



A PUBLICATION OF THE
NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
FALL 2021

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Cover Photo:

With a score of 6392-507X, Morgen Dietrich
of Ankeny, Iowa, is the winner of the 2021 NRA
Conventional Prone National Championship,
held July 11-16 at Camp Atterbury.

Photo Credit - Morgen Dietrich



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Published quarterly by the
National Rifle Association of America
Community Engagement Division

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By Carolyn D. Meadows
President

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president'scolumn

The Road Less Traveled

Who would have believed a year and a half ago what our lives would be like today? Not me! But the COVID-19 pandemic, attacks by governmental entities and officials, and personal and family illnesses have not stopped the NRA. Certainly, my personal journey was not what I envisioned when I was elected to serve as your president, but through it all, I have survived and so has our NRA. Though my husband has been severely ill recently, he has encouraged me to be steadfast—to continue serving our God and our beloved country by leading our Association. My personal road less traveled has not been the road I would have chosen, but through all these trials, I am personally stronger.

As I turn over the reins and end my term of service as your president, I am thankful for the support of NRA members, our Board of Directors and, of course, NRA staff. Our team of officers has been unbelievable! I have known Wayne LaPierre, Charles Cotton, Willes Lee and the other NRA leaders for years. But one of the greatest pleasures of being president was having a front-row seat to observe their dedicated leadership in person. Hailing from different corners of the country, we met almost daily via conference calls to deal with the ever-evolving business of our Association amid the ever-changing political landscape.

The NRA and our way of life have been threatened by Joe Biden, Kamala Harris, Andrew Cuomo, Letitia James and others. But, here's the good news—we are still standing! Through it all, you, the members, have not wavered—we are still at five million strong and our Association is financially sound. There are, no doubt, more trials to come. But I have every bit of confidence in our new team of officers that they will keep the NRA on the right path.

They, of course, can't do it alone. As Wayne always says, the NRA is not some building outside of Washington, D.C.—it is you, the five million defenders of liberty. Therefore, the NRA is only as strong as its members. We need to continue to be resolute in our defense of freedom, unwavering in our support of country and astutely politically aware. To do otherwise will result in the repeal of the Second Amendment, closely followed by the demise of our country.

The battle for freedom is always tumultuous, but the global pandemic brought that to another level! The NRA had

to make some difficult decisions during that time, just as every organization did, and I believe we are coming through it all in better shape. However, we must always stay vigilant, and we must never surrender. You might feel like unsung heroes in this fight for freedom, but believe me, the leadership of your NRA will never forget who and what we are fighting for.

We are fighting for our neighbors, co-workers, fellow parishioners and friends. We are fighting for our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We are fighting for those who may not have the courage to stand up for their rights. And we are fighting for the soul of our country.

WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO BE RESOLUTE IN OUR DEFENSE OF FREEDOM, UNWAVERING IN OUR SUPPORT OF COUNTRY AND ASTUTELY POLITICALLY AWARE. TO DO OTHERWISE WILL RESULT IN THE REPEAL OF THE SECOND AMENDMENT, CLOSELY FOLLOWED BY THE DEMISE OF OUR COUNTRY.

I implore you to not let up. In order for America to survive, the NRA needs to be stronger than ever over the next 150 years and far beyond. Doing so will ensure that future generations will live in a country with a protected Second Amendment. Recruit more NRA members, join your state association or local club, attend Friends of NRA events, and please stay active in the political arena. I intend to do just that.

To my fellow NRA members—you have my heartfelt thanks for never giving up on the fight for the Second Amendment or your NRA. You also have my solemn promise as I move on from my post as president that I will continue to serve alongside you in the fight. We are right in our cause. Don't let anyone tell you differently.

And, please know, as we go down this road less traveled, that we still have a country to save!

Carolyn D. Meadows

To search for events in your area, go to

nrapublications.org/regional-report

Visit the links below to find gun shows, programs, clubs, events and training in your area.



LAW ENFORCEMENT le.nra.org

Public and private officers interested in becoming law enforcement firearm instructors should attend one of NRA's Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor Development Schools. NRA Police Pistol Combat competition is intended to be used as an extension of an officer's training.



GUN SHOWS gunshows.nra.org

Dates and locations of gun shows are subject to change. Please contact the show before traveling. Discounted NRA memberships are sold through NRA recruiters. Some shows may offer free admission to people who sign up for new memberships or renewals. To become an NRA Recruiter contact NRA Recruiting Programs at recruiter@nrahq.org.



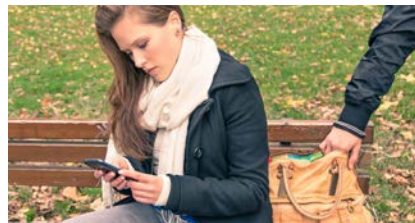
AREA SHOOTS ssusa.org/coming-events

For more information, send an email to Shelly Kramer at mkramer@nrahq.org or call (703) 267-1459.



FRIENDS OF NRA friendsofnra.org

Friends of NRA events celebrate American values with fun, fellowship and fundraising for The NRA Foundation. To learn more about events in your area, visit friendsofnra.org, contact your local field representative or send an email to friends@nrahq.org.



TRAINING refuse.nra.org | nrainstructors.org

The NRA's Refuse To Be A Victim® program provides information on crime prevention and personal safety. To learn more about the program, visit refuse.nra.org. The most up-to-date seminar and instructor training schedule is available on the Internet by visiting nrainstructors.org, or online training is available at nraonlinetraining.org. Questions? Email to refuse@nrahq.org or by calling (800) 861-1166.



STATE ASSOCIATIONS stateassociations.nra.org

Joining NRA-affiliated state associations supports NRA's mission in your state. See clubs.nra.org for more information.

