



ON THE MARK

A NEWSLETTER FOR COACHES AND JUNIOR MARKSMEN* © SUMMER 2023

A BITE OUT OF THE COMPETITION

Top Air Rifle Athletes Honored at JROTC National Championship in Ohio



*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 Dugan 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.

Back Issues of OTM: To view back issues of **ON THE MARK**, log onto <https://thecmp.org/news-media/on-the-mark/>. Address Changes: To submit address changes or corrections, contact: 419-635-2141, ext. 724 or email onthemark@TheCMP.org.

Editorial Submissions: To submit articles, editorial material or photographs for possible inclusion in **ON THE MARK**, contact: Ashley Dugan, **ON THE MARK** Editor, P. O. Box 576, Port Clinton, OH 43452; fax 419-635-2573 or email 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.

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.

* * * * *

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 or on the CMP online newsletter, **The First Shot**, at <https://thecmp.org/news-media/the-first-shot/>.

© Sighting Shots ©

IN MEMORIAM: Larry Pendergrass (1939-2023)

Longtime Chief Range Officer, Larry Pendergrass, passed on May 14, 2023. Larry was one of the most significant contributors to the development of junior and competition shooting in the USA in the last three decades. Larry's countless deeds as a marksmanship instructor, mentor of youth and wise counselor made the shooting sports better. Read more about Larry's life at <https://thecmp.org/in-memoriam-larry-pendergrass-1939-2023/>.



Held on the 500 acres of CMP's Talladega Marksmanship Park in Alabama, rifle competitions will be fired on CMP's state-of-the-art electronic target and scoring system, while pistol will be held on paper turning targets. Learn more and register at <https://thecmp.org/ranges/talladega-marksmanship-park/>.

© **AMERICAN LEGION POSTAL RESULTS.** Results are in for Round 2! The tournament offers competitors affiliated with an American Legion Post the opportunity to test their marksmanship abilities in competition with other juniors throughout the nation. The top 15 individual competitors and top 10 teams from each category (sporter and precision) will be invited to participate in the upcoming National Championship. Find a complete list of results on the CMP Competition Tracker page at https://ct.thecmp.org/AmericanLegionRd2_23Results!

© **MEET THE JUNIOR RIFLE CAMP COUNSELORS.** Each year, the CMP hosts a series of informative Junior Rifle Camps for high school age students and coaches during the summer months. Participants receive lessons on intermediate/advanced marksmanship skills through exercises and demonstrations, all led by current collegiate rifle athletes. Learn more about this year's camp counselors and their advice to young athletes at <https://thecmp.org/get-to-know-cmps-junior-rifle-camp-counselors/>.

- © **NEW ENGLAND CMP GAMES AND HIGHPOWER MATCHES.** This year's New England CMP Games, CMP Pistol and CMP HP Rifle Matches will be held Sept. 16-24, featuring staple competitions like the GSMM, Rimfire Sporter, Carbine and Vintage Sniper matches, along with several pistol and highpower rifle opportunities. The event is open to all experience levels. Learn more at <https://thecmp.org/cmp-matches/new-england-cmp-hp-rifle-cmp-games/>.
- © **2023 NATIONAL MATCHES.** Held in July and August, the CMP National Matches features a variety of competitions and clinics within the highpower/vintage rifle, pistol, smallbore rifle and long range rifle phases – all on the historic grounds of Camp Perry National Guard Facility in Ohio. All ages and experience levels are welcome to attend, so come learn from and shoot alongside some of today's best marksmen and women! For more information, please visit the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/cmp-national-matches/>.



- © **TALLADEGA QUARTERLY MATCHES.** The next event is set for Aug. 25-27, comprised of both rifle and pistol outdoor competitions.



- © **STATE DIRECTOR OPENINGS.** The mission of the State Directors is to provide leadership, resource and program information, coordination, networking, motivation and publicity for junior shooting within his or her state. Current openings: Maine, Vermont, Delaware, Tennessee, North Carolina, Nevada and Washington. Apply today at <https://thecmp.org/training-tech/state-director/>.

On the Cover: Danjela de Jesus playfully bit her precision gold medal as she received it onstage at the 2023 JROTC Nationals banquet. Danjela earned the top of the podium for her performance in the three-position air rifle match, fired in March.

CMP Dedicates South Air Gun Range to Former CEO, Judith Legerski

ANNISTON, Ala. – On Friday, March 17, the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) held a ribbon cutting and champagne toast to officially mark the renaming of its South Competition Center in Alabama as the Judith Legerski CMP Competition Center, in honor of former Board Chairman and CEO, Judith Legerski. The renaming commemorates Legerski's many years of commitment to the CMP and marksmanship safety.

"It was only fitting, that upon her retirement, we forever showed our appreciation to Mrs. Legerski and the dedication she had in moving the shooting sports world forward by honoring her with the renaming of the competition center here in Anniston," said Gina Johnson, CMP Chief of Staff. "The CMP is a better place because of her involvement and leadership."

"Mrs. Legerski's excitement and love for CMP will be missed," Johnson added.

Judith Legerski was appointed to the original CMP Board of Directors by the Secretary of the Army Togo West in 1996 at the time the company was privatized by Congress. Holding several positions during her tenure, she was elected Chairman in October 2011 and served in the role until her retirement in September 2022.

Attending and speaking at the ribbon cutting ceremony and dedication were retired Board members Harry Sieben and Cris Stone, along with CMP Chairman and CEO Jerry O'Keefe. Current board members Regina Chavis and Ed Newell were also in attendance.

The Wyoming family turned out in force to support Judy. The family group included husband Don; son Greg who was accompanied by his wife Adele and their daughter Nora Legerski; daughter Angie Legerski Glasscock was accompanied by her daughter Olivia and sons Luke and Marko; and daughter Kate Legerski was accompanied by her fiancée Todd Druse. A number of family friends were also present.

Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, Legerski and distinguished guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and dinner. The following day, the group retreated down the road to CMP's 500-acre outdoor facility, Talladega Marksmanship Park, for a day of fun and marksmanship competition.

About Judith Legerski:

Over her professional career, Legerski held several important offices, including serving as a member and Vice-Chairman of the Department of Defense Advisory Committee for Women in the Services, and in support of the Secretary of the Army as a Civilian Aide for 28 years



A ribbon cutting ceremony introduced the Judith Legerski CMP Competition Center, with Legerski's family in attendance.

– now holding the title of Civilian Aide Emeritus. Legerski continued to remain active in a variety of community and state efforts.

Legerski shepherded the CMP from its inception, providing leadership during a period of sustained and dramatic growth. In addition to establishing many of today's existing programs, she has always been a strong advocate for youth marksmanship and can be credited with CMP Junior Air Rifle Camps' success and prestige. Judy has a true love for marksmanship and has been known to target shoot in Wyoming alongside her husband of 56 years, Don. The couple share three children and six grandchildren.

About the Judith Legerski CMP Competition Center:

The Judith Legerski CMP Competition Center is home to CMP South, including several staff offices, an open common area, the CMP South Store and an indoor 80-point electronic air gun range.

The CMP South Store is stocked with a variety of needs, like ammo, equipment, firearms, CMP memorabilia and other essentials. The air range hosts Open Public Nights every Tuesday and Thursday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. CST, where individuals of all ages are welcome to try their hands at air gun. Guests may also visit the ranges by appointment Monday through Thursday. Additionally, the range holds a variety of local, state and national competitions and events throughout the year. Learn more at <https://thecmp.org/ranges/cmp-competition-centers/>.

Zermeno, de Jesus Earn National Titles at 2023 JROTC Air Rifle Championships



Samantha Zermeno claimed the overall win in the sporter individual event.



Danjela de Jesus earned gold in the precision competition for her performance.

CAMP PERRY, Ohio—Danjela (Jordan) de Jesus, 17, of the Camden County High School Navy JROTC in Georgia is a national champion. At the 2023 JROTC National Three-Position Championship, she not only led the precision air rifle class but finished a perfect run – attaining the leading scores in all three phases of the competition series.

“I thought I would do well, but I didn’t give myself any expectations. I didn’t want to disappoint myself,” de Jesus said of the match.

The JROTC National sporter and precision air rifle event for high school athletes was held March 23-25 at the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center in Ohio. Along with Nationals, the JROTC Championships also included a Postals Match along with Regional Service competitions – all facilitated by the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP).

Dodging disappointment back in September 2022, de Jesus was the overall precision competitor in the Postal event after dropping only one point to reach an incredible score of 299-29X. She went on to fire the highest cadet score by an eight-point margin in the February Regional Service Championships with 1290-91X. With her performance, she claimed the top spot in the Navy competition by more than 20 points over the second place individual.

She admitted the two qualifying rounds of the JROTC Nationals (featuring prone, standing and kneeling positions

for record) didn’t go the way she wanted. Despite her woes, de Jesus narrowly reached the concluding final used to determine overall winners, marking the eighth and final spot on the firing line.

“I just wanted to make the final – I knew I could shoot a good final,” she said of her competitive strategy. “I went in as if I had nothing to lose.”

She kept calm on the line, repeating a song in her mind to help retain her focus. It was enough to maintain her lead through the entire final, including on the last shot where she hit 10.5 to preserve a 0.1-point lead over the second place athlete – granting her the overall win in the match.

Following the final, with a gold medal secured, de Jesus confessed her true feelings, saying with a laugh that she was “Relieved. Sweaty. Tired.”

On the sporter side of the JROTC Nationals, senior athlete Samantha Zermeno, 18, of the Nation Ford High School Marine Corps JROTC in South Carolina, earned the top of the podium after impressive JROTC Championships performances. Like de Jesus, Zermeno led overall at the Service Championships (by 10+ points over the closest competitor) as the top Marine Corps cadet.

“My entire team and I, we train for weeks for this – in the mornings and afternoons. So, all I could really do was my best, and that’s what I did!” she said of the JROTC Championships.

