It’s not too soon for Izaak Walton League chapters to gear up for National Shooting Sports Month in August.

As many as 3,000 shooting sports events were held in August 2019 — including events at 18 League chapters — in a nationwide effort coordinated by the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

League chapters that hosted events successfully new volunteers, recruited new members, and introduced the public to safe, responsible firearms use.

After a great start in 2019, we have our ambitious goal for 2020: 50 percent of the 120 chapters with shooting sports facilities host a National Shooting Sports Month event this August.

The national office is already gearing up to help our chapters promote events and raise their visibility. We will highlight every chapter event on the national website (www.iwla.org/outdoor-recreation) and work one-on-one with chapters to further promote their events locally. Look for an emailed announcement next month with a simple online form for you to share event details for posting on the national website.

You can find tips and tools to planning and conducting a successful event at www.shootingsportsmonth.org or email League staff for more details at shootingsports@iwla.org.

Hosting a National Shooting Sports Month event is a great opportunity to raise public visibility, introduce your community to shooting sports, and help your chapter stay “on target!”
2020 Discounted Ammunition Offers For IWLA Chapters

Federal Youth Shotshell Program

Please share this information with any shooting instructors or youth shotgun shooting teams that you host at your IWLA chapter.

Vista Outdoors – owners of Federal Premium Ammunition – is offering bulk quantities of both 12- and 20-gauge trap and skeet grade ammunition at deeply discounted price (See detailed listing of the available shotshells on the enclosed yellow order form).

The deadline for ordering shotgun ammunition is April 30th ... Or until supplies are depleted.

This is a great program for chapters who sponsor a youth shooting team or host multiple youth shooting sports activities. Chapters hosting learn-to-shoot events for beginners (such as R3 outreach and National Shooting Sports Month events) may apply for shotgun shells, but requests will be reviewed individually by Vista Outdoors.

Federal CCI Youth Rimfire Program

Also consistent with the Vista Outdoors’ commitment to training the next generation of hunters and target shooters to be safe and proficient, the company is offering for a limited time, youth rimfire (.22 caliber Long Rifle) discount purchase program to approved organizations.

This ammunition is to be used in educational and training programs exclusively (See the enclosed gray order form).

They are accepting youth rimfire orders for a limited time between March 1st and March 22nd.

In either case, whether you are seeking shotgun or rimfire rifle ammunition, here are some reminders and important information to review before submitting your order(s):

- This purchase is for ammunition to be used in youth/educational programs exclusively and is not for resale.
- Order forms must be fully completed and signed and dated certifying your age.
- Payment by credit card is encouraged. Check payment is acceptable but may delay delivery.
- If your chapter is state sales tax exempt, you must submit the correct tax exemption paperwork with your order.
  Note: Federal IRS 501(C)(3) declaration letter is not the correct document.
- If your chapter is in a state where you must have a “Keeper of the Ammunition” certificate or there is a requirement that ammunition be shipped to an FFL holder, submit copies of required documents along with your orders in order to help expedite the ordering process.

Vista Outdoors and the League encourage chapters to register local youth shooting sports programs (shotgun and/or rimfire rifle) with the Youth Shooting Sports Alliance. It is free to register and will help other young people in your area find your program. Also grants may be available for your chapter’s youth shooting programs. Details at www.youthshootingsa.com/add-new-program

Please reach out to the Conservation and Youth Shooting Sports Program Manager - Federal Premium and CCI Ammunition, Jon Zinnel, via email jon.zinnel@vistaoutdoor.com with any questions on these or upcoming discount programs.

Likewise, we ask that you share with the IWLA national office at shootingsports@iwla.org and education@vistaoutdoor.com any stories and photos from your chapter’s youth shooting sports or learn-to-shoot events for beginners programs.

Shooting Sports Coordinators

Dear Chapter President: Does your chapter have an assigned Shooting Sports Coordinator? Why is this important?

Having a member volunteer in this position will help us provide your chapter with timely information about best practices for range management and other issues that affect hunters and recreational shooters at the local, state, and national levels. This member will also receive future shooting sports-related updates (and issues of Ikes On Target newsletters) from IWLA and NSSF and corporate s discount product offers.

If your chapter does not currently have such a position filled, please identify a member to this position and contact the League’s 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 —

Beloit Chapter (Wisconsin)
Located in south central Wisconsin, not far from the Illinois border, this chapter is considered to have the premier trap shooting ranges in the region.