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The "NRA Regional Report," a service for NRA members, is an up-to-date listing of NRA conducted and/or sponsored events scheduled in your region for the current month. Call to verify event dates and locations before traveling.

2022 NRA ANNUAL MEETINGS

MAY 20-22 • LOUISVILLE, KY

For hotel accommodations at the NRA Annual Meetings, visit nraam.org.



By Joseph P. DeBergalis, Jr.
Executive Director,
General Operations

Quick Thinking Saves Lives— Recognizing An NRA Hero

As we continue recognizing the achievements of the NRA and its members over the past 150 years, I want to share the heroic deeds of one NRA Training Counselor. Faced with a dire emergency during one of her courses, Suzanne Freehauf remained calm and acted quickly to save the life of her student, David Asmuth, who was experiencing a severe medical situation.

This past May, David was attending Suzanne's CCW Instructor class. Toward the end of the otherwise normal eight-hour course, he noticed a slight twitch in his left eye and on the left side of his mouth.

Thinking it may have been the effects of caffeine, David went to his car to grab a bottle of water. Little did he know that a blood vessel in the front right temporal lobe of his brain had swelled, putting pressure on the surrounding tissue. Moments later, when Suzanne came to check on him, the blood vessel had burst. David was undergoing a full-blown stroke and going into seizures.

Recalling her training, Suzanne took swift action. She instructed her students to call 911, meet the ambulance at the front gate, secure the immediate area and render aid and comfort to David. Suzanne took command of the situation and coordinated the entire rescue. Since this occurred at an NRA course, her students had received instruction on how to handle emergencies, which aided in the smooth rescue.

As David was evacuated to the hospital, Suzanne secured his firearms and vehicle, reassuring him via text message that his personal property was safe. After his three-day hospital stay, she arranged for David's transportation home, also staying in contact with him during his recovery. Suzanne assured David that he would be able to retake the practical test, which was the only portion of the class he had not completed. Two months later, David passed the NRA CCW Instructor test, which was administered by Suzanne at his home range in a neighboring state.

Suzanne's immediate response saved David's life, and, after two months of recovery, he has regained 100-percent functionality. He says that he owes a great debt to Suzanne, attributing his rapid recovery to her quick analysis of the situation and fast action. David also mentions her unwavering support for the NRA and the Second Amendment.

"In my opinion, Suzanne Freehauf embodies the spirit, mindset and action for which the NRA is renowned. She is



Suzanne Freehauf poses with course participants.

committed to the preservation of the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Americans and fosters the promotion of firearms safety, marksmanship and education."

Serving as an NRA Training Counselor since 2017, Suzanne is certified in Basic Pistol, Personal Protection in the Home, Basic Shotgun, Basic Rifle and Refuse To Be A Victim. She is also a competitive shooter, participating in action shooting and local pistol matches, along with sporting clays leagues. With the belief that learning is a lifelong endeavor, her company, Lady Fire LLC, provides training for shooters in a non-threatening environment.

Suzanne's love of shooting led her to share that passion with others. She states on her website, "There is nothing more rewarding to me than turning a nervous, inexperienced shooter into someone who realizes that 'they can do it.' I want all my students to leave happy and confident about firearms. And I believe that confidence translates into all areas of life."

Suzanne is a shining example of the elite caliber of NRA instructors and counselors we have in our ranks. The knowledge and skills they possess are a benefit to the ever-growing population of gun owners in this country. That is why America's firearm owners know they can trust the NRA to provide the very best in gun safety and instruction. Thank you, Suzanne, for your continued dedication to the Second Amendment, the shooting sports and firearm education.

Find NRA training and education courses at firearmtraining.nra.org, and visit Suzanne Freehauf's website at ladyfirellc.com.



NRA National Matches Debut at Camp Atterbury

Indiana First Lady Janet Holcomb kicks off the 2021 NRA National Rifle and Pistol Championships.

By John Parker, Managing Editor, Shooting Sports USA

At the First Shot Ceremony on Tuesday, July 6, Indiana First Lady Janet Holcomb kicked off the 2021 NRA National Matches at Camp Atterbury. An active Indiana National Guard training facility, Camp Atterbury is the new home of the reunified NRA National Championships for Precision Pistol, Smallbore Rifle and High Power Rifle and is located about 37 miles south of Indianapolis, near Edinburgh, Ind.

A large crowd gathered to observe the ceremonial first shot. First Lady Holcomb was shooting a Walther KK3300 rifle with SK's Standard Plus .22 Long Rifle ammunition.

"Indiana is proud to be home to the NRA National Matches," said First Lady Holcomb. "In the competitive shooting world, no other event carries the legacy, prestige and history of the NRA National Matches."

NRA Second Vice President Willes Lee, NRA Director of Competitive Shooting Cole McCulloch and Indiana State Rifle and Pistol Association President Charlie Hiltunen joined the first lady to begin the festivities at Camp Atterbury.

A true lover of the shooting sports, First Lady Holcomb is an instructor, a competitor and also hunts. Cole McCulloch succinctly sums up her love of shooting.

"Mrs. Holcomb really is the First Lady of Shooting," said McCulloch. "She just absolutely loves shooting."

During his remarks, Second Vice President Willes Lee thanked First Lady Janet Holcomb for the support that she has given to the NRA, hunting and the shooting sports, along with expressing his great appreciation for the state of Indiana and its people. Second Vice President Lee also expanded on the current state of the NRA.

"The NRA remains the best in the business for firearms safety, education, training and protecting our Second Amendment rights," said Second Vice President Lee. "We're signing up 1,000 new members a day digitally, because everyone understands how important it is to protect our Second Amendment rights."

The NRA, along with the Indiana National Guard and the state of Indiana, has built a new 100-point covered range at Camp Atterbury to accommodate championship shooters. And while slowed by the pandemic, the plans for an NRA National Marksmanship Center at Camp Atterbury are still a go.