Zermeno had fired the third-highest sporter score during the qualification round – more than enough to earn herself a place in the final. There, she consistently led and kept a cool confidence on the line, thanks to her coach, Col. Sean Mulcahy.

“He’s taught my team and myself something called ‘protective mental thinking,’ where all we tell ourselves on the line is, ‘We’re a good shooter – forget the last shot, forget the future shot – focus on the shot right here and right now. There’s nothing you can do about the last shot, but there’s something you can do about this shot. Just stay positive and keep telling yourself that you’re a good shooter. You’ve trained for this,’” Zermeno explained.

After sending her last pellet downrange, she positioned her monitor so she couldn’t see the score. Although she didn’t know what she had shot, she heard the screams of her teammates as they saw her recorded shot of 9.3 to claim the final and ultimately the sporter title by a 1.5 margin.

“It was definitely exhilarating,” she said with a smile.

Next year, she plans on majoring in IT (information technology) and computer sciences – hoping to become a programmer. Though her career in marksmanship may be over, she has many lasting memories to look back upon and remember with joy.

“I will treasure the years that I’ve spent here and in this sport,” she said. “I know it’ll carry me throughout my life.”

Zermeno’s Nation Ford went on to overtake the sporter team title for the fifth consecutive year at Nationals, with six wins overall in the match. Team members included Zermeno, Kees Vandergriff, Lachlan Harris and Abril DeCastro.

Also marking a repeat team win for the sixth consecutive year was Granbury High School Marine Corps JROTC from Texas. Team members were Ashton Arlington, Sunnee Schumann, Caroline Martin and Kameron Wells.

Each team dominated within their classes, with Nation Ford leading by nearly 55 points and Granbury by almost 20.



Granbury High School from Texas led the precision team event for the sixth consecutive time.

Finding second in the precision team competition was East Coweta High School Marine Corps JROTC in Georgia, as Camden County High School Navy JROTC found third. Navy JROTC programs Zion Benton High School from Illinois and Pascagoula High School from Mississippi earned second and third, respectively, in the sporter team event.

Following behind de Jesus in the precision individual match was Granbury’s Ashton Arlington, 18, in second, while Liv Lusky, 17, of Lumpkin County High School Army JROTC in Georgia landed in third. In sporter, Christopher Mardones, 18, of Patuxent High School Navy JROTC in Maryland claimed second behind Zermeno, with Samuel Nason, 17, of Pascagoula taking third.

See a full list of results of the 2023 JROTC National Championship at <https://ct.thecmp.org/2023JROTCNatResults>. Photos of match are available for viewing and free download at <https://cmp1.zenfolio.com/f18494471>.



Several athletes were pinned with their Junior Distinguished badges at the event.

GUN SAFETY ON SHOOTING RANGES

GUN SAFETY ON TARGET SHOOTING RANGES

How the Sport of Shooting is Striving to Achieve a Perfect Gun Safety Record

By Gary Anderson, DCM Emeritus



CMP Competition Centers, like this one at Camp Perry, Ohio, host dozens of major events attended by thousands of junior and adult competitors every year. CMP Competition Centers have never had an injury-causing incident involving unsafe gun handling.

The CMP's responsibility to promote gun safety is prominently featured in its enabling legislation and in CMP Mission and Vision statements. The 1996 federal law that created the new CMP said, "*the functions of the CMP are to instruct citizens of the USA in marksmanship; and to promote practice and safety in the use of firearms.*"¹ The CMP Mission, as originally adopted by the CMP Board of Directors, is to "*Promote marksmanship through firearms training, safety, competitions, and youth programs.*" Likewise, the CMP Vision is "*To lead the nation in marksmanship excellence by providing safe, innovative programs with a focus on youth.*" Safety instruction and safety rules feature prominently in virtually every CMP program and publication.

In pursuit of that mission, the CMP has sought to develop and teach gun safety rules and range procedures that ensure the absolute safety of every youth and adult who participates in CMP marksmanship training and

competition programs. This ***On the Mark*** article presents a comprehensive review of these CMP procedures. Use this article as a safety review for program leaders, coaches, instructors, and parents. It can also be used as an instructional guide for new participants.

CMP Safety Goal

The CMP gun safety goal is: **ZERO GUN SAFETY INCIDENTS!** We established this goal for two reasons. First, it is achievable. The CMP believes that if established gun safety rules are followed, all safety incidents involving the use of guns can be prevented. Second, there are many people in this country who think guns are dangerous and believe (mistakenly) that even supervised target shooting is dangerous. Any gun safety incident has the potential to magnify that false image. The CMP wants all of its

¹36 USC, §40722.

program participants to be safe and the best way to ensure participant safety is to steadfastly follow and enforce all established safety rules in all CMP programs.

Shooting's Safety Record

We must start by recognizing that there was a time when rare injury-causing incidents did occur in training and competition programs affiliated with the CMP. In 2004, for example, there were four injury-causing incidents, including one fatality, in high school JROTC marksmanship programs. Gun safety has long been a priority in the CMP and the programs of its predecessor agency, the NBPRP,² but these incidents made it clear that gun safety rules and training had to get better. No gun safety incident that injures or that could injure another person is acceptable. The CMP partnered with the JROTC Commands to identify the most effective gun safety rules and teach them to JROTC cadets. We sought gun and range safety procedures that would eliminate the possibility of any safety incidents if they were implemented by all JROTC marksmanship programs. Since that fateful year, no further injury-causing incidents involving safe gun handling have occurred in those programs.

As a result of advances like these, organized target shooting has become one of the safest of all youth sports. Youth three-position air rifle practice and competition activities, with more than 250,000 annual youth participants, have now gone for nearly two decades without a single injury-causing incident involving the use of air rifles.

The National Matches take place over a six-week period every summer at Camp Perry, Ohio. A total of 4,000 competitors participate in competitions for eight different pistol and rifle disciplines where competitors fire nearly one million shots at distances from 10 meters to 1000 yards. There have been a few instances where competitors or armorers have been injured in gun explosions or while pulling targets in highpower rifle pits, but there has not been a single injury-causing incident involving the handling of guns in CMP championships or sanctioned competitions since the new CMP was created in 1996. Safety rules work; they protect program participants.

Fundamental Rules of Safe Gun Handling

Achieving zero safety incidents in CMP programs requires safe gun handling rules that ensure safety in all marksmanship training and competition conditions.

²National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice and its administrative agency, the Office of the Director of Civilian Marksmanship.



Strict range safety procedures followed in Bulls-eye Pistol target shooting have successfully overcome the safety challenges involved in handling pistols.

We also wanted rules that could be applied in other gun handling situations. Over past decades, the CMP has hosted or participated in several review sessions with gun safety experts. These sessions identified three “**Fundamental Rules of Safe Gun Handling**” that fulfill this requirement. These rules are keyed to three readily identifiable gun parts, **Muzzle-Action-Trigger**, that are easy to remember and serve as a mental safety check list.

Rule One: **Always point gun muzzles in safe directions.** Gun safety training must prepare a person to instinctively decide what is a safe direction. While carrying a gun or handling a gun in an instructional setting, that

FUNDAMENTAL RULES OF SAFE GUN HANDLING

- 1. MUZZLE.** Always point gun muzzles in safe directions.
- 2. ACTION.** Keep gun actions open and unloaded, with safety flags inserted, until preparation and firing is authorized by a Range Officer.
- 3. TRIGGER.** Keep fingers off of triggers, until aiming and firing authorized by a Range Officer has begun.

GUN SAFETY ON SHOOTING RANGES



A lesson young Three-Position Air Rifle athletes have learned well is that the index finger must not be placed on the trigger until the gun is in position and being aimed at the target.

usually means pointing the gun up or down.

A cardinal rule is to never allow a gun muzzle to point at another person. On shooting ranges, gun muzzles must be pointed up or downrange towards the targets.

Rule Two: Keep gun actions open and unloaded, with safety flags inserted, until preparation and firing is authorized by a Range Officer. This rule requires visually checking the gun's chamber and magazine, if any, to see that it is unloaded. When guns are brought to a

target range, gun actions must be open, and if they are not already open, such as when they are removed from a gun case or pistol box, immediately opening them. The use of safety flags to demonstrate that guns are unloaded is now standard practice in all CMP shooting disciplines. On shooting ranges, a Range Officer is responsible for authorizing preparation periods, loading and firing.

Rule Three: Keep fingers off of triggers, until aiming and firing authorized by a Range Officer has begun. This rule applies in two separate situations, first, when taking a gun from its case or from someone else and second, when on the firing line while aiming and firing. When taking a gun, all fingers must remain outside of the trigger guard. There is no reason to place a finger on the trigger at this point. When handling guns, all fingers must remain outside of the trigger guard until a gun is on a firing line where a Range Officer has authorized preparation and firing. Even after safety flags are removed, the index finger should not come off of the trigger guard and move onto the trigger until the pistol or rifle is being held in a firing position and aiming at a target has begun.

Gun Handling Responsibility. Anyone who decides to take a gun for any reason, whether it is to shoot it, practice with it or simply look at it, is responsible for applying these three Rules of Safe Gun Handling before doing anything else with the gun. That means taking a gun with fingers outside of its trigger guard, pointing its muzzle in a safe direction and checking its action. If the gun action is not open, the person who takes that gun is responsible for opening the action and checking to make sure it's unloaded. And if you don't know how to do that, don't take the gun—get instruction first. If a succession of people had applied this safety procedure on the Alex Baldwin "Rust" movie set, that tragedy would not have happened.

Redundant Gun Safety Rules. It is important to understand how these fundamental safe gun handling rules work. If someone takes a gun and keeps their fingers off of the trigger, it's pretty difficult to have an unintended discharge even if the gun was loaded. But as soon as they take the gun, they must point it in a direction where an unintended discharge would cause no harm. With the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, attention must shift to the action. If the action is not open, open it. If the gun is loaded, unload it. Each of these safety steps adds another layer of protection. Safe gun handling rules are designed to be redundant so that if one step is overlooked the other steps will still ensure safety.

