

2019
NRA

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ANNUAL MEETINGS & EXHIBITS

NRA HISTORY



NRA HISTORY

Dismayed by the lack of marksmanship skill among their troops, Union veterans Col. William C. Church and Gen. George Wingate formed the National Rifle Association of America (NRA) in 1871 to “promote and encourage rifle shooting on a scientific basis,” according to a magazine editorial written by Church.

After New York state granted it a charter on Nov. 17, 1871, NRA chose Civil War Gen. Ambrose Burnside, a former governor of Rhode Island and U.S. senator, as its first president. In 1872, with financial help from New York state, the NRA purchased the Creed Farm on Long Island and built a rifle range, named Creedmoor, where NRA held its first annual matches. Political opposition to the promotion of marksmanship in New York forced NRA to find a new home for its range. In 1892, Creedmoor was deeded back to the state, and NRA's matches moved to Sea Girt, N.J.

NRA's interest in promoting the shooting sports among America's youth began in 1903, when NRA Secretary Albert S. Jones urged the establishment of rifle clubs at all major colleges, universities and military academies. By 1906, NRA's youth program was in full swing, with more than 200 boys competing in matches. Today, youth programs remain a cornerstone of the NRA. More than 1.3 million young Americans participate in NRA shooting sports activities and programs with partnering groups such as 4-H, the Boy Scouts of America, the American Legion, U.S. Jaycees and others.

Due to the growth of NRA's shooting programs, a new range was needed. Gen. Ammon B. Critchfield, Adjutant General of Ohio, began constructing a new shooting facility on the shores of Lake Erie, 45 miles east of Toledo. Camp Perry became the home of the annual National Matches, which have been the benchmark for competitive marksmanship excellence ever since. With 4,500 competitors annually in pistol, smallbore, high-power rifle and black powder events, the National Matches are one of the biggest sporting events held in America today.

Responding to repeated attacks on Second Amendment rights, NRA formed its Legislative Affairs Division in 1934. While NRA did not yet lobby directly, it mailed out legislative facts and



analyses so members could take action on their own. In 1975, recognizing the critical need for political defense of the Second Amendment, NRA formed the Institute for Legislative Action.

First and foremost, NRA continued its commitment to training, education and marksmanship. During World War II, the Association offered its ranges to the government, encouraged members to serve as plant and home guard members, and developed training materials for industrial security. NRA members even reloaded ammunition for those guarding war plants. In 1940, NRA members contributed more than 7,000 firearms to help Britons defend themselves from an expected Nazi invasion of the island nation.

After the war, NRA concentrated its efforts on another much-needed arena for education and training: the hunting community. In 1949, NRA, in conjunction with the state of New York, established the first hunter education program. Hunter education courses are now taught by state fish and game departments across the U.S. and in Canada, and have helped make hunting one of the safest recreational activities in existence. Today, NRA is working diligently to bring its free NRA Hunter education—the most comprehensive online hunter education course available—to all 50 states. Due to an increasing interest in hunting, NRA launched a new magazine in 1973, *American Hunter*, dedicated solely to hunting issues. NRA continues its leadership role in hunting today with the Youth Hunter Education Challenge, a program that allows youngsters to build on skills they learn in basic hunter education courses, reaching over 1.2 million young hunters since 1985.

Law enforcement training has been a major NRA effort since 1960. With the introduction of its NRA Police Firearms Instructor certification program in 1960, NRA became the only national trainer of law enforcement officers. Over the past 50 years, we have trained more than 59,000 law enforcement firearms instructors who train thousands of law enforcement and security personnel each year. Top law enforcement shooters from around the world compete annually at the NRA National Shooting Championships. Held in Albuquerque, N.M., from 2006 to 2018, this event returns to Mississippi this year, with the 2019 Championships scheduled to take place at the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officer's Training Academy in Pearl, Miss.