The Indiana State Rifle and Pistol Association has been a key partner for the NRA with its new endeavor at Camp Atterbury. Essentially, the NRA could not have conducted the 2021 National Championships without the help of the ISRPA.

"We're blessed at the NRA Competitive Shooting Division right now to have people like [ISRPA President] Charlie Hiltunen and First Lady Holcomb on our side when we need them the most," said Cole McCulloch. "Charlie and I started together on this journey at the beginning, and he has been a real friend to me personally, as well as the NRA. The Indiana State Rifle and Pistol Association has stepped right in and been the NRA's best friend."

In addition, McCulloch revealed that the endgame for the NRA at Camp Atterbury is to augment the NRA National Matches with additional events to make a "summer-long festival of shooting." While the NRA's focus will always remain with the Precision Pistol, Smallbore Rifle and High Power Rifle championships, the hope is that additional events will bring more people into the shooting sports.

"New events at Camp Atterbury will be a great way to introduce your friends and family to the NRA and our way of life," said McCulloch. "We must carry on the great traditions of the shooting sports."

2021 Smallbore Nationals

Youth shooter Anthony Hotko secured the Frank Parsons Memorial Trophy after winning first place in the 2021 NRA Smallbore Metric 3-Position Nationals grand aggregate.

The National Metric 3-Position grand aggregate is comprised of scores from 40 shots in each of three positions: prone, kneeling and standing at 50 meters with both metallic and any sights. The total is 240 shots.

Hailing from Batavia, Ill., and classified as a Marksman, Hotko finished the match with a final aggregate score of 2263-75X. In addition, Hotko's score garnered him High Civilian and High Intermediate Junior special category awards.

In second place was Katrina Demerle of Hamilton, Ohio, with 2241-59X. A Master-class shooter, she also received High Woman honors.

Finishing in third place was Lara Spanic of Milwaukee, Wis., who also secured the High Junior award. The Expert-class shooter completed the aggregate with a score of 2241-66X.

Winning the 3-position grand aggregate was Richard Clark of Jackson, Miss., with 2388-167X.

As for the Smallbore F-Class Nationals, this year's champion is Shane Collier with 6363-478X. Hailing from Warm Springs, Ga., Collier also garnered High Civilian and High Intermediate Senior honors to go with the Marianne Jensen Driver Trophy he won for the National Smallbore F-Class Championship. Collier is classified as a Master smallbore rifle shooter.

In second place was William Treder of Florence, Ariz., with a score of 6359-473X. Treder, a Master-class shooter, also secured the High Senior award.

Finishing in third place was Master-class shooter James W. Murphy. Traveling to Camp Atterbury all the way from Owensboro, Ky., Murphy scored 6355-459X.

High Woman went to Master-class shooter Barbara C. Hampson of Homestead, Fla., with 6287-349X.

With an aggregate score of 8739-606X, Team Lapua's Kevin Nevius won the 2021 NRA National Smallbore Rifle Prone Championship. For the win, Nevius placed third in the Conventional Prone Championship with a score of 6389-477X and first in the Metric Prone Championship with 2350-129X.

His score of 8739 was a full 10 points ahead of runner-up Virginia McLemore and 11 points from third-place finisher Howard Pitts. Additionally, Nevius was high shooter in the Wakefield Team and the second-highest score in the Dewar Team International Postal Match. This year also marked his 19th appearance on the Dewar Team.

In the Prone grand aggregate, the winner was Morgen Dietrich of Bismarck, N.D., with 6392-507X.

Iron Man

Eighty-nine competitors were in the running for the Iron Man award this year, which goes to the grand aggregate winner of the Smallbore Prone Nationals combined with the 3-Position Nationals.

The 2021 NRA Smallbore National Rifle Championship Iron Man award went to John Hamilton of Corydon, Ind., with 13187-603X. In second place was Joe Graf of N. Scituate, R.I., with 13128-663X. Placing third was Cameron Zwart of Hudsonville, Mich., with 13120-613X.

Pictured below: Indiana First Lady Janet Holcomb, NRA Second Vice President Willes Lee and other luminaries at the First Shot Ceremony.





BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF HUNTERS!

CENTRAL REGION YHEC ATTRACTS OVER 114 YOUNG COMPETITORS

Arkansas, "The Natural State" was the host State for the NRA's 3rd Annual "Central Regional Youth Hunter Education Challenge Championship." Competitors, Coaches, Volunteers, and Attendees from 16 states traveled to the "Arkansas Waterfowl Association's Recreation Center for Youth" in Lonoke, Arkansas to compete for top honors and thousands of dollars in awards. The event, which was held July 20-24, proved that the only thing hotter than the near 100 degree temperatures was the competition. Over 350 awards, plus several thousand dollars in awards, were presented during the 3 days of intense competition.

Since 1985, NRA's Youth Hunter Education Challenge has introduced over 1.3 million youth to Hunting and Shooting. Often referred to as "Advanced Hunter Education", YHEC teaches youth "The Safe, Responsible, and Ethical Way to Shoot, Hunt, and Enjoy the Outdoors." Youth begin their YHEC training in local YHEC Clubs taught by volunteer instructors. Once a year, individual states sponsor a State YHEC Championship. Boys and Girls under the age of 18, who have completed a state Hunter Education course compete in 8 shooting and hunting based events. Those youth who compete at the state championship, automatically qualify to advance to the "Regional Level" of competition.