Mastering Gun Safety. One of the lessons learned in teaching gun safety is that safe gun handling must be

Safety Flags



practiced by handling real guns on real shooting ranges. There are gun safety rules to be learned and safety exams are used in many youth programs to determine whether participants know these rules well enough to move on to range firing. But to develop the muzzle awareness to instinctively know where a gun is pointed, to acquire the habit of keeping the index finger out of the trigger guard and to automatically check to see if gun actions are open and unloaded requires live practice. Mastering gun safety requires learning fundamental gun handling rules as well as actually practicing those rules.

Safety Flags

Safety flags first came into play about 20 years ago. Until then, a gun was considered cleared when its action was open, its magazine, if any, was out or empty, and the chamber or bore was unloaded. These steps are usually sufficient to ensure safety, but there were a few problems with them. First, with air guns, it is impossible to visually confirm that there is no pellet in the barrel without looking into the barrel. Second, it's difficult for a Range Officer to confirm that a gun is unloaded without getting close enough to see the gun's chamber. Properly checking guns on a firing line took a long time. Third, Shooting needed a highly visual way to demonstrate to others on the range, including spectators, that the guns being handled there really were unloaded.

The first **safety flags** were called **open bolt indicators** (OBI). They inserted into rifle and pistol actions and demonstrated that actions were open, but OBIs didn't prove guns were unloaded. Then a probe to go in the chamber was added to OBIs to show that gun chambers were empty. Those were **empty chamber indicators** (ECI). The use of

ECIs in firearms quickly became mandatory in competition and training programs administered by the CMP, NRA, and most other shooting sport organizations. ECIs, however, did not solve the air gun problem. If there was a pellet in the bore, an ECI probe would just push it further down the barrel. A group of Three-Position Air Rifle coaches came up with the ingenious solution of using a length of bright-colored weed-trimmer cord that extended out of both ends of the barrel to prove that there was no pellet in the barrel. These were called **clear barrel indicators** (CBI). The alphabet soup of OBI/ECI/CBI is instantly recognized by competitors, but these letters mean nothing to a skeptical public. Hence the current effort to call all of these devices **safety flags**.

Today anyone who takes a pistol or rifle to a shooting range is expected to keep its action open and unloaded with a **safety flag** inserted until that gun is on a firing point and preparation and firing times are authorized. **Safety flags** make it easier for participants to follow safety rules, they make the work of Range Officers easier, and they clearly demonstrate to spectators how safe target shooting ranges are. An interesting corollary to this discussion about **safety flags** is that they have been so effective, they are now required on ranges all over the world. The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) began requiring safety flags for all international competitions in 2013.



In Three-Position Air Rifle, rifles are removed from their cases and replaced into their cases on the firing line.

RULES FOR SAFETY FLAG USE

- All rifles and pistols on ranges must have **safety flags** inserted.
- **Safety flags** may only be removed on designated firing points during preparation and firing times, or when guns are cased or stored.
- **Safety flags** must be reinserted as soon as a firing series is completed.
- No rifle or pistol may be removed from a firing line unless it has a **safety flag** inserted and is checked by a Range Officer.

GUN SAFETY ON SHOOTING RANGES



Most pistols are transported and stored in pistol boxes. To ensure safety, pistol boxes must be closed whenever anyone goes down range to score or place targets.

Transporting Guns

Common practice today is to transport guns to and from ranges in gun cases or pistol boxes. These cases are usually used to store their guns when they are not at the range.

Bringing guns to ranges in cases or boxes is not universally required but some ranges do require all guns to be cased. There are rules governing the use of gun cases, but these rules vary according to the discipline so check the appropriate rulebook for details.

- There are soft gun cases, hard rifle cases and pistol boxes. Guns should be placed in cases so that when they are opened on a range, muzzles are pointed downrange.

- Since guns are stored in gun cases, safe practice at the end of a firing session is to remove **safety flags** (after guns are checked by a Range Officer), close gun actions, and release the firing mechanism before closing gun cases. Air guns also require expelling gas downrange (must be done on the firing line) when releasing the trigger before closing the gun case. Guns must remain unloaded when stored.

- When cased guns arrive at the range, the rules vary as to when they may be uncased. In some disciplines, guns are uncased in the ready or assembly area. As soon as a gun comes out of its case, its action must be opened, and a **safety flag** must be inserted.

- When pistols arrive at a range, they must remain in closed pistol boxes or cases until competitors are called to the line. Pistol boxes remain closed while competitors hang their targets or go downrange to score and then can be opened only after Range Officer authorization.

- In Three-Position Air Rifle shooting, rifles are removed from their cases on the firing line after Range Officer authorization.

- Before any guns may be removed from a firing line or placed in a gun case, they must be cleared and checked by a Range Officer.

Range Safety Procedures

At the CMP, great emphasis is placed on adopting range safety procedures that will prevent any injury-causing incidents from occurring during competition events. Range

procedures for the shooting disciplines dictate how each competition event is to be conducted. Specific safety rules are found in the different competition rulebooks. For example, in the **National Standard Three-Position Air Rifle Rules**, Rule 2.0 defines safety terms. In the **CMP Highpower Rifle Competition Rules**, Rule 3.6 defines “Range Safety Procedures.” Match Officials, coaches and competitors need to obtain the appropriate rulebook to study its specific safety rules.

Standard Range Commands. An important component of range safety procedures is the use of standard **range commands**. Commands like **LOAD**, **START** (or **COMMENCE FIRING**), **STOP** (or **CEASE FIRING**), **UNLOAD**, **IS THE LINE READY?** and **IS THE LINE CLEAR?** have very specific meanings. Only those commands may be used for their specific situations. If a Range Officer were to invent a different command to instruct competitors to stop firing, for example, this would cause confusion and create a possible safety hazard. Standard **range commands** facilitate teaching competitors how to respond during different competition stages.

Range Officer Scripts. Not only are **range commands** standardized, but the entire sequences of “**Range Officer Commands and Instructions**” for conducting the different courses of fire in each rulebook are standardized and printed in the back of every CMP rulebook. These standardized **Range Officer Scripts** ensure that all competitors know what to expect. Surprises can become safety hazards. Every Range Officer in a CMP-sanctioned competition is expected to use the proper **Range Officer Script** to conduct competition firing.

A Cleared Gun. Range safety procedures require firing series to start and end with **cleared** guns. A **cleared gun** is a gun with a 1) open action, 2) empty chamber, 3) magazine empty or removed, 4) safety flag inserted and 5) that has been checked by a Range Officer.

A Cleared Firing Line. Range safety procedures require firing lines to be **cleared** after each stage of fire, before competitors may go downrange to score or replace targets or remove equipment from the firing line. A **cleared firing line** is a firing line where all competitors have finished the firing series, and all guns have been cleared and checked by a Range Officer. On ranges where the next step is going downrange to score or replace targets, all **cleared** guns must be benched or grounded.

Going Downrange. In some disciplines like Bulls-Eye Pistol, Rimfire Sporter Rifle and Three-Position



Something as simple as carrying guns on a range has its own safety procedure. Guns must be carried with muzzles up or down, with safety flags inserted.



Range Officers play a critical role in resolving problems that could become safety risks.

GUN SAFETY ON SHOOTING RANGES

COMMANDS FOR CONDUCTING A 60-SHOT AIR RIFLE/AIR PISTOL EVENT ON RANGES WITH ELECTRONIC TARGETS OR TARGET CARRIERS	
COMMANDS	INSTRUCTIONS
<i>Before the competition:</i>	<i>Before a competition, the Range Officer must prepare the range for firing. Competitors may not move their equipment to the firing line until the Range Officer calls them to the firing line.</i>
5:00 minutes before Start Time (when Preparation and Sighting time starts)	
WELCOME TO THE (Competition Name) RELAY NUMBER (Relay Number) YOU MAY MOVE YOUR (RIFLES/PISTOLS) AND EQUIPMENT TO THE FIRING LINE...YOUR PREPARATION AND SIGHTING TIME WILL BEGIN IN FIFTEEN MINUTES	<i>The Range Officer begins each relay by calling competitors to the firing line and welcoming them to the competition.</i> <i>After arriving at their firing points, competitors may set up their equipment, take their firing positions and do holding and aiming exercises but they may not remove safety flags or dry fire.</i>
After 15:00 minutes:	
PREPARATION AND SIGHTING TIME...START DURING THIS TIME, YOU WILL HAVE FIFTEEN MINUTES TO FIRE UNLIMITED SIGHTING SHOTS	<i>During the Preparation and Sighting time, competitors may continue preparing their positions, remove safety flags, close rifle actions and dry fire, load, and fire unlimited sighting shots.</i>
After 15:00 minutes	
PREPARATION AND SIGHTING TIME...STOP	

60

This is the start of the Range Officer script for conducting a 60-shot Air Rifle or Air Pistol event. Shooting event scripts, which are published in all CMP Rulebooks, tell Range Officers everything they need to do or say to conduct that event safely and correctly.

Air Rifle, competitors need to go downrange to score or replace targets. No one is permitted to handle or touch any gun on the firing line while anyone is downrange.

Mechanical safeties. Many guns have mechanical safeties and some gun safety experts have insisted that for a gun to be considered **cleared**, its safety must also

be engaged. We rejected this idea for a couple of reasons. First, not all guns have mechanical safeties. Second, the most important safety on a shooting range is an open gun action with a **safety flag** inserted. We want competitors focusing on clearing their guns, not fiddling with mechanical safeties. Engaging a mechanical safety is not required to clear a gun.

Cleared vs. Safe. Terminology is important in range safety procedures. We use specific words to define precise functions and know why we use those terms. An example concerns how a gun that has been unloaded and placed down is described. An older concept described such a gun as “safe” and a firing line with “safe” guns as “the firing line is safe.” Competitors knew what this meant, but to outsiders saying a gun or shooting range is sometimes “safe” implies there are other times when they are “not safe.” Ranges are safe when rules are followed so range commands use the terms **cleared** and **not cleared** to indicate when guns on a firing line are unloaded with **safety flags** inserted.

