

American Legion Junior Shooting Sports

Submitted by Gerald Hammerschmidt, Vice-Chairman Americanism Commission

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN LEGION JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS PROGRAM? It's a three-part program that combines the Basic Marksmanship Course, Qualification Awards, and Air Rifle Competition.

During the past decade of this program's continued fast growth, thousands of male and female junior shooters have participated, with a perfect safety record of no reported gun-related injuries.

The American Legion's Junior Shooting sports Program is a national activity administered through Legion-sponsored clubs organized to provide gun safety and marksmanship training for young people. The program emphasizes proper shooting and safety techniques and is for both boys and girls, through the age of 18. Youth with disabilities are also encouraged to participate.

The program is recognized by shooting sports groups as one of the premier amateur shooting programs in the country. More than 100 teams are currently affiliated in the program and approximately 1,700 individual shooters enter national completion each year. The completion culminates with the national championships at the world class shooting class complex at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Completion begins with postal matches to determine state and/or regional champions. The next stage is a qualification round to determine shooters who will earn expense paid trips to the national championships. Team completion is also available at postal levels.

The program uses .177 caliber air guns and competitors' fire targets set-up in firing lanes 10 meters in length. Air gun ranges can be set up in classrooms, Legion post homes or any enclosed area with adequate lighting and space.

Any recognized youth group (school or club) with responsible adult leadership can become involved with this program. The group/club must be sponsored by an American Legion post and affiliated with the national organization.

For more information by mail:
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