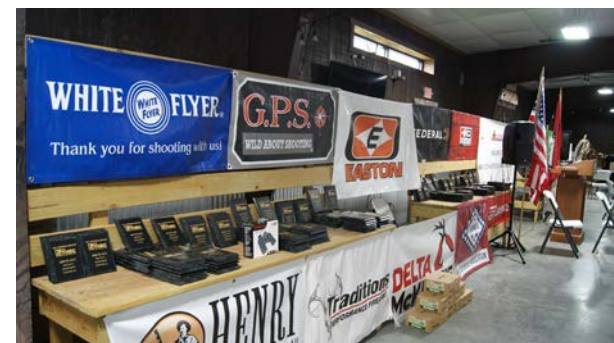
These 8 events include .22/Light Rifle, Shotgun, Archery, Muzzle Loader, Compass/Orienteering, Safety Trail, Wildlife Identification, and Hunter Responsibility Exam. There are two age divisions- Junior Division under age 15 and Senior Division

ages 15 to 18. Youth compete as Individuals and as a part of a five person team. Awards are presented to 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place winners in each category and for "Overall Winner". Maximum points awarded in each event is 300. Maximum points for Overall Score is 2,400 pts.

1st PLACE OVERALL SCORE- INDIVIDUAL WINNERS:
SENIOR DIVISION-Seth Montgomery, Louisiana Bayou Bandits Senior Gold Team, Score 1889
JUNIOR DIVISION- Evan Dupre, Louisiana Bayou Bandits Junior Gold Team, Score 1549

Each 1st Place winner received a Henry Golden Boy .22 Rifle, a Remington 11-87 Shotgun, Rifle Scope from Rudolph Optics, Ammunition from Remington, Winchester, or Federal and other exciting awards. 2nd and 3rd place winners received in addition to a plaque .22 Rifles from Marlin, Muzzle Loader rifles from Traditions, Ammunition and other exciting awards.

1st PLACE OVERALL SCORE- TEAM WINNERS:
 (Maximum point totals for team is 12,000 pts.)



SENIOR DIVISION-Arkansas Mary's Wild Bunch Senior Team with a score of 8,146
 Members included: Logan Tucker, Kyler Phillips, Nolan Williams, Grace Reed, and Hayden Wiles. Pictured Below:



JUNIOR DIVISION-Louisiana Bayou Bandits Senior Gold Team with a score of 6,882.
 Members included: Evan Dupre, Coben Trosclair, Carter Neil, Nathan Rider, and Westin Airhart. Pictured Below:



Other awards presented at the Regional Championship included:
 Volunteer of the Year Award- Gary and Connie Purtilo, Iowa, for their many years of support and involvement in YHEC.

Sportsmanship of the Year Award- Jonathan Morehead, Arkansas, who went over and beyond with helping volunteers at various events.

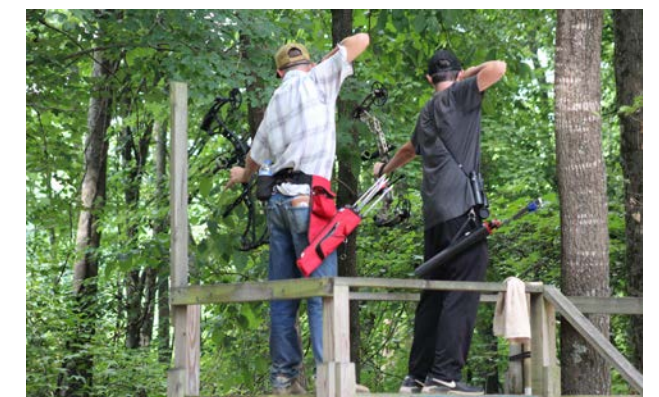
114 Youth, plus 26 coaches, represented YHEC teams from Arkansas, Louisiana, North Carolina, New Mexico, Texas and Wyoming. Over 65 volunteers from 16 states were on hand for five days of preparation and overseeing the safe and efficient operations of the YHEC events. These volunteers represented Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Kansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, Tennessee, Utah, Wyoming, and Washington State.

The Central Regional YHEC Program recognizes and extends a very special "Thank You" to the many Sponsors of the 2021 Central Regional

Youth Hunter Education Challenge which included: Arkansas Waterfowl Association, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Rifle and Pistol Association, Arkansas Gun and Cartridge Collector Club, Arkansas Chapter of Safari Club International, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Academy Sports and Outdoors, the Allen Company, Rudolph Optics, Feradyne Outdoors, Henry Repeating Arms, Traditions Performance Firearms, Vista Outdoors (Remington, Federal, and CCI), Winchester, Scientific Explorer, Outdoor Cap, Habit (Mahco Outdoors), Easton Archery, Mantis X Shooting Systems, Hodgdon Powders, White Flyer, and M.E.C. Outdoors. Without these great sponsors and supporters, CRYHEC could not provide an exceptional outdoor experience for youth, who will become "Our Next Generation" of hunters.

For a list of all winners go to the NRA's Youth Hunter Education Challenge website. Use the "drop down" under more and click on Regional Scores.

The date for the 2022 Central Regional YHEC is set for July 18-23 at the AWA Facilities in Lonoke AR. For more information on YHEC go to the the NRA/YHEC website, contact NRA/YHEC at 800-492-4868, (opt. 3), yhec@nrahq.org, or YHEC Central Regional Coordinator, Gary Jobe- aryhec@hotmail.com



NRA

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Clubs,

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*Contingent upon terms and conditions set by the NRA Recruiting Department

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A Picture is Worth 1,000 Words

What will your hunting photo say about you?

Telling non-hunters the right story through your hunting photos is critical to increasing cultural support for legal, regulated hunting. Your photos say a lot about you and your adventure and are a way to share your experience and your pride of being a hunter. Capture that pride with the right photo. You never know where that photo might end up as it makes the rounds on social media.