Carry vs. Handle. Competition rules distinguish between **carrying** and **handling** guns. **Carrying** guns is moving them from one place to another. Guns can be carried anywhere behind the firing line as long as they are **cleared**. **Handling** a gun involves any act that would prepare it for firing: removing a safety flag, closing an action, shouldering a rifle, aiming a pistol, putting on a sling that is attached to a rifle, etc. **Handling** guns behind the firing line is not permitted. **Handling** guns is permitted on the firing line after competitors are called to the line, however, a second authorization to uncase guns is required in certain disciplines.

Preparation Periods. Even after competitors are called to a firing line, they are not permitted to remove **safety flags** and close gun actions for dry firing. Those acts are authorized only after the Range Officer announces the start of a **preparation period** when competitors can remove **safety flags** and dry fire in preparation for firing.



CMP Rules now require all competitors in highpower rifle and bulls-eye pistol events to wear eye and hearing protection while on firing lines.

Problems and Malfunctions. The risk of a gun safety incident occurring increases significantly when a competitor experiences a malfunction or problem. The specter of a competitor getting out of position with a loaded gun to seek assistance with a malfunction is scary. All new shooters are taught that if they have a problem or malfunction, that they must remain in position with the gun muzzle pointed downrange and raise their hand to call for a Range Officer. Range Officers are trained to manage these situations.

Eye and Hearing Protection. In rare and not always controllable circumstances, center-fire cartridges can blow up a gun and potentially injure the competitor. The cumulative effects of gun fire sounds can cause permanent hearing loss. To protect competitors against the possibility of these injuries, CMP rules require all competitors in highpower rifle and bulls-eye pistol events to wear eye and hearing protection while on a firing line. Participants in other disciplines are “urged” to take adequate precautions.

Trained Range Officers. The frequent mention of Range Officers in this article highlights the important roles they play in keeping range firing safe. Range Officers have specific responsibilities for checking competitors at critical points during competitions to verify that competitors are

complying with safety procedures. To enhance Range Officer competence for performing these tasks, the CMP implemented a **Range Officer Training Program**. Full information is posted on the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/training-tech/range-officer-training-course/>. Anyone who serves or hopes to serve as a Range Officer is encouraged to take this training.

Shooting Safety—A Matter of Focus. We hope this article demonstrates how the CMP and the Shooting Sports are endeavoring to keep participants safe, with a realistic goal of preventing all gun safety incidents. To achieve this goal, all shooting sports participants must focus on safety. Shooting safety requires constant vigilance by everyone on the range. Shooting truly is one of the safest of all sports. Let's strive to keep it perfectly safe!

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.



Junior Marksmen Stories...

From County 4-H to the College Stage: Kenlee Ewton Earns Air Rifle Success

When it comes to marksmanship, Kenlee Ewton, 18, of Soddy Daisy, Tenn., is all in.

She's a regular at the Civilian Marksmanship Program's (CMP) Monthly Matches, an indoor competition series for air rifle and air pistol athletes. The event is held each month at the CMP's own air gun ranges, the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center in Ohio and the Judith Legerski CMP Competition Center in Alabama.

For Kenlee, who chooses to compete at the Alabama location, the Monthly Matches are another way of training and interacting with likeminded individuals who share a common interest – marksmanship.

"I enjoy how most of the people in this sport support each other, despite being on different teams or what their scores are. The community is great," Kenlee said. "It's uplifting to see familiar faces at the Monthly Matches in Anniston. Plus, the atmosphere is welcoming, and it's easy to get to know other shooters."

Kenlee is a hardworking athlete, earning a prestigious Junior Distinguished Badge #1453 in 2019. She also recently won gold at the Tennessee Junior Olympic qualifier for air rifle and silver for smallbore. In 2021, she was among the top athletes at the USA Shooting Winter Airgun match – with several other notable accolades over her career.

Finishing up high school this spring, Kenlee's now eager to jump into college rifle in the fall after a challenging and insightful journey through the sport she began at just 11 years old.

"My dad has coached me from the beginning and is still coaching me now," she said.

Kenlee's beginnings in marksmanship were through the Rhea County 4-H BB program back in 2016 – finishing the year sixth overall on her team with her dad as coach. The following year, she placed first and was able to attend the Daisy Nationals in Arkansas.

She made the move to sporter air rifle in 2018 and went on to compete in the 2018 4-H Tennessee State championship, where she earned gold. In November 2018, she began transitioning into precision air rifle. The discipline is currently used in international air gun events, collegiate rifle and even the Olympics.



Kenlee has signed with the University of Memphis rifle team and will start in 2023. Photo courtesy of Memphis Rifle Facebook

Since her 4-H club didn't offer precision, Kenlee and her dad started practicing together at home in her living room. That same year, she attended the CMP's Three-Position Air Rifle Camp – a popular program held around the country throughout the summer months.

"I found my first camp to be extremely helpful and insightful," she said. "I was in the starting stages of moving to precision, so seeing how others train was an immense help."

"I still use a lot of the things that I learned from my first camp, and, it was fun," she explained. "I recommend athletes new to the sport go to CMP Camps and other camps. Some colleges will hold camps as well, but CMP camps are great for those who are transitioning into precision."

Kenlee competed in precision for a year before adding smallbore rifle to the mix, practicing outside on the family's pasture. She now trains four or five days per week, using either a 3x20 smallbore and a 60 air or 2x60 air with a

10-minute break in between. Mostly, she works on consistency with her shot process.

"Which is harder than you'd think," she admitted. "One of my main issues is overthinking or overcomplicating the process when, in reality, it is simple. Things like overthinking take time to fix and overcome, but it is possible. I am getting better at it."

For Kenlee, her process is easy to follow. She loads the pellets the same way each time, picks the gun up the same way – placing her hand, cheek, hip and elbows in the same spot, with her finger in the same place on the trigger. What was once a hard focus is now just part of her regular routine when she's on the firing line.

"Over time your process will become subconscious and muscle memory," she said. "That is the main goal of the process, for me."

As for equipment, Kenlee switched to a Styer Air Rifle in December 2022 and uses Anschutz sights. For smallbore, she shoots a 1907 Anschutz rifle with Anschutz sights for all positions.

"I like the 20 clicks," she said. "It makes it easy to make slight changes in the grouping."

Her advice to other juniors who are meeting challenges in their own marksmanship careers?

"You can do it!" she encouraged. "There is a phrase to keep in mind: 'Practice makes better.' You can only get better, but you will never reach perfection since the standards for this sport are constantly on the rise."

"Don't add up your score while you are shooting," she went on. "You can only control your performance and how you do your process. Try to find a positive in every practice and competition. Even if you have a rough day, try to find something you did well. You will learn something new every day."

Kenlee also encourages others to take official college visits, like she did. Some college rifle teams even have open competitions.

"I enjoyed getting to shoot at the colleges I was interested in because I was able to look around at the college also," she said.

Ultimately, Kenlee found she enjoyed The University of Memphis the most and is excited to join as one of the team's newest members in August 2023.

"I can't wait to be a part of the team and have a coach at the practices and matches to help me when I need it," she said.



Kenlee is a regular at the CMP's Monthly Matches in Anniston. Photo courtesy of UT Extension – Rhea County Facebook

Interested in joining a College Rifle Team? CMP has several resources for junior marksman interested in continuing their marksmanship journey into their college years. Visit CMP's College Resources web page at <https://thecmp.org/youth/college-resources/>. CMP also has a venue for athletes to indirectly connect with NCAA coaches called College Connect along with a CMP Guide to College Recruiting. If you have questions on how to get started in a college marksmanship career or need any other assistance, please contact the CMP at (419) 635-2141 or info@thecmp.org.



She competed at the 2021 USA Shooting Winter Airgun event, reaching the top of the junior list. Photo courtesy of Scott Pilkington

CMP Awards \$250,000 in Scholarships to Marksmanship Athletes for 2023-2024

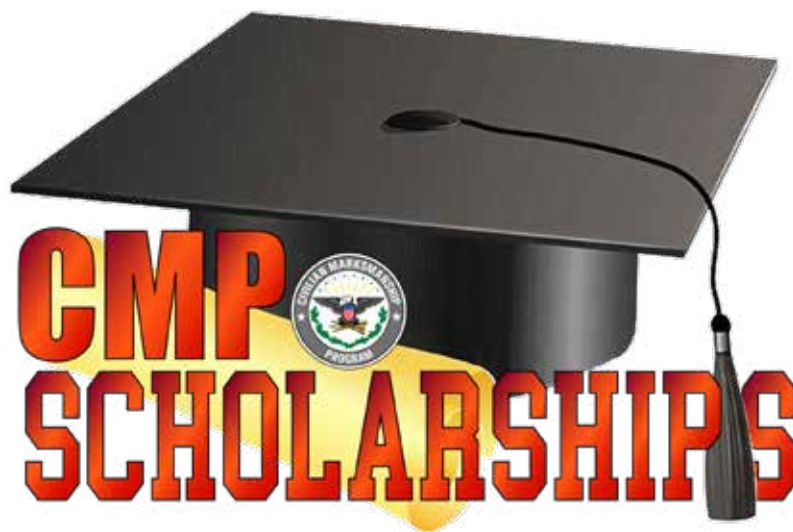
After careful review, the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) has presented 107 scholarships to outstanding junior marksmen through the CMP Scholarship Program for the 2023-2024 school year.

Along with a generous \$30,000 contribution from the Garand Collectors Association (GCA), the CMP awarded \$218,000 in scholarships to remarkable young individuals from across the country as well as four repeat \$5,000 scholarships (totaling \$20,000 over four years for each recipient) to those applicants who best represented the ideals of CMP's Scholarship Program. Top applicants were chosen by the CMP Scholarship Committee.

