



Parent Information

On behalf of the Mt. Airy Chapter of The Izaak Walton League of America and the volunteer adult leaders of the Mt. Airy Sharpshooters Clay Target Team we would like to welcome you to the 2022 shooting season. We look forward to working with your sons and daughters to make this another exciting, fun, and successful trap season.

This document contains important information regarding our program and the upcoming season. Please take the time to read it carefully.

The Facility

The Mt. Airy Chapter of the Izaak Walton League owns this facility and is gracious enough to allow us to conduct our program here. In addition, they furnish all the clay targets thrown during the entire season free of charge. We ask that you please treat this facility with respect, and along with the competitors help keep things clean.

Program Design

The Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) is, by design, a youth development program for providing school-aged youth with a positive experience in sports. The program is focused on instilling in young athletes a set of personal values and character traits for fair play, compassionate understanding, teamwork, individual responsibility, sportsmanship, self-discipline, and personal commitment – qualities that will serve them well in sports, but more importantly, serve them throughout their lives.

All SCTP activities incorporate two indispensable elements – SAFETY AND FUN. Safety is incorporated into every facet of ALL SCTP activities. The learning environment at team practices and at competitive shoots is designed to include the elements of FUN for all participants. SCTP participants learn the safe and responsible handling and use of firearms. They discover the joy of contributing to a shared team goal and the commitment that goes along with it. During this self-discovery process, team members develop proficiency in a sport that can be shared and enjoyed with family and friends for a lifetime.

The Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc. (SSSF) is the National Governing Body (NGB) for the SCTP. Additional information about the SSSF and SCTP, including an informative video, can be found by visiting their web site at:

<https://sssfonline.org/scholastic-clay-target-program/>

The Sport of American Trap

The Mt. Airy Sharpshooters compete in the American Trap discipline of the SCTP. A round of trap consists of a total of 25 targets thrown five each at five different stations. Each shooter will shoot at five targets at each station and then rotate to their right. The governing body for American Trap is the Amateur Trapshooting Association (ATA). Among its many duties the ATA keeps track of all registered clay targets shot by each competitor.

Adult Leadership

The program is led by trained and dedicated adult volunteer coaches and helpers. We encourage and welcome volunteers. Please understand that for safety reasons only trained coaches can work with competitors on the shooting line, but there are plenty of other opportunities to help, such as keeping score, loading trap houses, and helping in the kitchen.

Equipment

Each competitor must bring the following items to practice each week: shotgun (12 or 20 gauge only), hearing protection (earmuffs or ear plugs), eye protection (safety glasses), and a shell pouch or vest. SCTP has a rule prohibiting shooting in flip-flops or opened-toed shoes/sandals. Also, please remember the use of toe pads is forbidden and it is a violation to rest the gun muzzle on the foot.

Most competitors use a break-action single shot or semi-automatic shotgun, but a pump action shotgun works fine. Please don't invest a lot of money in a new trap shotgun until your son or daughter decides they like this sport and want to continue participating. There are generally several good used shotguns available from other parents or members of the club. At this time shells are provided to each competitor in the program. We hope to be able to continue providing shells in the future as long as our fundraising program is successful.

Fundraising

Unfortunately, like almost every other sport your kids have participated in, we need to raise money to support our program. In past years we have had various raffles and a Shoot-A-Thon fundraiser that coincides with the SCTP State Trap Championship. Additional information on our 2022 fundraising activities will be forthcoming.

Duty to Participate

Unlike other team sports each competitor under the age of 18 must have a parent or responsible adult present at the facility during practice. Please understand we are dealing with firearms, not soccer balls or basketballs. Therefore, we do not allow parents to drop off and run as in other team sports. Your son or daughter will become a member of a five-person squad that will practice together each week and shoot together in competitions. For the squad to develop a rhythm and become comfortable shooting together it is important each competitor put forth their best effort to attend practice each week. We understand that things occasionally come up that may prevent you from attending practice, but please keep absences to a minimum. If a member of a squad fails to show up to a competitive shoot the entire squad is penalized and will have very little chance of breaking enough targets for a winning score, which is not fair to the other squad members.

Weather

Practices and competitions are held rain or shine. However, we do clear the competitors from the trap fields whenever lightning is observed. Please wear appropriate attire for the weather conditions.

Competitions and Dates to Remember

Event	Date	Location
New Shooters Begin	3/1/22 at 6:30 pm	Mt. Airy IWLA
Returning Shooters Begin	4/5/22 at 6:30 pm	Mt. Airy IWLA
PEN-MAR Trap Shoot	5/7/22 at 8:00 am	Glen Rock Shooting Club, Shrewsbury, PA
MD AIM Championship	6/4/22 at 8:00 am	Thurmont Conservation & Sportsman's Club
SCTP MD State Trap Championship	6/18/22 at 8:00 am	Mt. Airy IWLA
MD ATA Championship	6/22-6/26/22	MSSA Home Grounds, Thurmont
SCTP National Championship	7/9-7/16/22	Cardinal Shooting Center, Marengo, OH

For more information on the SCTP see:

<https://sssfonline.org/scholastic-clay-target-program/>

Squads and Competitive Divisions

Shooters are assigned to 5 member squads in their respective divisions which include:

SCTP DIVISIONS (American Disciplines)

1. ROOKIE DIVISION	Grade 5 and under. No categories in rookie division.
2. INTERMEDIATE DIVISION	Grades 6 - 8
<input type="checkbox"/> ENTRY LEVEL	1 st year of participation in the intermediate division.
<input type="checkbox"/> ADVANCED LEVEL	After 1 year of participation in the intermediate division.
3. SENIOR DIVISION	Grades 9 – 12
<input type="checkbox"/> JUNIOR VARSITY	1 st year of participation in the senior division.
<input type="checkbox"/> VARSITY	After 1 year of participation in the senior division.
4. COLLEGE DIVISION	High School Graduates and College Undergraduates

We make every attempt to squad shooters of similar age and ability, but please understand this is not always possible due to the number of competitors and their commitment to participate in the State and National Championships.