Look at my new turkey hunting buddy



A beautiful spring morning in Virginia

Here are some tips to help you tell your story:

- **Be respectful of your harvest. All game animals and birds should be honored.**
 - Don't sit on top of, kneel on or "bear hug" your animal.
 - Tuck the animal's tongue in its mouth and clean any blood off the animal and yourself.
 - Cover any visible wounds or crop the photo to omit unnecessary blood or damage.
 - Position the animal so that its head is upright. If you plan to be in the photo, hold up its head.
 - Don't photograph the animal when it is on a 4-wheeler or in the bed of a truck.
- **Help a photo to tell your story. Don't just show it or post it on social media.**
 - Write a short description to accompany the photo. Even just a few thoughtful words such as "Thankful," "With all my respect" or "Great memories" help to set the right tone.
 - Share what you will do with the meat, such as using it to feed your family and friends or donating it to feed those less fortunate.
- **Share that your hunting adventure is about the journey.**
 - Show photos of your hunt preparation, the travel, your treestand placement, the outdoor setting and the game and non-game species you observed while remaining undetected.
 - Tell a story about time spent with friends and/or family.
- **Other considerations:**
 - Make sure your firearm is unloaded and the action is open in all photos.
 - Remember you are representing a whole community of hunters. What may seem appropriate to you at the time may not be to someone who sees your photo later and does not know the backstory.
 - Is that photo you are about to post on social media how you want people to view you for the rest of your life?

NRA
HUNTERS
LEADERSHIP
FORUM



Why Hunting Affirms Americans' Values Toward Animal Welfare

When communicating about hunting, keep in mind the animal rights-animal welfare-‘dominionism’ continuum.

By Mark Damian Duda

Americans’ attitudes toward the use of animals exist on a continuum of acceptability, and understanding this continuum is essential to being able to communicate about hunting effectively. At one end of the continuum is the animal rights mindset, which is the belief that animals have rights like humans and should not be used in any way. At the opposite end is the “dominionistic” mindset, or the belief that animals can be used by humans regardless of the animal’s welfare or rights. The middle of the continuum represents animal welfare—the idea that animals can be used by humans, as long as the animal does not experience undue pain and suffering. Each mindset

is accompanied by various beliefs and behaviors concerning the extent to which animals may be used by humans.

Research shows that most Americans identify as proponents of animal welfare—the middle of the continuum. When given definitions of animal rights, animal welfare and dominionism and asked to select the one that best describes their beliefs, 82 percent of Americans choose animal welfare, compared to 14 percent who select animal rights and just 4 percent who identify as proponents of dominionism.

By itself, though, the term “animal rights” is frequently misinterpreted by the public as referring to animal welfare. When simply asked outright whether they support animal rights (i.e., based on the term alone, before hearing any definition), eight out of 10 Americans say that they do.

Another two-thirds of Americans say they have family members or friends who are supporters of animal rights (again, this high percentage appears to be due to a misunderstanding of the terminology, given that most Americans are actually supporters of animal welfare). Survey findings that are based on the respondent’s perception of a term rather than an understood definition of it (as in these examples with the term “animal rights”) can lead to inaccurate conclusions about how the American public feels about the use of animals. Animal rights organizations, in turn, may enthusiastically report such findings to imply that the animal rights movement has more support from the public than it actually does.

The fact that so many Americans claim to support “animal rights” (at least based

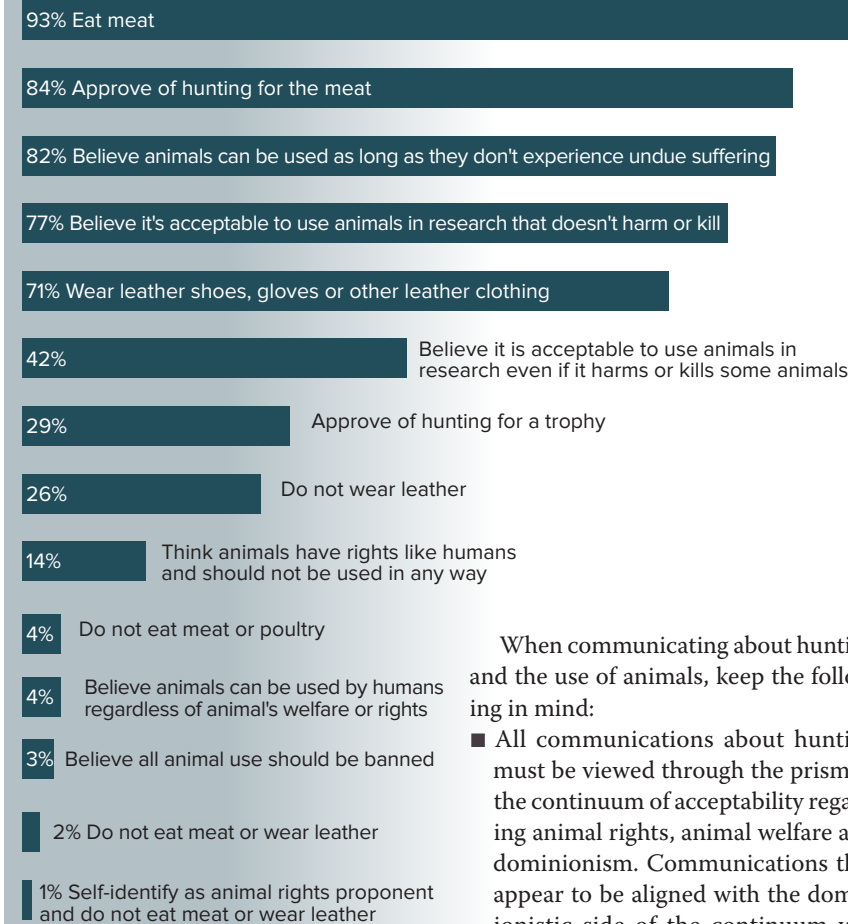
on the term alone) might suggest that most people do indeed believe that animals have certain rights—those entitling them to reasonable and humane treatment by humans. Of course, the actual commonly held definition of “animal rights” dictates no use of animals by humans whatsoever, and this is not something most Americans agree with: the overwhelming majority identify more with animal welfare after hearing the definitions of the terms. This distinction is important, as many animal rights groups misleadingly use the concept of animal welfare to promote and fund an animal rights agenda. Television commercials, print and digital advertisements, and solicitations for donations from animal rights groups may imply that support is needed to ensure the humane treatment of animals in various unethical and emotionally charged situations; in actuality, the missions of such groups typically discourage the use of animals altogether, whether for food, medical research or other purposes.