Earning the Top 4, \$20,000 scholarships were Charles Bratton (Clover, SC), Emma Lawrence (Shelbyville, KY), Suman Sanghera (Great Falls, VA) and Alliston Zane (Pittsburgh, PA).

The CMP awarded 58 total one-time, \$1,000 scholarships to students nationwide, along with 12 others to students local to Ohio and Alabama. Additionally, the CMP presented \$3,000 scholarships to the next top 20 students and \$5,000 scholarships to the preceding 20 excelling students.

Receiving the \$5,000 scholarships were Ella Allen (Nashville, TN), Emily Buck (Alabaster, AL), Elijah Butler (Austin, TX), Katrina Demerle (Ross, OH), Nathan Engman (Albertville, MN), Dylan Gregory (Naperville, IL), Madelyn Lee (Dawsonville, GA), Maggie Mizelle (Sylacauga, AL), Leah Mueller (Iola, KS), Casia Steinhaus (Devils Lake, ND), Ariana Sun (Honolulu, HI), Ryan Wee (Wake Forest, NC), Isabella Baldwin (Nashville, TN), Reese Burnett (Pierre Part, LA), Bremen Butler (Fort Wayne, IN), Esther Moore (Bentonville, AK), Julia Oubre (Acworth, GA), Leo Veatch (Agate, CO), Vincent Xu (Andover, MA) and Samantha Zermeno (Fort Mill, SC).



To review all the selected applicants, view the CMP Scholarship Program page at <https://thecmp.org/youth/cmp-scholarship-program/>. Congratulations!

About the CMP Scholarship Program:

CMP Scholarships are available to graduating high school JROTC, 4-H and other junior shooting club members. Scholarship applications are only accepted if they are received completed and if the applicant is a U.S. citizen, shows good moral character, is a contributing member to society and is a scholar marksman.

The CMP is dedicated to youth programs and furthering the education of the successful young adults involved within them and is proud to provide support to junior marksmen in their continuing education – helping to shape their fulfilling futures. Through these scholarships, the CMP is able to uphold its goal of awarding those who present exceptional talent, determination and citizenship within the field of marksmanship.

Congratulations to the Top Four chosen athletes!

(Each receiving \$5,000/year over the next four years – \$20,000 overall!)

Charles Bratton – Clover, SC

Emma Lawrence – Shelbyville, KY

Suman Sanghera – Great Falls, VA

Alliston Zane – Pittsburgh, PA

Since 2005, the CMP has annually offered \$1,000 one-year scholarships to current high school seniors based on academic merit, humanitarian efforts, extracurricular activities and marksmanship participation. Astoundingly, in 2023, the CMP presented four, \$5,000 annual scholarships (\$20,000 over four years) to the top four applicants, as determined by members of the CMP Scholarship Committee. The scholarships commemorate the retirement of longtime CMP Board members Judith Legerski, Jon Bengston and Harry Sieben, who were devoted to sustaining youth activities, along with the memory of Dr. Carolyn Hines, who was instrumental in building the scholarship program. Here, learn more about the Top 4 chosen athletes.

Charles Bratton:

Charles Bratton, 18, of Clover, S.C., is an athlete from the Clover High School Air Force JROTC. A precision air rifle and smallbore competitor, Bratton was captain of his team and earned several gold medals at the national level. He claims rifle has taught him leadership as well as collaboration, saying, "While shooting is as much a mental sport as a physical one, team success is just as important, if not more important, than individual achievement." He plans to attend Harvard University, with the hopes of becoming a neurosurgeon or working in medical research.



Emma-Katherine Lawrence:

Emma Lawrence, 18, of Shelbyville, Ky., is an athlete from Shelby County High School. In air rifle and smallbore, she has earned multiple Junior Olympic Kentucky Women's State Championship titles in both air and smallbore and has also been a state 4-H



Champion. She says marksmanship has taught her self-discipline, time management and organization. In the future, Lawrence will attend Murray State University, studying law enforcement and competing as a member of the school's rifle team.

Suman Sanghera:

Suman Sanghera, 17, of Great Falls, Va., is a pistol competitor from the NOVA Sharpshooters. She is the #1 ranked women's 10-meter air pistol athlete in the U.S. and earned the 2024 Paris Olympics quota. She's a national record holder and has won numerous gold medals over her career. According to Sanghera, marksmanship has taught her poise, precision, mindfulness and perseverance. This fall, she'll attend The Ohio State University as a member of the pistol team, studying to become a physician.



Allison Zane:

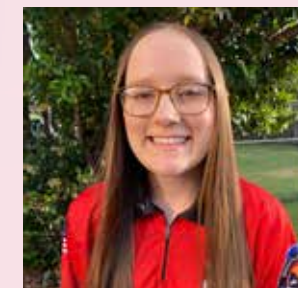
Allison Zane, 17, of Pittsburgh, Pa., is a graduate of Montour High School. A smallbore and highpower rifle athlete, she helped earn first place in the Team World Champions Ladies Division at the 2022 Precision Rifle Worlds in France, among several other podium finishes regionally and nationwide. She plans to attend Penn State University's Schreyer Honors College in the fall as she studies engineering, with a focus on pharmaceuticals – wanting to make an impact on the world through meaningful medicinal work.



*View the Top 20 (\$5,000 recipients)
on the next page*

Congratulations to the Top 20 chosen athletes!

(Each receiving \$5,000)

Isabella Baldwin**Leo Veatch****Emily Buck****Dylan Gregory****Reese Burnett****Vincent Xu****Elijah Butler****Madelyn Lee****Bremen Butler****Samantha Zermeno****Katrina Demerle****Maggie Mizelle****Esther Moore****Ella Allen****Nathan Engman****Leah Mueller****Julia Oubre****Ariana Sun****Casia Steinhaus****Ryan Wee**

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.

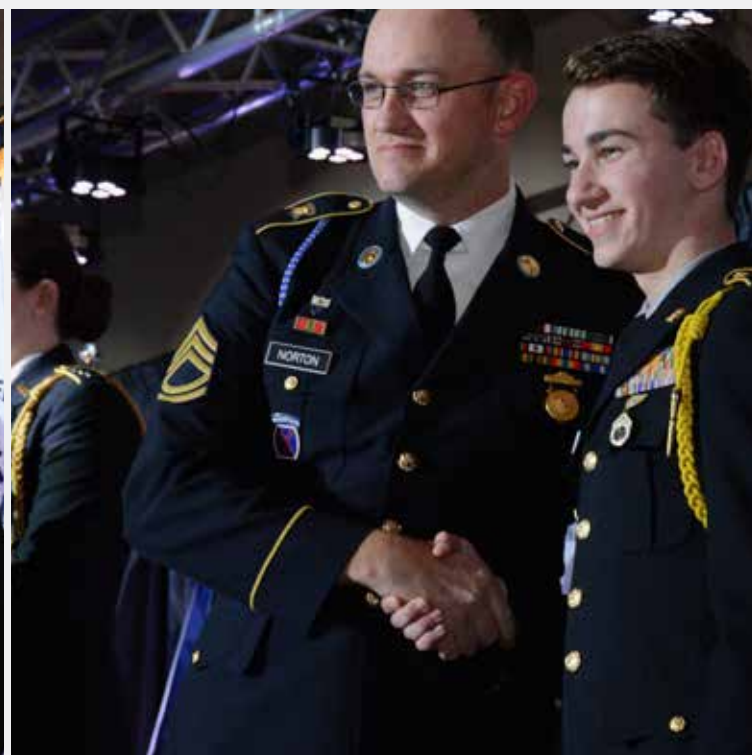
The Junior Distinguished Badge is awarded to school-age junior three-position air rifle shooters who attain a series of high rankings in designated major junior air rifle championships that include the State Junior Olympic Qualifiers, CMP Cup Matches, National Junior Olympic Championships and other National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



Badge #	Name	Hometown	Badge #	Name	Hometown
#1655	Isaac Ortiz	Albuquerque, NM	#1663	John Turi	San Antonio, TX
#1656	Aiden Stephenson	Albuquerque, NM	#1664	Brayden Rich	Winthrop Harbor, IL
#1657	Debi Weiser	Clemmons, NC	#1665	Elijah Butler	Austin, TX
#1658	Rushil Punukollu	Fairfax, VA	#1666	Theodore Serrano	Newnan, GA
#1659	Danjela DeJesus	Kingsland, GA	#1667	Rory Claussen	Albuquerque, NM
#1660	Abigail Swain	St. Marys, GA	#1668	Haylie Garcia	Albuquerque, NM
#1661	Elaine Saint	Walhalla, SC	#1669	Antara Parekhji	Solomons, MD
#1662	Jennifer Zermeno	Fort Mill, SC	#1670	Jose Gonzalez	Leland, NC



Walhalla JROTC Rifle Athletes Maintain Colorful Tradition on the Range



The rifles are decorated by Mangan's own family and by Walhalla's art department.

Athletes of the Walhalla High School Army JROTC rifle team really stand out on the range – not just for their performances, but for their unique rifles on the firing line.

The stocks are beautiful, rich displays of enthusiasm and perseverance, hand-crafted for the cadet who earned each drop of color. It's a team tradition set nearly a decade ago that has gone on to keep the Walhalla Razorback athletes aimed toward an exciting ambition – and it's fun to look at, too.

In April, the team competed in the 2023 JROTC Service Championship series held in Ohio, Alabama and Utah. The event, conducted by the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP), is a three-position precision and sporter air rifle competition for high school athletes. Walhalla's Elaine Saint earned third overall in the sporter class at the Ohio match (eighth overall out of nearly 300 Army JROTC competitors between the three locations), while teammate Keagan Dean also finished within the top 10 athletes in Ohio.

COL Kevin Mangan, head coach of the rifle team, was there to witness it all. He's been coaching at Walhalla for 17 years, always encouraging his athletes to reach higher by setting objectives – no matter how big or small they may be.

