Planning Ahead For 2020 Success

Planning ahead is critical to success. What’s on your chapter’s 2020 events calendar? Between social events and shooting competitions, fishing derbies and family outings, consider scheduling public events to bring new people to your chapter and raise your profile locally. Here are two great options:

- **National Shooting Sports Month (August 2020).** At least 3,000 shooting sports events were held this August, including some at League chapters, in a nationwide effort coordinated by the National Shooting Sports Foundation. League chapters engaged their communities, recruited new members, encouraged youth to take up shooting sports, and — perhaps most importantly — introduced the public to safe, responsible firearms use. You can read more about these chapter events on page 2.

  We want all our chapters with shooting facilities to enjoy the benefits of hosting a National Shooting Sports Month event. Now is the time to begin planning. You can find tips and tools to get your planning process started at [www.shootingsportsmonth.org](http://www.shootingsportsmonth.org).

- **National Hunting and Fishing Day (September 26, 2020).** Join the celebration recognizing the leadership of hunters and anglers in conserving America’s wildlife, fisheries, and wild places. As reported in the most recent issue of *Outdoor America* magazine, the Rockville Chapter in Maryland hosts an event every year that brings in up to 400 people to enjoy fishing, kayaking, archery, and more.

  You don’t have to be that ambitious for your first event — starting out with one activity related to hunting or fishing will do! And it’s a great way to publicize the conservation contributions of sportsmen and women. Get started with the National Hunting and Fishing Day toolkit at [www.nhfday.org](http://www.nhfday.org).

Hosting events such as these at your chapter is a perfect way to introduce your community — especially younger generations — to the outdoors, hunting, fishing, and shooting sports and will help your chapter stay “on target!”
Eighteen Izaak Walton League chapters reported hosting National Shooting Sports Month events in August to introduce new participants of all ages to shooting sports.

We commend these chapters for their initiative:

- Bill Cook (Wisconsin)
- East Fork (Iowa)
- Frederick #1 (Maryland)
- Glen Park (Indiana)
- Keokuk County (Iowa)
- Kewanee (Illinois)
- Linn County (Iowa)
- Lois Green-Sligo (Maryland)
- Lynchburg (Virginia)
- Martin L. Davey (Ohio)
- Medina (Ohio)
- Michigan City #7 Chapter (Indiana)
- Prince William (Virginia)
- Sunshine (South Dakota)
- Waterloo (Iowa)
- White Oak River (North Carolina)
- Wildlife Achievement (Maryland)
- York #67 (Pennsylvania)

Events varied from youth air rifle and archery (White Oak River and Lois Green-Sligo Chapters) to First Shots® programs (Linn County Chapter) and specialized how-to trap shooting clinics (Glen Park Chapter).

The Wildlife Achievement Chapter hosted a specialized women’s shotgun safety and shooting seminar.

Other chapters hosted day-long open house events with shooting demonstrations and hands-on opportunities for the public. One such event at the Lynchburg Chapter brought in 300 local residents and generated 61 new chapter members that day! Participants enjoyed the opportunities provided at these events. Here’s just some of the attendee feedback we heard:

- “I did not know how much there was to know about shooting archery, and you could have fun at the same time!” (Medina Chapter)
- “It was awesome to come out and see this facility! I didn't know this place was here.” (Frederick #1 Chapter)
- One group of first-time shooters was so excited that they “wanted to form an adult summer league team and shoot trap at the chapter next summer.” (East Fork Chapter)

This year was a great start, we encourage more League chapters to participate next year. More than 100 League chapters offer facilities for shooting sports, which means the League could host dozens more events to introduce new participants to shooting sports in 2020. Your options are limitless — from air rifles to trap and skeet or field archery. The only requirement is that an event be open to the public.

National Shooting Sports Month is a great opportunity for Izaak Walton League chapters to raise public visibility and promote shooting sports in local communities. Start planning now for an event in August 2020!

To learn more about National Shooting Sports Month, visit www.shootingsportsmonth.org or email League staff at shootingsports@iwla.org.
On Target: Featured Chapters

In each issue of Ikes On Target, we highlight chapters that promote shooting sports.

Under 500 Members —

Glen Park Chapter (Indiana)

Located in Merrillville, this chapter is considered to have the premier trap shooting ranges in northwest Indiana.