Proponents of hunting should not cede the middle ground—the belief that animals can be used by humans, provided they are treated humanely—to proponents of animal rights. As the vast majority of hunters are ethical and care about the humane treatment of wildlife, legal hunting is consistent with animal welfare. Despite animal rights claims to the contrary, legal and ethical hunting is not a dominionistic activity.

Most Americans hold attitudes consistent with animal welfare, not animal rights. For example, pet ownership and meat consumption hold little controversy for most Americans: nine out of 10 approve of owning a dog or cat and the same number consume meat. At the same time, Americans are less approving of practices perceived as being potentially inhumane: only about half of U.S. residents approve of consuming veal or wearing fur.

Beyond their stated beliefs, Americans’ lifestyle choices also reflect a predominantly animal welfare mindset. More than nine out of 10 Americans consume meat, and approximately three out of four wear leather shoes, gloves or other clothing made of leather. Among all Americans, only 2 percent do not eat meat or wear leather. What’s more, just 1 percent of Americans actually follow a strict animal rights lifestyle by not consuming

PERCENTAGE OF AMERICANS WHO ...



meat or wearing leather (while 13 percent hold the animal rights position yet eat meat and/or wear leather).

Communications about the use of animals must be based on what Americans actually think and how they behave. This means that the most effective communications will embody the animal welfare philosophy, consistent with the beliefs and behaviors of most Americans. Characterizing the American public through labels alone, absent context or definition, can be misleading. For example, it would be incorrect to conclude that most Americans are supporters of “animal rights”—rather than accurately describe the opinion of most people with regard to the use of animals, this conclusion instead simply reflects widespread misunderstanding of the term “animal rights.”

What matters is the meaning behind these labels and whether people actually live according to the underlying philosophies. In this way, talking about the use of animals, including through hunting, is not a matter of changing Americans’ values but of affirming them.

When communicating about hunting and the use of animals, keep the following in mind:

- All communications about hunting must be viewed through the prism of the continuum of acceptability regarding animal rights, animal welfare and dominionism. Communications that appear to be aligned with the dominionistic side of the continuum will be rejected; messages built around animal welfare, on the other hand, are more likely to be accepted.
- Hunters must communicate respect for animals, including when posting pictures of hunters with game on social media.
- While irreverent comments from hunters may seem harmless, non-hunters may interpret them as disrespectful toward wildlife. Foul language and phrases like, “If it flies, it dies,” and “If it’s brown, it’s down,” are perceived as dominionistic and will likely turn people away from hunting.
- Hunters should strive to show people they care by demonstrating empathy and concern for the humane treatment of animals.
- Hunters should share their game meat with others while highlighting the quality of the game meat. Hunting animals for meat is consistent with animal welfare—remember that most Americans eat meat, and many people view hunting for meat as more humane than obtaining meat through factory farming. **dh**



NRA Business Alliance Spotlight - Forward Assist Training

Humility. Ego. Knowledge. Fear. Two sides of the same coin. If the wrong side is allowed to grow, the situation becomes dangerous. If the good side dominates, then society is safer and order is maintained. That is why in the NRA has developed programs throughout its existence to better serve the community. The best part is that these programs are taught by grassroots organizations like Forward Assist Training.

As large and influential as the NRA may be, it relies on the dedication of its membership to take the knowledge and pass it onto those in need. And who are those in need? Look around you and you will see them. They are your family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and everyone else in between. Sure, some people are fortunate enough to be around seasoned shooters that will take the time to show us how to safely and properly shoot a gun. But there are countless others that do not have that luxury. They do not have that sphere of influence, so they must seek it out. That is the opportunity.

The members of Forward Assist Training are primarily volunteers. The volunteers are trained from carefully crafted courses that instruct them on how shoot, hunt, improve their skills, etc. These programs not only instructs them on the subject matter but to also effectively teach others. That is the preparation.

It is well established that SUCCESS IS THE INTERSECTION OF OPPORTUNITY AND PREPARATION.

When a new or potential gun owner approaches us and asks for instruction, they are humbling themselves. We do not take this for granted. They have the wisdom to seek out assistance and we are there to support them.

When a single mother considers being a gun owner so she can protect herself, the NRA has Women On Target ready for her. These are popular clinics for Forward Assist Training and the NRA. It allows trained instructors to give women a supportive environment to hold a firearm and shoot for the first time. This is one of the NRA's most successful programs! Do you know how we can tell? By the smiles on the women's faces and the words of appreciation at the end of the clinic. Good targets and big smiles. That is a good day!

When a teacher, pastor, or community leader is concerned about young children and firearms, they can call upon us to implement the Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program. This effective and simple program is designed for young school age students. Eddie Eagle and his assistants will visit and teach the children to STOP, DON'T TOUCH, RUN AWAY, TELL A GROWN-UP. This program has received numerous accolades from law enforcement throughout the country.

Perhaps a more seasoned shooter wants to learn how well they can shoot under challenging circumstances. Do we have a method to do that? Of course! When Forward Assist saw the increasing popularity of shooting with modern sporting rifles, we conducted the American Rifleman Challenge. This program is an opportunity for a rifle owner to shoot in a supportive fun competition to test their skills against others. The courses of fire provide a variety of challenges. One can shoot at multiple targets. Some paper, some steel. The shooter may find themselves shooting from an improvised position. They may need to shoot and move from different locations. Imagine the possibilities.