"Easy, tangible goals can be a great motivator, from beginners to more advanced athletes," he explained. "Sometimes, it can be something as simple as, 'Shoot a

PR (personal record) and you get a vote on where we eat on a road trip.'"

Other times, the goal is a little more colorful.

The team's artful rifle tradition manifested eight years ago when one of Walhalla's cadets, Matthew Smith, placed at the JROTC Service Championships. After his success, he asked his coach if he could get his stock painted and personalized. To Smith's delight, Mangan said yes.

Matthew's theme of choice was a Gator Claw to display his love of his favorite college team, the Florida Gators. Other team members liked the idea of customizing a rifle stock so much that they asked their coach about decorating their own rifles. Mangan was onboard with the idea, but with a catch.

"I made the standard – shoot a 530 at a sporter match and you can customize your stock," he explained.

Mangan thought it was a high enough mark that only one cadet a year might make it – but, to his surprise and delight, the athletes started working toward the score and achieving it.

"They cared about meeting the goal more than the results of the match," he joked.

Now, reaching the honor of a painted rifle stock has become the ultimate focus of the varsity athletes. This season alone, four students have earned their custom stocks, including two freshman athletes, which has never happened in the history of the tradition.

"It gets established as the threshold for success," Mangan said of the rifle painting. "We have smaller goals set as well, like score 200 and a rifle is assigned to you, and at 250, you name your rifle – just little things to continue to work toward."

Once an athlete reaches the 530 score, he or she gets to pick the subject of the art on the rifle stock. Mangan's wife and daughters take on the graphic work along with Walhalla's art department. From *The Lion King* to *The Chronicles of Narnia* to *Hunter x Hunter*, each athlete's theme represents their own personalities and the hard work they've accomplished on the range.

To commemorate the rifle team's tradition, Walhalla High School has allocated a trophy case in the student common area to display stocks of graduated athletes. So far, there have been 11 painted rifles, with more added each year.

"It has become the thing to accomplish for the Walhalla JROTC Rifle team," Mangan said.

Despite the emphasis on performance milestones, Mangan isn't interested in how well his athletes score – there's a more profound goal to be met in order to be a successful Razorback.

"Scores are nice but, how good of a teammate are you?" Mangan said.

"Team results are directly affected by support for each other when things are not going well," he went on. "Embrace the journey and enjoy the experience instead of a score defining who you are."

What began as a simple question has sparked lasting inspiration within the Walhalla rifle team. Yet, to Mangan, nothing stands out more vibrantly than true sportsmanship.



COL Mangan has coached the Walhalla Razorback Rifle team for 17 years.



Elaine Saint (right) earned third overall in the sporter class at the JROTC Service Championship Ohio location.



Painted rifle stocks of the Walhalla JROTC Razorback rifle team

UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

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 Akron Zips Rifle Team!

The University of Akron Zips made their first NCAA Championship appearance as a team in March 2020 – topping a record-setting season that came to an abrupt halt when the pandemic emerged. The team was ranked in the Top 10 in the NCAA all season and reached a program-high No. 4. The Great America Rifle Conference No. 3 team ranking for 2020 was the highest finish ever achieved by the Zips in the GARC since joining the conference in 2015.

In 2016, the University of Akron played host to the first UA-sponsored NCAA National Championship, which included both smallbore and air rifle competitions at the same large venue range – held in the UA Fieldhouse. The range built by the Akron team for that inaugural championship now travels to the NCAA host site each year. Now going full circle, the range built by Akron returns to Akron for the 2023 NCAA National Championship.

Many Akron athletes have qualified to attend the NCAA national championships as an individual – highlighted by Jenna Compton winning the 2009 air rifle championship and Zips athlete Andre Gross reaching runner-up in the 2019 NCAA Rifle Championship smallbore competition.

Head coach Newt Engle has been with the team for over 45 years – beginning as an athlete in 1974 before taking his current position as head coach in 1977. Engle took over for Nancy Worsencroft, who coached the team from 1968 to 1977 and was the university's first female rifle coach – garnering national attention as the first female head coach in the USA, with an all-male team.

In February 2023, Coach Engle and the Akron Zips members were awarded the Team Sportsmanship Award at the Great America Rifle Conference's awards banquet, while Akron's Connor O'Mara was named GARC Assistant Coach of the Year. Wrapping up a banner season of continuous record-breaking performances, the Zips finished with a 22-23 season as the No. 11 NCAA rifle team in the nation.

JAKOB RANKIN



Hometown/Junior Team: Granbury, TX / Granbury HS MCJROTC

What is your major? Physical Therapy. PT is a steppingstone for me to get into Athletic Training. My favorite class so far would be Exercise Physiology.

Outside of rifle, are you part of any other organizations or clubs? I am a member of the Exercise Science club and the Engineers for a Sustainable World club.

How old were you when you got involved in rifle? I was 15, going into my freshman year of High School.

Favorite rifle? Air Rifle

What do you do outside of rifle to train and better yourself (workout, meditate, etc.)? Workout, read mental foundation books and get good amounts of rest/sleep.

Future plans/goals for rifle and life? Maybe take up a role in coaching in either a junior club or NCAA team somewhere, and continue shooting where I can.

Q&A WITH ATHLETES AND COACHES

ANDREW DUROSS



Hometown/Junior Team: Marlborough, MA/Reading Rifle Rebels

What is your major? I am majoring in Business Administration. My goal is to eventually start my own business, so I would like to learn more about how to run one and Business Administration covers most aspects of a business.

What is the most impactful piece of coaching advice you have been given? Don't expect immediate results, just keep grinding and results will come.

What/who got you involved in rifle? I was participating in an archery program at Riverside Gun Club in Hudson, MA. I found out they had a junior rifle program and decided to try it. A couple years later, my father found out about the Reading Rifle Rebels, which I then joined.

How many hours a day, and days per week, do you practice? I practice five days a week for about three to five hours a day.

What is a week at college like? During a general week, Monday through Friday, I go to classes in the morning from around 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. I then go to the range and practice till around 4 p.m. Later in the day, I go to the gym and workout, about five to six times a week. On the weekends, I hang out with my teammates and other friends.

What is the biggest life lesson you have learned from rifle? Just because you do not see progress does not mean you are not progressing. Keep working hard, and the hard work you put in will be rewarded in the end.

Any additional comments/stories/advice you'd like to add? If you are ever in a shooting slump, where your scores may have regressed, stay levelheaded and just know you will come out better, every single time. It gets frustrating, but you will always break out of it

ERIN SCHNUPP



Hometown/Junior Team: Gorham, Maine

What is your major? My major is Political Justice because I want to go to law school. My favorite class is Constitutional Law.

What other clubs/sports/hobbies did you have in high school? I was part of the Robotics Club and Basketball Team.

What is the most impactful piece of coaching advice you have been given? "Even on the day's that you don't believe in yourself, there are always going to be at least two people behind you that do." – Connor O'Mara and Newt Engle

STORY CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

ERIN SCHNUPP CONTINUED...

Do you have a mantra or saying? What motivates you? My mantra when I'm shooting is "Don't worry the next one will be a 10." My motivation every time I go into a match is envisioning myself standing on the podium at the NCAA championship.

What is a travel match like for you? Travel matches are a lot of fun for me. I love going to ranges I have never been to before. We generally arrive the day before the match, get some dinner and then hangout at the hotel. On match day, we get to the range about an hour before we start first relay. After I am done for the day, I like to watch and cheer on my other teammates before we pack up to go home.

Advice for new competitors joining the sport? You don't work for your equipment, make your equipment work for you.

SAMANTHA SHULTZ

Hometown/Junior Team: Fort Wayne, Indiana



What is your major? I am a junior at the University of Akron studying bio-medical science in the honors college, with the hope to attend medical school upon graduation. My favorite class that I have taken so far was Medical Anthropology because I had a really good professor that covered a wide range of medical procedures and topics from past and present to demonstrate how the medical practice and policies that are recognized today came to be.

Favorite junior match you competed at? My favorite junior match that I competed in was Winter Air Gun (WAG) when it was held in Colorado Springs, Colorado, at the Olympic Training Center (OTC). Winter Air Gun was my first experience getting to visit the OTC and shoot on their range. I remember looking in awe at all of the past Olympic awards in the cases on the walls and being super excited to shoot on the range against other athletes that have competed at a national level in both World Cups and Olympic events. This match was also a great opportunity to meet a lot of new friends and college coaches as WAG is a co-ed match that many athletes would travel to from across the country to compete in. Finally, I loved that Colorado has beautiful hiking grounds such as Garden of the Gods to explore in the evenings.

Outside of rifle, are you part of any other organizations or clubs? Outside of rifle, I work part time as a pharmacy technician in a hospital in Indiana. I work one weekend a month along with full time on breaks and holidays. When I'm not shooting, I enjoy going for hikes, watching movies, knitting and spending time with friends. The team is also very engaged with our community and routinely partakes in community volunteering events.

Do you have a lucky charm that you have on the line with you when you are shooting? While I don't have a fun stuffed animal or special key chain to hang off my offhand stand, I do have a blue, smiley face stress ball that sits up on the line with me. This was given to me by my assistant coach, Connor O'Mara, and has been with me since my freshman year in college. To this day, it still joins me on the line for every match as a reminder to keep calm and relaxed while shooting.

What is a practice day like for you? A typical practice day for me would consist of choosing whether I wanted to shoot air or smallbore as Akron has a separate range for each, so both are always available. I would then pick out a drill or practice match format to follow for the day, along with picking a music playlist to play on the range.

Q&A WITH ATHLETES AND COACHES

SAMANTHA SHULTZ CONTINUED...

speakers. Shooting is always more fun with music. At the end of every practice day, we conclude with a team meeting to keep up on all current events going on as well as some of the team's personal goals and accolades from the day.