Trap Range Offers Voice Release and Night Lights

Along with the three trap fields, the chapter offers its 300 members and accompanied guests, indoor archery and pistol ranges as the perfect setting for recreational and practice shooting.

The chapter previously converted its banquet hall into a now-popular indoor archery facility with various types of targets available.

Indoor Pistol Range  Indoor Archery Range

Photos courtesy Glen Park Chapter IWLA Website

Lynchburg Chapter (Virginia)

The 325-acre chapter property located in Amherst County, includes a campground; swimming and fishing lakes; picnic areas; playgrounds; and rifle, pistol, shotgun, and archery shooting ranges.

Long-Distance Rifle Range

Along with a 50-yard pistol range, the chapter maintains the area’s only rifle range that extends out to 300 yards.

The chapter welcomes non-members to participate in any number of organized shooting events, including 300-yard target competitions, Cowboy Style and Action Shoots, and Silhouette and Vintage Military matches.

The chapter supports local 4-H Clubs and Boy Scout Troops with firearms and archery marksmanship training.

Field Archery Range

Photos courtesy Lynchburg Chapter IWLA Website

With an annual member count hovering at about 500, this chapter successfully hosted a well-attended 2019 National Shooting Sports Month event.

www.iwla.org/lynchburg
www.facebook.com/IzaakWaltonLeagueLynchburg

www.glenparkiw.org
www.facebook.com/glenparkizaakwalton
Quick Shots

Archery Range and Program Grant

Does your chapter want to build an archery range to give members and their families a place to shoot? Or maybe you want to create training programs to introduce members to basic archery techniques and/or next-step opportunities, such as bowhunting or bowfishing.

Whatever your archery goal, the Archery Trade Association (ATA) can help you achieve it through its new Archery Range and Program Grant.

Grant Details. ATA recognized the continuing need for more archery ranges and related programs. Such shooting sports facilities at IWLA chapters will increase local outdoor recreation opportunities, generate and retain members and income, create or expand archery-related training programs, and boost archery and bowhunting participation.

Applicants can request any amount, but funding is based on availability, and determined by ATA’s Archery Range and Program Grant Committee.

Who Can Apply? In our case, any League chapter with a 501(c)(3) status that wants funding to create archery programs or build or maintain ranges can apply. Chapters need not be ATA members, but have to become an ATA member to receive funding.

What Does This Range Grant Cover? This program could help support the following chapter projects:

- Building permanent archery ranges
- Purchasing program equipment (subject to additional requirements)
- Make archery range additions/renovations
- Establish archery mentor programs
- Conduct instructor certification trainings
- Implement archery program marketing efforts/campaigns

Note: The grant cannot be used to buy or lease property or to fund individual hunts, one-time events, or non-archery programs.

How to Apply. Complete the application and upload required documents, including tax forms, business plans, and project budgets at: http://archerytrade.org/grant/.

Key Dates to Remember. Grant applications and required documents are due December 1, 2019.

ATA will notify grant recipients on April 15, 2020. Recipients will receive funding in late-spring 2020.

Planning Ahead. If not applying this year, start now to develop plans for funding your chapter’s archery range and education programs and to prepare for the next grant application process in late 2020.

Range Development & Operations Conference

The next NRA Range Development & Operations Conference is scheduled for March 21-22, 2020 in North Charleston, South Carolina.

The conference is designed to educate current range owners and operators (such as IWLA chapters) about identifying potential problems associated with range development, environmental issues, and safety. Attendees will receive a multidisciplinary perspective on topics such as range construction and management, sound abatement, safety considerations, insurance and EPA lead standards.

Registration for the conference is $575 ($500 for NRA-affiliated clubs), which includes all conference materials as well as a copy of the NRA Range Source Book on CD-ROM.

Presentations will be given by America’s top experts on range development. The goal of the conference is to give attendees a forum to share their knowledge and ensure the public has a safe and convenient place to shoot for practice and recreation.

More details at https://rangeservices.nra.org/ or contact NRA Range Services staff at range@nrahq.org or 877-NRA-RANGE (672-72643).

Ikes On Target is a publication developed for IWLA chapter presidents and designated shooting sports coordinators.

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www.iwla.org/outdoor-recreation/shooting-sports