDIVIDUAL**

1st Place: Francisca Bermudez-Flores, Ft. Smith Northside High School JROTC – 522

2nd Place: Caleb Mahan, Madison County Youth Shooting Sports – 513

3rd Place: Mitchell Elmore, Saline County Youth Shooting Sports – 509

### **PRECISION DIVISION: INDIVIDUAL**

1st Place: Edith Aquino, Ft. Smith Northside – 554

2nd Place: Mikayla McCall, Ft. Smith Northside – 553

3rd Place: Audrene Hays, Ft. Smith Northside – 537

### **SPORTER DIVISION: TEAMS**

1st Place: Ft. Smith Northside High School JROTC Sporter Team 1 – 1998

Team Members: Francisca Bermudez-Flores, Ariana Mendoza, Aurelio Alcala and Sanskruti Ghanti

2nd Place: Saline County Shooting Sports Team Blue – 1931



Team Members: Mitchell Elmore, Breanna Yates, Noah Dawson and Jake Cox

3rd Place: Ft. Smith Northside High School JROTC Sporter Team 2 – 1716

Team Members: Jovany Guzman, Nevaehona Williams, Lucy Buster and Jacqueline Aleman

### **PRECISION DIVISION: TEAMS**

1st Place Team: Ft. Smith Precision – 2179

Team Members: Edith Aquino, Mikayla McCall, Audrene Hays and Mekel Miller

2nd Place Team: Newport High School JROTC Team 1 – 1882

Team Members: Andrei Rodriquez, Jasmine Dalton, Quina Johnson and Matthew George

3rd Place Team: Newport High School JROTC Team 2 – 1650

Team Members: Blain Shannon, Zane Pry, Audra King and Katie Hanners

The CMP Arkansas State Championship is sponsored locally by the Arkansas Rifle and Pistol Association, Arkansas Gun and Cartridge Collectors Club, Daisy Outdoors, Crosman Outdoors and Pyramyd Air Guns. For more information on these types of air rifle matches, as well as BB Gun Competitions in Arkansas, contact match director Gary Jobe at [arkansascompetitions@gmail.com](mailto:arkansascompetitions@gmail.com).

# Carter Freeman Sticks With It, Earns Third at Sporter Air Gun Event

If you attended the 2023 Western Reserve Academy (WRA) Invitational in January, competitor Carter Freeman's face probably stood out to you – it was the only one attached to a stick.

Carter, 17, of Grove City, Ohio, already had plans of attending a ski trip in Colorado that happened to overlap the WRA Invitational dates, but that didn't stop him from competing in the indoor three-position air rifle event. A member of the Grove City Christian High School rifle team as a sporter rifle athlete, Carter's coaches and his dad scheduled for him to fire his positions the night before – legally entering him into the match.

Since he wasn't able to physically be there the next day, he asked his team to print out a life-sized picture of his head and glue it to a stick so he could be there with his team in spirit and cheer them on – and, they did.

The day of the match, Carter's mom sent photos of the Carter-on-a-stick, situated in different areas of the range.

"It was quite hilarious," Carter said. "And the best part was that I placed third overall!"

Carter earned an aggregate score of 524-13X in the match – three points shy of second and just 10 away from the first place spot.

The WRA Invitational was held at the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center at Camp Perry, which hosts local-, regional- and national-level competitions throughout the year. Carter is a regular at other CMP air gun events, including the annual Gary Anderson Invitational and Camp Perry Open as well as the Monthly Air Gun Matches, where he won third place overall in the 3x20 Sporter category of the 2022 Monthly Match League (determined through an average of scores for repeat competitors).

Also in 2022, Carter qualified for a trip to the National Three-Position CMP and Junior Olympic Air Rifle event. He hopes to qualify again this year and, ultimately, bring home a medal or two.

Carter has been involved in marksmanship since he was in elementary school, pinging pop cans off the back deck of his great aunt's house in West Virginia.

"I honestly really enjoy shooting guns," he said. "It's something that I have always liked, and it seems to come naturally to me."

When he reached 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Carter began looking for school activities to join and saw air rifle as an option. He soon signed up and has competed in the sport ever since – some precision rifle his sophomore and junior years, but mainly within the sporter class. His equipment of choice is a Challenger PCP from Crossman and Meisterkugeln Professional Line pellets, along with a glove and baseball cap.

For training, his team is able to shoot two to three times a week during the warmer months. Unfortunately, the lack of facilities in the winter presents the team few training opportunities, leaving members with weeks between team practices.



"Currently, my greatest challenge is getting time and space with my team," he said.

Luckily for Carter, the range setup in his own basement provides him extra practice when time allows. He focuses on positioning – whichever he feels he needs practice in the most, typically kneeling or standing.

"I try to focus on getting the average of my shots up and not looking at individual shots," he said. "It took me two and a half years of consistent practice and three shooting camps to get me where I am now, and I know that I could still improve."

"You may feel like you are positioned well, but have someone take a picture of you," he went on, offering advice to others. "My dad did that for me, and I realized that my standing position was crooked. That little fix seemed to make my scores improve."

As a senior, Carter is unsure of his future in marksmanship, unless he's someday offered an opportunity to be an assistant coach of a team. He's now setting his sights to college, likely attending Columbus State in their 2+2 program before transferring to Ohio's Otterbein University in the pursuit of a degree in engineering – mechanical or network/IT.

Though his own marksmanship career may not last much longer, he offers encouraging guidance to those who wish to keep their focus on the sport.

"Sometimes, it may feel like you are making no progress or that you are losing ground, but if you continue, your scores will improve," he said. "You need to practice and stick to it."

Wise advice – after all, no one knows more about sticking to something than Carter.

# ON THE MARK

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