What has rifle taught you? Over the course of the years that I have competed in rifle, it has taught me a lot about patience, self-discipline and dedication. As every rifle shooter knows, most progress will not be made overnight or with a single practice, and the sport can take years for someone to master their technique. I think a fun thing about our sport is perfection is never truly achieved, so all athletes are always pushing to break new records and further the sport. I have also learned through years of competitions and travels that the rifle community truly is a big family that is very supportive of each other. I love traveling to matches, meeting up with old friends and keeping up with them to watch how their shooting journey progresses.

Any additional comments/stories/advice you'd like to add? One last piece of advice that I would like to give to any junior that hopes to continue their athletic career in college is to be personal and start your contact with college coaches early. Coaches love to learn about your academics and hobbies in addition to your current shooting averages and personal bests. While coaches cannot discuss their college or team with you until your junior year of high school, the earlier you introduce yourself or start reaching out through emails, the better chance you have of being noticed and building a relationship with that coach and team. I would highly encourage competing in college opens and other large matches that college coaches may be at such as WAG, Junior Olympics and Smallbore Nationals over the summer. Don't be afraid to reach out to coaches or current college team members as most are extremely friendly and all have been where you are now.



AKRON

RIFLE

The school record-setting Akron Rifle team in February 2023

STORY CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

NEWT ENGLE



HEAD COACH

Were you an athlete before coaching? Yes, I was a member of the Akron team from 1974 to 1977, during which I was the two-time conference champion for the Lake Erie Intercollegiate Rifle Conference (LEIRC). I also spent the summer of '78 at Fort Benning with the Army Marksmanship Unit as a member of the ROTC 2nd region detachment, shooting highpower rifle. I started coaching at Akron (while a senior) in 1977 and joined the Police Department in 1979. Fortunately, the University made it convenient for me to wear the assistant Chief of Police hat while also wearing the Head Coach hat. Pretty cool!

Academically, I stumbled around a lot but managed to get an Associate Degree in Sales and Merchandising as well as an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice, followed by a Bachelor's in Political Science. I am also a certified USAS High Performance Coach.

Favorite reason for coaching: I love helping young people discover and even re-discover our sport of Olympic style rifle, especially working together in groups when, one by one, I can see the mental light bulb come on as they "get it."

What is a day as your athlete like?

- 6:59 a.m. – Wake up. (Let's be real, you know this is how it works.)
- 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. – Be at team physical conditioning with our assigned strength coach.
- 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Attend classes and lunch.
- Noon to 5:30 p.m. is where we are kind of different. Somewhere in that 5½ hour block, get 2½ to 3 hours of quality rifle training. This allows the athlete to keep going to classes as late as 3 p.m. and then train or come in at noon till 2:30 or 3 p.m. and then go back to classes. Can even come in and train for an hour, go to class and then come back to finish. This provides a lot of training/class time flexibility.
- 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. – Attend a team meeting if not in class. One of the most important 30 minutes of the day.
- 6:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. – Have dinner and then go out partying and have a good time until the wee hours of the morning. This is what everyone thinks, but the smart athletes know this will really have an adverse impact on grades and athletic performance. With a team GPA over 3.4 and being high performance athletes leading the team to consistent top 10 performances, their evening schedule is more like this:
 - o 6:00 p.m. – Make and have some dinner.
 - o 7:30 p.m. until a reasonable hour – Get homework done, study and relax. Usually in bed by midnight at the latest.

What is your biggest challenge as a coach? Without a doubt, recruiting. Names and faces, faces and names, dates and times, which recruiting class, how old they are, how bad they want it, how they scored last week, who likes them, who doesn't like them, what they want to study and so on. Makes my head spin. Thank goodness my assistant coach, Connor O'Mara, offered to be the primary recruiter for Akron. I'm still in the recruiting game, but he is doing all the heavy lifting and doing it quite well. It's been a huge plus for our program.

Advice for junior athletes wanting to compete in college and for college athletes/graduating college seniors? Juniors: Make yourself known. Be the squeaky wheel and get the coaches you are interested in to notice you. Never back away because your scores may be low in one gun or the other. All coaches I know look at the whole person, and score is simply one of several factors. You will never know if you don't try.

Graduating College seniors. I know it is cliché, but remember from whence you came. I know you are entering the busiest time of your life with employment and family, but every now and then, see if there is a way you can assist the teams and organizations that helped you get all the way through college. Financially is great, but your time is priceless.

Q&A WITH ATHLETES AND COACHES

COACH ENGLE CONTINUED...

Any additional comments/stories/advice you'd like to add? Never ask an old guy if he has comments/stories/advice! You could open the door to pages and pages of stuff. Some of it good! I will simply conclude by saying I have loved being with team Akron for the past 48 years and the last 45 as coach. I hope to keep the ball rolling so long as I can whisper, "sights, trigger, now squeeze."

CONNOR O'MARA



ASST. COACH

Were you an athlete before coaching? I was an athlete before I started coaching. I shot from 2013 to 2017 for Akron while I was studying for my Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering. I registered a career best in air rifle of a 592 and a career best of 580 smallbore when I was a senior in college. I was also a MAC (Mid Atlantic Conference) conference champion in 2014 until Akron departed the MAC and went to the GARC (Greater America Rifle Conference). I moved back to Akron a few years after I graduated, and Newt had asked me if I could lend a hand for a few weeks due to the previous assistant coach leaving to pursue her dream of opening a bakery. I unintentionally fell in love with coaching this team, and the rest is history.

Favorite reason for coaching: My favorite reason for coaching is watching these athletes grow and succeed, both on the range and off the range.

Success for them growing into the best athlete and best person they can be is a success to me.

What is a day as your athlete like? On Monday through Thursday, training is rather open ended with a block time from noon to 5:30 p.m. with the direction that they are to train for 3 hours during that time. Athletes are able to train at times that is convenient to their schedules this way. A short team meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Fridays have an abbreviated practice, usually around 2 hours long from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. with no team meeting. This is used for finals training and team wide drills.

My biggest challenge as an assistant coach is trying to understand how to help each athlete. Every single one of them is different, needs different things and needs to be spoken to in a different way (sometimes multiple different ways). An honorable mention is recruiting. I've taken over recruiting over the past year, and it's a handful trying to keep all my ducks in a row.

Advice for junior shooters wanting to compete in college and for college athletes/graduating college seniors? Some advice for juniors wanting to compete in college would be doing what you can to make sure you know how to study effectively and can maintain time management. This will benefit you for the entirety of your collegiate career and into your professional career. An additional piece of advice would be, as much as this is an individual sport, making sure you are the best teammate you can be because the culture/dynamic of teams is a critical thing.

For graduating college seniors, I'm going to reiterate what Coach Engle said. If it's possible and convenient, do what you can to give back to the junior programs or NCAA programs that helped you get to or get through college.

Anything else? A piece of advice: good process and bad numerical outcome is a much better shot than bad process but a good numerical outcome. Pitter patter, let's get at 'er.

CMP Sees Growing Participation and Offerings in Talladega Archery Program

TALLADEGA, Ala. – The CMP's Archery Range at Talladega Marksmanship Park in Alabama is gaining popularity. After over a year-and-a-half in operation, having opened in 2021, word of the range's existence is starting to get around.

"The range is seeing new shooters coming into the park for the first time," said William Chapman, Talladega archery supervisor.

Depending on the weather, which can be temperamental in Alabama during the early season, Talladega sees an influx of guests coming to the park to check out the Archery Range. Staff members are even seeing those who visit Talladega for rifle, pistol or shotgun picking up a bow to give archery a try.

"Just about anyone who likes to shoot archery can use our facilities at the park," Chapman said. "Starting at 6 years of age, we can find a class for almost any person. We've even seen individuals at 80 years old out here on the Archery Range."

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 set 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.

"We've seen almost every customer come to shoot archery more than one or two times," Chapman said. "Most of the customers come to get some practice before hunting season, and we have some that come and get ready for tournament shoots."

For those who have never tried archery before but are interested, CMP staff members are working on assembling a Basic Archery Class that will be offered to the public in the near future. Soon, those who have always wanted to learn archery but didn't know where to start will have the opportunity to fulfill that dream in a safe, fun and welcoming environment.

Currently, Talladega offers bows for youth who want to try archery for the first time, with trained staff members on-site to help them through.

"Adults are also able to get some help, but the equipment is more geared to youth," Chapman explained.

Outside of everyday use, Talladega hosts its own monthly 3D Archery Tournaments that are open to the public



– with both new and experienced individuals welcome to compete. Those interested will only need a bow and at least one arrow, though typically more than one arrow will be needed for those wanting to finish a round.

Each tournament follows ASA (Archery Shooters Association) Rules and uses professional Delta McKenzie Targets. Tournaments are held over two days to allow individuals to 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.

Using the archery range is \$12.50 per person, while tournament costs range from \$15 to \$25. Upcoming 3D Archery events in 2023 include: June 24-25, July 15-16, Aug. 19-20, Sept. 16-17 and Oct. 7-8.

"We try to make sure that our customers come first, and we do our best to ensure that they have an enjoyable time while here at the CMP Talladega Marksmanship Park," Chapman added. "We hope to grow CMP Archery to new levels as we get bigger. I feel that we are going to see big things to come in the future."

The Archery Range at Talladega is open during regular park hours: Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. More info on Talladega's Archery events may be found on the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/archery/>. Questions may be directed to William Chapman at 256-474-4408 ext. 421 or wchapman@thecmp.org.

Dinh Reaches Perfect 300 Score in CMP's National Three-Position Air Rifle Postals

The results are in for the CMP's 2022-2023 National Three-Position Postal Competition. The annual sporter and precision junior air rifle event saw 1,370 participants in total over the course of the postal period, which ran from October 2022 to February 2023.

Incredibly, the precision match saw Gracie Dinh, 17, of the Starkville Gun Club International Team in Mississippi, reaching a perfect score of 300-25X – the first 300 score in the match's 10-year existence. Nearly matching the outstanding score was Katrina Demerle, 18, of Hamilton, OH, and Griffin Lake, 17, of Ontelaunee Jr. Rifle Team, PA, who each tallied a score of 299.