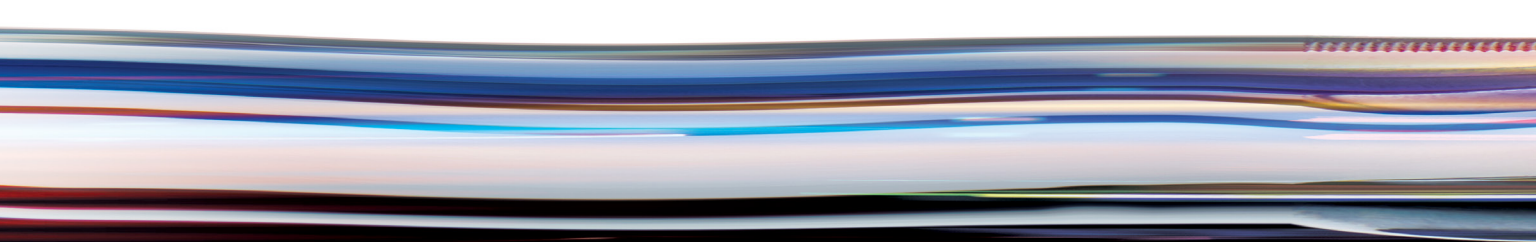
NRA also continues to set the standard in firearms education for civilians. More than 115,000 NRA-certified instructors now train about 1 million gun owners a year. Courses are available in basic rifle, pistol, shotgun, home firearm safety, personal protection, range safety and others. Additionally, approximately 6,500 NRA-certified coaches work with young competitive shooters.

In 1999, NRA launched Women On Target® in response to persistent calls from women for increased opportunities in hunting and shooting sports. Women On Target is a nationwide series of women-only hunts and instructional shooting clinics that provide a friendly and supportive atmosphere for women of all experience levels.

Through the lifesaving Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program, established in 1988, more than 31 million pre-kindergarten to third-grade children have learned that if they see a firearm in an unsupervised situation, they should “STOP! Don’t touch. Run away. Tell a grown-up.” Over the years, NRA’s Refuse To Be A Victim® seminars have helped more than 150,000 men and women develop their own personal safety plans using common-sense strategies.

In 1990, NRA made a dramatic move to ensure that the financial support for firearm-related educational activities would be available now and for future generations. Establishing The NRA Foundation, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, provided a means to raise tax-deductible contributions in support of gun safety and educational efforts benefiting young people, women, hunters, gun collectors, law enforcement officers and the physically disabled. To date, The NRA Foundation has awarded over \$398 million in funding through more than 49,000 grants to eligible organizations in support of the shooting sports and other programs that foster Second Amendment freedoms.

A vital source of that support is the Foundation’s *Friends of NRA* program, a nationwide system of community fundraising events. *Friends of NRA* has raised more than \$392 million since the program’s inception in 1992. Over the past five years, 48 percent of all Foundation grants benefitted youth-related programs.



With 15 galleries and more than 3,000 firearms on exhibit, the National Firearms Museum at NRA headquarters in Fairfax, Va., traces the development of firearms from the earliest hand cannons to modern-day sporting and military arms. The museum tells the story of how Americans and their guns gained freedom in the Revolutionary War, earned a place in the American wilderness and won two world wars to preserve the freedoms and liberties we enjoy today.

While now widely recognized as a major political force and as America's foremost defender of Second Amendment rights, NRA has, since its inception, been the premier firearms education organization in the world. But NRA's successes would not be possible without the tireless efforts and countless hours of service, which millions of NRA members have given to champion Second Amendment rights and support NRA programs.

Past NRA Annual Meetings Attendance

2004	Pittsburgh, PA:	61,319
2005	Houston, TX:	59,734
2006	Milwaukee, WI:	54,335
2007	St. Louis, MO:	64,562
2008	Louisville, KY:	66,229
2009	Phoenix, AZ:	63,324
2010	Charlotte, NC:	72,128
2011	Pittsburgh, PA:	71,139
2012	St. Louis, MO:	73,740
2013	Houston, TX:	86,228
2014	Indianapolis, IN:	75,269
2015	Nashville, TN:	78,865
2016	Louisville, KY:	80,452
2017	Atlanta, GA:	81,836
2018	Dallas, TX:	87,154



NRA-ILA

INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Established in 1975, the Institute for Legislative Action is the legislative, legal and political arm of the National Rifle Association of America. NRA-ILA is committed to preserving the rights of all law-abiding individuals to purchase, possess and use firearms, as guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution.