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Allegheny Country Rifle Club of Pittsburgh, PA celebrates its 125th year



In 2021, the Allegheny Country Rifle Club of Pittsburgh, PA celebrates its 125th year of continuous operation. Founded in 1896 by German immigrants, the Club was incorporated in 1908. In 1911, A.C.R.C. purchased 42 acres of farmland in Millvale, a suburb of Pittsburgh. They laid the cornerstone for a Clubhouse that year. Connections to the German American community remained strong as evidenced by a 1918 copy of the Club's by-laws written in German and English.

By 1921, the grounds were an entertainment enterprise in addition to being a rifle club. "Schuetzen Park" had a large dance pavilion and social hall that were available for private gatherings. There were bowling alleys and a large slide and pony rides for the children. A few of our older members remember family stories of those days or experienced them as young children.

In the 1930's the club was affiliated with the NRA and held Army and NRA qualification courses. The club's ranges had distances of 50 to 500 yards for rifle practice, a 50-yard pistol range and clay bird traps. In 2021, our Club's rifle range has 25-, 50- and 100-yard backstops. There are two outdoor pistol ranges and an ATA affiliated trap facility. We conduct many youth firearms programs and a pistol class for women, have a cycle of leagues and a yearly Schuetzenfest.

In 1999, a fire destroyed the 1911 Clubhouse but spared the 1957 addition. Despite losing half the building and many of our historical records, the Club was not closed. The ranges and trap house were kept operating, although the Clubhouse was closed for two days. The year 2020's pandemic shut down the Clubhouse temporarily but our outdoor ranges remained open. With a membership of close to 2000 members in 2021, we look forward to continuing to enjoy the shooting sports at A.C.R.C.

Pictured below: Officers and directors of the Allegheny County Rifle Club - circa 1921.



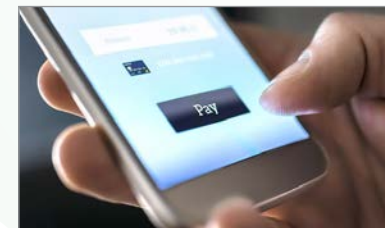
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NRA Hunters' Leadership Forum Launches \$50,000 in Hunters for the Hungry Program Grants

Reprinted with Permission from Hunters Leadership Forum

The NRA and its millions of members are living proof that hunters care. A prime example dates back 30 years as the NRA and other hunter-backed groups recognized that many hunters were able to harvest more meat than they could eat or share with family and friends. The solution: Band together to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate through the Hunters for the Hungry (HFH) movement. NRA Hunter Services began partnering with state wildlife agencies in 1991 to put interested hunters in touch with area HFH start-up programs and established the NRA HFH clearinghouse, a database linking hunters with HFH groups and meat processors in their communities. In advancing the NRA's commitment to this worthy program, today the NRA Hunters' Leadership Forum (HLF) announced the rollout of a \$50,000 NRA HFH fund to which HFH program affiliates can apply for assistance in continuing the mission to fight hunger.

"There are many NRA-supported programs that don't get the spotlight they deserve—Hunters for the Hungry is one of them," said Joe DeBergalis, executive director of NRA General Operations. Through the program, more than 2.1 million pounds of meat are donated every year. That translates into 8.1 million meals for friends and neighbors in our communities. That is meaningful food on the table, provided by NRA members and supporters."

Preparing and serving meals to people in need

Currently there are approximately 40 HFH programs nationwide, all of which operate on a shoestring budget. Available in awards up to \$1,500, the fund will help these groups cover the costs of processing, shipping and distribution of donated meat to food banks, homeless shelters and other charities. In the meantime, as the HFH cooperative effort brings increasing numbers of hunters, sportsmen's associations, meat processors, state meat inspectors and hunger relief organizations into the fold, the NRA continues to connect interested individuals while fostering public awareness through education, fundraising and publicity.

"I want to thank the generous donors who made it possible for HLF to support this incredibly worthy cause," said Peter Churchbourne, director of the NRA HLF. "America has a long tradition of embracing the vast resources hunting provides as a means for feeding family and friends. We are honored to play a role in that noble process."

With America's HFH programs securing millions of pounds of a low-cholesterol, high-protein meat source for U.S. food banks to date, the NRA HLF fund aims to help ensure HFH programs do not fall victim to their own success. As the NRA HLF website reports, while hunters continue to donate meat to their local communities and meat processors and hunger-relief groups donate portions of their time and services, success largely depends on the ability to offset the resulting escalating meat-processing costs. For example, while Virginia ranks toward the top of the list of states regarding the pounds of donated meat through Virginia Hunters Who Care, the program turns away thousands more pounds due to a lack of funding.

The NRA HLF's foresight and funding could not come at a better time amid COVID-19. For statistical backup, according to Feeding America, the nation's largest hunger-relief organization, more than 42 million Americans now may be facing food insecurity. With increased reliance on food-assistance programs, readers may recall the NRAHLF.org September 2020 article titled "Local Deer Processors Impacted by COVID-19." With America's large commercial meat-processing plants struggling to maintain production, the article noted that HFH groups such as Maryland's Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHH) were warning hunters to check with processors in advance as many had stopped accepting deer due to increasing livestock-processing demands.

Fortunately, as the NRA regularly shares, American hunters care. They care for wildlife and its habitat. They care about stopping illegal poaching and about explaining how legal, regulated hunting benefits game and non-game species alike. And they care for those less fortunate in their own communities. Sadly, they care in ways animal rights extremists refuse to understand.

So as America's hunting community quietly continues to go about the business of caring and doing what is right, please visit hfth.nra.org for more information on NRA Hunters for the Hungry efforts, the NRA Hunters' Leadership Forum fund and to learn how you can get involved in a Hunters for the Hungry program to fight hunger in your area.