Sporter athlete Clara Yang, 17, of University High School, WA, fired a score of 281-8X to lead over last year's sporter Postal top scorer Charles Bratton, 18, of Clover High School, SC, who trailed by one point.

High individuals and teams of the 2022-2023 CMP Three-Position Postal Competition:

Individuals:

Sporter:

Clara Yang, 17, University High School, WA – 281-8X
Charles Bratton, 18, Clover High School, SC – 280-10X
Logan Major, 17, Brooke Point Navy JROTC, VA – 278-11X

Precision:

Gracie Dinh, 17, Starkville Gun Club International Team, MS – 300-25X
Katrina Demerle, 18, Hamilton, OH – 299-26X
Griffin Lake, 17, Ontelaunee Jr. Rifle Team, PA – 299-23X

Four-person Teams:

Sporter:

Zion Benton High School Navy JROTC, IL – 1096-38X
Pascagoula High School Navy JROTC, MS – 1089-31X
Pierre Junior Shooters, SD – 1087-31X

Precision:

Granbury Marine Corps JROTC High School, TX – 1180-81X
Lafayette Gun Club, VA – 1177-88X
Ontelaunee Jr. Rifle, PA – 1175-77X



Top scoring athletes of the Postal event moved on to the Regional Championships, held in Ohio, Alabama and Utah in April. The culminating National Championships will be held at the Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center in Camp Perry, Ohio, June 22-24 (sporter) and July 10-12 (precision).

View a complete list of results of the 2022-2023 CMP Three-Position Postal Competition at <https://ct.thecmp.org/2023CMPPostalResults>. To view a list of Regional Qualifiers or to learn more about the CMP Air Rifle Postal, visit <https://thecmp.org/youth/three-position-national-postal-competition/>.

About the CMP Three-Position Postal Competition:

The competition is designed for sporter and precision junior marksmen involved in 4-H, Scouts, American Legion, club or JROTC air rifle programs. During the Postal match, competitors receive targets by mail to record shots at their home ranges in each of the three positions: prone, standing and kneeling. Targets are then submitted back to CMP headquarters for official scoring by staff members. State Championships, also part of the CMP Three-Position Air Rifle series, are conducted by CMP State Directors or specially appointed Match Directors.

View results of the CMP Regional Championships on the CMP website at <https://thecmp.org/youth/three-position-national-postal-competition/three-position-regional-championships/>

Pistol Champion Suman Sanghera Sweeps 2023 Camp Perry Open Events

CAMP PERRY, Ohio – On the weekend of May 19-22, Suman Sanghera, 17, of Great Falls, VA, returned to the Camp Perry Open to overtake the pistol portion of the annual air gun competition for the second consecutive year. Last year, Sanghera led the Junior class, but in 2023, she showed her strengths by going on to claim the Open match as well as the overall win in the Super Final event.

The Camp Perry Open features three-position precision/sporter air rifle and smallbore matches as well as 60 shot air rifle and air pistol competitions, split into Open and Junior categories. The event is hosted by the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) at the indoor Gary Anderson CMP Competition Center and the outdoor Petrarca Range – both located on the grounds of Camp Perry. Each event includes qualifying rounds, followed by an elimination final that determines overall winners. Team events were also held concurrently with the 3x20 air rifle and 60 shot qualification matches during the weekend.

Sanghera, a senior athlete, is a member of the NOVA Sharpshooters team and is the top ranked women's 10-meter air pistol athlete in the U.S. Among other accolades, she's a national record holder and has won numerous gold medals over her career. This fall, she'll attend The Ohio State University as a member of the pistol team, studying to become a physician. With her success, in 2023, she was chosen by the CMP Scholarship Committee as one of the Top 4 athletes to receive a recurring \$5,000 over the next four years (\$20,000 overall) through the CMP Scholarship Program.

A family affair, Sanghera's brother, Bhavjeet, 20, landed in third place in both the Junior and Open categories after earning third in the Junior match at last year's event.

Also finding wins at the 2023 Camp Perry Open was Molly McGhin, 21, of Griffin, GA, who claimed the Open 60 Shot Rifle event, while Katrina Demerle, 18, of Hamilton, Ohio, led the junior competition. Demerle had earned first overall in the 3x20 match in the precision class on the opening day of the Camp Perry Open, with Charles Bratton, 18, of Clover, SC, leading the sporter class.

The 2023 Camp Perry Open marked a new beginning for the CMP Smallbore program, utilizing the new 50-meter,



Pistol Juniors (L to R): Blaine Simpson, Suman Sanghera, Bhavjeet Sanghera

KTS (Kongsberg Target Systems) E-Score system for the first time. The targets are set to be used in future CMP smallbore competitions, including the upcoming National Smallbore Matches in July.

"I think the Camp Perry Open went very well for the first time around with these targets," said Brad Donoho, CMP smallbore manager. "We learned a lot and identified a few things to fix before Nationals."

"Overall, I'm very pleased with how the match went and am confident the 2023 National Matches will be very successful," he added.

Leading the Smallbore 3x20 elimination event at the Camp Perry Open was Olympic medalist Mary Tucker, 21, of Sarasota, FL. Gavin Barnick, 20, of Appleton, WI, was the high junior athlete.

Another event exclusive to the Camp Perry Open is the anticipated Super Final – featuring costumes, music and other dazzling 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.

Winning the 2023 rifle Super Final was Elijah Spencer of Boise, Idaho, as Sanghera led the pistol side. Each earned \$200 for their first place finishes. Following Spencer was Angeline Henry of Fort Worth, Texas, as McGhin found third. Matthew Lemmon of Clyde, Ohio, and Sam Gens of Greenwood Village, Colo., trailed Sanghera in the pistol match, earning second and third, respectively. Second place took home \$150, while third earned \$100.

Top athletes of the 2023 Camp Perry Open:**Smallbore 3x20:****Open:**

1. Mary Tucker, 21, of Sarasota, FL – 459.2
2. SPC Jared Eddy, 22, of Midland, GA – 455.9
3. Gavin Barnick, 20, of Appleton, WI – 445.3

Junior:

4. Gavin Barnick, 20, of Appleton, WI – 582-29X
5. Gabriela Zych, 18, Anchorage, AK – 579-23X
6. Elijah Spencer, 18, Boise, ID – 579-19X



3x20 Rifle Sporter and Precision Leaders, Charles Bratton (Left) and Katrina Demerle (Right)

Air Rifle 3x20:**Sporter:**

1. Charles Bratton, 18, of Clover, SC – 425.8
2. Riley Vines, 17, of Zion, IL – 418.8
3. Kalinn White, 17, of Zion, IL – 409.9

Precision:

1. Katrina Demerle, 18, of Hamilton, Ohio – 466.2
2. Natalie Welter, 13, of Parker, PA – 464.2
3. Jacob Wisman, 17, of Independence, WV – 451.1

Air Rifle Overall Teams:

Sporter: Zion Benton High School Navy JROTC (Illinois) – 2185-68X

Precision: American Legion Post 295 (Ohio) – 2348-171X

60 Shot Rifle Final:**Open:**

1. Molly McGhin, 21, of Griffin, GA – 249.6
2. Peter Fiori, 23, of Lebanon, NJ – 246.9
3. Angeline Henry, 22, of Fort Worth, TX – 226.3

Junior:

1. Katrina Demerle, 18, of Hamilton, Ohio – 247.6
2. Bremen Butler, 18, of Fort Wayne, IN – 246.2
3. Brandon Evans, 18, of Poquoson, VA – 224.6

60 Shot Pistol Final:**Open:**

1. Suman Sanghera, 17, of Great Falls, VA – 234.7
2. Sam Gens, 23, of Greenwood Village, CO – 233.5
3. Bhavjeet Sanghera, 20, of Great Falls, VA – 212.2

Junior:

1. Suman Sanghera, 17, of Great Falls, VA – 241.6

2. Blaine Simpson, 17, of Sidney, Ohio – 229.5
3. Bhavjeet Sanghera, 20, of Great Falls, VA – 211.5

60 Shot Rifle Teams:

Open: USAMU (Jared Eddy, Molly McGhin, SPC Levi Clark) – 3738.1

Junior: Two Bears and a Bird (Bremen Butler, Elijah Spencer, Katrina Demerle) – 3711.5

60 Shot Pistol Teams:

Open: We Luv Emil Milev (Sam Gens, Katelyn Abeln, Anthony Lutz) – 3384-75X

Junior: Shooting Stars (Suman Sanghera, Bhavjeet Sanghera, Larissa Seiler) – 3259-65X

View a complete list of results on CMP's Competition Tracker page at <https://ct.thecmp.org/2023CPOresults>. Photos of the event may be viewed and downloaded for free at <https://cmp1.zenfolio.com/f127146484>.



Smallbore Rifle Juniors (L to R): Gabriela Zych, Gavin Barnick, Elijah Spencer

ON THE MARK

Corporation for the Promotion of
Rifle Practice and Firearms Safety
PO Box 576
Port Clinton, OH 43452



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 43
BERNE, IN 46711



CMP South Range Dedication..... 3



JROTC Nationals Results..... 4

IN THIS ISSUE

Sighting Shots	2
CMP Names South Competition Center.....	3
JROTC Nationals Results.....	4
Gun Safety on the Range	6
Junior Feature: Kenlee Ewton	14
CMP Scholarship Recipients	16
Top 4 Scholarship Winners.....	17
Top 20 Scholarship Winners.....	18
Junior Distinguished Badges	19
Walhalla JROTC Rifle Story	20
University of Akron Team Feature.....	22
Talladega Archery Program Grows.....	28
CMP Postal/Regional Results	29
Camp Perry Open Results.....	30



Walhalla JROTC Rifle Story 20



Camp Perry Open Results..... 30