

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WHAT: Scholastic Clay Target Program
WHO: Kids ages 6-18
WHEN: Saturdays, 9 a.m.-noon from Feb. 14 through August
WHERE: Pikes Peak Gun Club, 450 Franceville Coal Mine Road, Colorado Springs. From US Highway 24, take Colorado Highway 24 East to Mile Marker 6, turn right at Franceville Coal Mine Road and proceed to club.
GOAL: Learn target shooting, gun safety, teamwork, sportsmanship
COST: \$60 for season
CONTACT: Bill Bolch, Head Coach, bbolch@csu.org

CLAY TARGET PROGRAM TEACHES MORE THAN SHOOTING SKILLS Young Guns Also Learn Teamwork, Sportsmanship in Safe Environment

Kids win. Parents win. Coaches win. That's what the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) shoots for.

Kids who join the program learn trap, skeet and sporting clay shooting in a safe, controlled manner. They also develop teamwork, sportsmanship, pride in achievement and responsibility—traits that carry over into the rest of their lives.

Just ask Dr. Nicholas Sol, whose son Spencer was a member of the first-place winning squad at the SCTP state championships last year.

“A remarkable fringe benefit was that Spencer's academic performance improved,” Dr. Sol says. “He was more focused in school, and his attention span lengthened.”

Participants in the Scholastic Clay Target Program practice from 9 a.m. until approximately noon each Saturday from Feb. 14, 2009, through August at the Pikes Peak Gun Club, 450 Franceville Coal Mine Road, Colorado Springs. For those who wish to compete, the season culminates in the state shoot in June and, for those who qualify, the national championships in August in Sparta, Ill.

Students team up within age categories: Rookies, first to fifth graders; Juniors, sixth to eighth graders; and Seniors, ninth to 12th graders.

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Instructors are qualified coaches, including several who are certified by USA Shooting or the National Rifle Association. Participants bring their own shotgun, ammunition, eye and ear protection, but coaches can assist those who don't have equipment.

"We ask that kids contribute \$60 to cover target costs," says Head Coach Bill Bolch. The Pikes Peak Gun Club assists with target costs.

The program is sponsored nationally by the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation in partnership with USA Shooting, Amateur Trapshooting Association, National Skeet Shooting Association and National Sporting Clays Association. More than 15,000 students are registered nationally. The Pikes Peak area program, with about 40 participants each season, is the largest in Colorado.

Bolch is proud of the accomplishments of his young shooters, who have ranked high in state, regional and national shooting events. The Rookie team recently won the national championship.

The program invites participants from beginners to experts and their parents to attend the first practice at 9 a.m. Feb. 14. Those who plan to attend are asked to e-mail Bolch at bbolch@csu.org. For more information, visit www.pikespeakgunclub.org/SCTP.htm.

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