Editor's Note: A longtime NRA employee and Endowment member, I am proud to have witnessed the NRA's leadership role in the Hunters for the Hungry (HFH) movement and to have supported its efforts through the years. While volunteering in a Maryland soup kitchen in the 1990s, I vividly recall being struck by how the pantry was full of donated canned vegetables while the freezers were short on meat, which is more expensive and tougher to store. The NRA encourages all members to help fight hunger by supporting HFH programs. Whether contributing financially or by bringing a tagged, field-dressed deer or other game meat to a participating meat processor, you are helping to feed someone who struggles with hunger.

—Karen Mehall Phillips

** Since the original publication of this article the HFH Subsidy program granted out all \$50,000 in subsidy funding to 41 processors across the country - assisting in the processing of 217,072 lbs of donated meat to create approximately 1,254,478 meals.**





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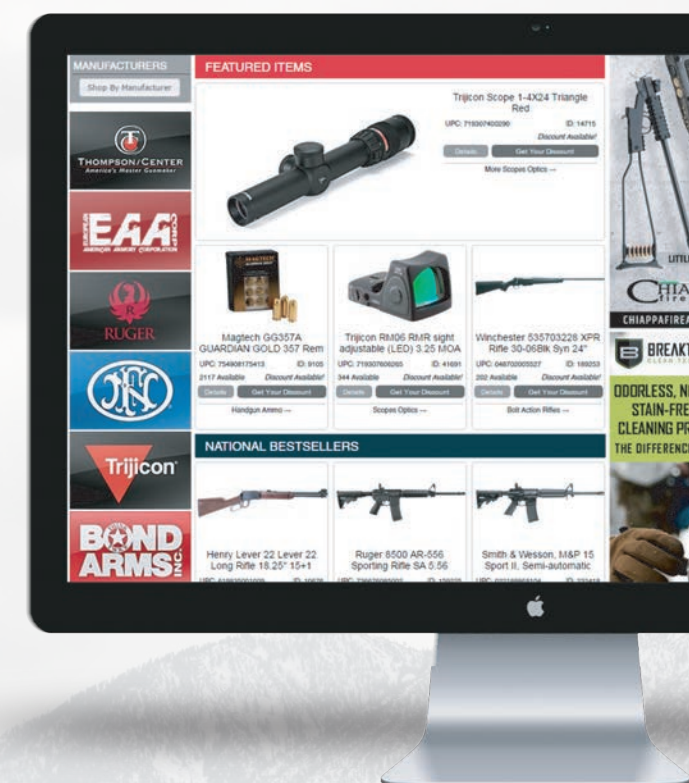
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NRA-ILA UPDATE

Fall 2021

Your NRA-ILA has been hard at work over the summer, fighting on behalf of our members to stop efforts to enact gun control at all levels. A couple of months ago, we outlined the different Executive Actions that President Biden announced during his April Rose Garden ceremony. Below are updates on these Executive Actions, and what your NRA-ILA has done to fight against them.

1) On May 21st, ATF published a new proposed rule in the Federal Register in response to President Biden's directive to "stop the proliferation of 'Ghost guns.'" Public comments on this proposed rule were due by August 19th, and your NRA-ILA submitted 25 pages of comments to ATF, which you can read here. We also provided information to countless members who we encouraged to submit their own comments.

2) On June 10th, ATF published a new proposed rule in the Federal Register in response to President Biden's directive to reexamine how stabilizing braces are regulated. Public comments to ATF were due by September 8th, and you can read the NRA-ILA comments submitted on behalf of our members here. Again, we provided information to members who wanted to draft and submit their own comments, and encouraged them to do so.

3) Most notably, your NRA-ILA worked to defeat David Chipman's nomination to lead the ATF. As soon as David Chipman was nominated by President Biden, your NRA-ILA team went to work putting together comprehensive actions to ensure he would not be confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Your NRA-ILA spent millions running TV ads, digital ads, sending mail, sending text messages, and hosting dozens of town hall meetings in key states to educate our members and supporters on how truly terrible a David Chipman led ATF would be. You can read more about the efforts that went into defeating Chipman's nomination as ATF Director here.

While stopping Chipman's nomination to ATF Director is certainly a big win for gun owners, we must remain vigilant, as the Biden administration is trying to find ways to infringe on our Second Amendment Freedoms. With the rise in anti-gun activity at the Federal level and the important 2022 midterm elections just around the corner, your Grassroots team could use your help! We are always looking to find members willing to help us educate their communities on the dangers of anti-gun laws and how they would impact law-abiding citizens. If you want to get involved in the fight for our rights, please reach out to the Grassroots Division by emailing us at: ILA-Contact@nrahq.org.



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CLUB CONNECTION

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NRA Community Engagement

DOES YOUR CHILD KNOW WHAT TO DO IF HE OR SHE FINDS A GUN?

The **Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program** was developed in 1988 as a firearm accident prevention program seeking to help parents, law enforcement, community groups, and educators navigate a topic paramount to our children's safety.

For over 30 years, the program has taught children what to do if they find a gun:

STOP! Don't Touch. Run Away. Tell A Grown Up.

In fact, over **31 million children** have received Eddie's important message since the program began.

In 2015, the program evolved with a fresh new look and some new friends for Eddie—his Wing Team. Together they remind children of Eddie's important message. The program is designed for Pre-K through 4th graders and provides the tools to help parents and educators bring up an important safety issue with children in a fun and interactive way. Through a special kid-friendly web page, the **Eddie Eagle Tree House**, children are able to explore lessons, read storybooks, print coloring pages, watch Eddie's video, and more!



For the full Eddie Eagle
experience visit
EDDIEEAGLE.COM
and watch Eddie's video and
take his challenge!