Four Trap Range With Night Lights
The Beloit Chapter is host for four well-attended, seasonal trap leagues throughout the year. In addition, the chapter sponsors a youth shotgun league with a 10-week program to introduce youth to trapshooting and supports local high school trap teams.

Home For This Local High School Trap Team
Photos courtesy Facebook - Beloit Chapter IWLA

The chapter’s mission is simple but powerful: To provide ample opportunity to anyone that wants to be trained to be a safe, knowledgeable and responsible recreational shooter and hunter.

www.iwla.org/beloit
www.facebook.com/Izaak-Walton-Beloit-Chapter-Page-1234012916675208/

Over 500 Members —

Evansville Chapter (Indiana)
With an annual member count of about 800, this chapter offers a wide variety of shooting sports opportunities for its members and guests.

Located in southern Indiana and outside the Evansville city limits, this chapter maintains two trap fields, two skeet fields and a five-stand sporting clays range.

Five-Stand Sporting Clays
In addition to two recently remodeled pistol ranges, it operates a well-used 100-and 200-yard rifle range.

Long-Distance Rifle Range
Photos courtesy Evansville Chapter IWLA Website

Known locally as the “Conservation Club,” the chapter owns over 350 acres of land managed for deer and wild turkey. The property also includes numerous lakes filled with bass, catfish, bluegills and crappie.

www.iwla.org/evansville
Quick Shots

IWLA Endowment Grants
The Izaak Walton League of America Endowment’s goal is to help IWLA chapters with grant opportunities to carry out projects that wouldn’t otherwise be possible.

While the League seeks to protect America’s outdoors for future generations, the Endowment supports this mission by providing grants for conservation, outdoor recreation, and education projects. These include a wide range of activities, such as stream clean-ups, invasive species control, tree planting, and youth programs – including shooting sports.

Each year, the Endowment Board awards dozens of grants to chapters, divisions, and national IWLA programs. Grants range from $1,000 to $25,000 and are approved each July during the League’s National Convention.

Note: The IWLA Endowment does not fund land acquisition, building construction or repair. If you are unsure if your shooting sports-related project qualifies for a grant, contact Executive Secretary George Guyant at IWLAEndowment@gmail.com or call (715) 824-2405.

The May 1st deadline for grant request submissions is fast approaching. More details can be found online at www.iwla-endowment.org.

NSSF®
The Firearms Industry Trade Association

Compliance Questions?
As an Izaak Walton League “designated shooting sports” chapter, you are considered a member of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF).

In order to better serve the shooting sports community, the NSSF offers support services related to government compliance to help those chapters that are involved in promoting the sports, hosting events, and maintaining shooting facilities.

For example, those chapters that:
• Purchase, supply, and/or sell ammunition;
• Maintain paid staff to conduct shooting events;
• Require knowledge of federal regulatory; bookkeeping, and other requirements from ATF and the NICS processes; and
• Need to meet OSHA and EPA standards.

See the enclosed information insert and compliance hotline sticker sheet provided by NSSF.

IWLA Shooting Sports Awards
Annually, the IWLA Shooting Sports Awards recognize three individuals, groups, or organizations (member or non-member) judged to have done outstanding work to advance the shooting sports within or in support of the League during the past year.

The deadline for submitting a nominee is June 1st. You may download a nomination form at www.iwla.org/awards or request one via email at awards@iwla.org.

2020 National Hunting and Fishing Day
On September 26th, Americans across our country will be celebrating National Hunting and Fishing Day (NHFD). And in 2020 the Izaak Walton League of America is continuing our longtime national NHFD sponsorship.

IWLA chapters are encouraged to join the celebration recognizing the leadership of hunters and anglers in conserving America’s wildlife, fisheries, and wild places.

If your chapter has never hosted a NHFD event, start simply. For example, conduct one activity open to the public and related to hunting or fishing at your chapter. Or seek a public location to conduct a tabling event to promote how hunters and anglers fund conservation and invite people to join your chapter at the same time!

Get started with the National Hunting and Fishing Day toolkit at https://nhfday.org/.

Also, some funding may be available to groups that hold an event with a “NHF Day Live It!” grant. Deadline for this year’s grant request is May 31st.
Any questions can be directed to (417)225-1162 or nhfday@wondersofwildlife.org.

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