The ability of NRA-ILA to fight successfully for the rights of America's law-abiding gun owners and sportsmen directly reflects the support of NRA's over 5 million members—a membership that has more than tripled since NRA-ILA's inception. When restrictive gun control legislation is proposed at the local, state or federal level, NRA members and supporters are alerted and respond with individual letters, meetings, emails, testimony and telephone calls to their elected representatives to make their views known.

NRA-ILA works aggressively at the local, state and federal levels to enact pro-gun legislation and achieve success on behalf of NRA members.

NRA-ILA's Major Victories Include

- 1986** Firearm Owners' Protection Act
- 1997** National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act
- 2000** Fish and Wildlife Programs Improvement Act
- 2001** U.S. Department of Justice affirmation of the individual right to keep and bear arms
- 2002** Arming Pilots Against Terrorism Act
- 2003** Tiahrt Amendment to protect gun owners' privacy
- 2004** Clinton semi-automatic firearms ban expiration despite anti-gun opposition
- 2005** Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act
- 2006** Disaster Recovery Personal Protection Act
- 2008** U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *District of Columbia v. Heller* that the Second Amendment guarantees the individual right to keep and bear arms for self-defense
- 2009** Right-to-Carry protection expanded to include national parks

Bipartisan majority vote in U.S. Senate for Right-to-Carry reciprocity
- 2010** U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *McDonald v. City of Chicago* that the individual Second Amendment right is fundamental and applies to all law-abiding Americans
- 2017** Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke overturns last-minute Obama-era lead ban on federal land and issues a Secretarial Order improving and prioritizing hunting and recreational access to federal lands

President Trump signs bill protecting due process rights of Social Security recipients

Neil Gorsuch confirmed to U.S. Supreme Court

Justice Department ends Obama-era Operation Chokepoint

U.S. House passes the strongest Right-to-Carry reciprocity bill to ever be considered by Congress
- 2018** Brett Kavanaugh confirmed to U.S. Supreme Court



Due to the intense efforts of NRA-ILA, coupled with the backing of active NRA members and gun owners, the Second Amendment rights of Americans have been vastly expanded in states throughout the nation:

- Constitutional right to keep and bear arms in **44** state constitutions
- Firearm preemption laws or court decisions in **49** states
- Firearm lawsuit preemption laws in **34** states
- Emergency Powers legislation in **35** states
- Stand Your Ground laws in **30** states
- Right-to-Carry laws in **42** states
- Range Protection laws in all **50** states
- Hunter Protection laws in all **50** states
- Constitutional/permitless carry laws in **16** states
- Constitutional Right to Hunt and Fish amendments in **21** state constitutions

NRA-ILA also helps educate the news media and general public about the many facets of firearm ownership in America. Through online and printed fact sheets and brochures, NRA-ILA informs NRA members and the public about responsible firearm ownership, the Second Amendment and other topics. Through NRA-ILA's website, nraila.org, members and the public can get timely information about current and pending firearm legislation, as well as targeted local Second Amendment news.

NRA-ILA is involved in any issue that directly or indirectly affects gun owners and gun ownership. That is why NRA-ILA has been an active participant on a range of issues such as hunting and access to hunting lands; wilderness and wildlife conservation; civilian marksmanship training and shooting range issues; law enforcement issues; product liability; trapping; crime and criminal justice reform; and victims' rights.

NRA-ILA's staff of more than 100 employees is located in offices at NRA Headquarters in Fairfax, Va.; Washington, D.C.; and Sacramento, Calif. This includes a team of full-time lobbyists defending the Second Amendment on Capitol Hill, as well as in state legislatures and local government bodies throughout America.