



IKES ON TARGET



PHOTO: JAY CLARK

Funding Available for League Shooting Ranges

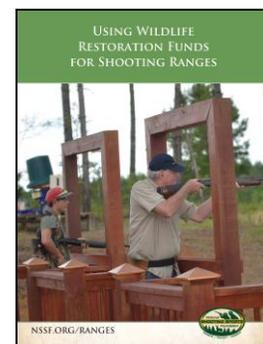
The Pittman-Robertson Act (P-R) – officially known as the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 – generates hundreds of millions of dollars each year for wildlife conservation, hunter education, and shooting programs. The funds come from excise taxes assessed on sales of domestic-made firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment.

How It Works: P-R funds are apportioned to each state based on a set formula. Each state may use some of the P-R funds to pay up to 75% of the costs of hunter safety programs and construction, operation, and maintenance of public shooting ranges. However, states are not required to use P-R funds on shooting ranges. The other 25% of funds for a project must be derived from state agency funds, such as hunting license fees.

Possible Funding: Some states use a portion of their P-R funds to make grants to nonprofit organizations or local governments for shooting range projects. Each state has its own criteria and application processes for these funds. In general, grant funds can be used for a wide range of projects on existing ranges while most states prohibit the use of grants for new construction or land acquisition. Most states also require grant recipients to contribute to total project costs, including with donated materials, volunteer labor, or other in-kind contributions.

Public Use Requirements: Most states require entities receiving grants to allow for some limited public use of ranges. Members-only organizations, including League chapters, are authorized to establish schedules and charge reasonable fees for such usage.

Grant Availability: To help chapters capitalize on this funding opportunity, the League has researched and summarized grant programs offered by states where the League has a significant presence: Colorado, Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio, Oregon, and Wisconsin. Our analysis summarizes authorized uses of grant funds, public use requirements, how to apply, and provides state agency contact information.



(Note: P-R funding summaries are enclosed only for chapters in these listed states.

They are also available on the League website at www.iwla.org/shootingsports.)

Use the enclosed copy of *Using Wildlife Restoration Funds for Shooting Ranges*, by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, which provide a broad overview of the use of P-R funds for public shooting ranges.

The availability of grants for shooting ranges – whether using P-R or other state agency funds – may not be well advertised. For more details, contact your state fish and wildlife agency's outdoor/hunter education administrator, or search the agency's website.

New funds for your range can help your chapter stay “on target.”

Other Funding Sources

There are other sources of potential funding and in-kind support for League chapter shooting ranges and shooting sports education and training programs.

Range Construction/Enhancement and Shooting Sports Outreach/Training Programs



Since its inception, The NRA Foundation has funded more than 15,000 grants totaling over \$100 million, becoming America's leading charitable organization in support of the shooting sports. IWLA chapters with a 501(c)(3) tax exempt status are in perfect position to apply for such grants.

Funds raised by *Friends of NRA* Committees are made available through State Fund Grants, which are awarded to projects that promote firearms and hunting safety and enhance the marksmanship skills of those participating in the shooting sports.

State Fund Grant Committees meet annually to review and recommend eligible projects for funding. Application submission deadlines vary and their meeting dates are determined independently within each respective state. The NRA Foundation has implemented an online grant application available at: www.nrafoundation.org/grants/statefund.asp.

Chapter Programs

The Izaak Walton League of America Endowment is another possible source of funding for chapter shooting sports programs.

The IWLA Endowment was established in 1943 as a special purpose foundation that today provides grants for IWLA chapter, division, and national conservation projects.

The Endowment gives priority to local chapter projects that support the goals and objectives of the League's Strategic Plan, including connecting more youth to the outdoors and engaging more people in outdoor recreation.

Grants for infrastructure projects (i.e., land acquisition, building structures) are not eligible.



However, in recent years the Endowment has supported chapters with grants to enhance their archery programs to purchase equipment.

The annual deadline for grant proposal submissions is May 1 (postmarked).

To request a grant application or other information, visit www.iwla-endowment.org or contact George Guyant, Executive Secretary, at (715) 824-2405 or iwlaendowment@gmail.com.

Skeet Range Enhancement



The purpose of the National Skeet Shooting Association (NSSA) Club Assistance Grant Program is to provide financial aid to

help sustain and grow the sport of skeet shooting. Founded in 1928, NSSA is the official governing and sanctioning body for this sport and a non-profit organization owned and operated by its members.

Grants up to \$5,000 are available for virtually any endeavor that will measurably grow the sport – particularly construction of new skeet fields. Procedures are as follows: The applicant must be affiliated with NSSA from the time the grant.

(Note: In this case, a chapter would need to join the NSSA in order to be considered.)

The completed application should include a supporting letter stating the reason why this grant is needed, such as why a new field is being built, how many fields the club currently has, and how the new field will benefit your members. Pre-construction pictures must be included as part of the application process.

Among other requirements, the applicant must demonstrate consistent support of NSSA, host NSSA registered events, and provide a sound business plan that supports the financial stability of the club.

Annual submission deadline is December 31st. The NSSA Executive Committee authorizes grants in January.

More details, including full guidelines for applying for a grant or to see a sample grant application letter, can be found online at <https://nssa-nasca.org>.

Youth Shooting Program Support



The Youth Shooting Sports Alliance (YSSA) believes that “introducing young people to the pleasures and responsibilities of shooting is our most important task in ensuring that our shooting and hunting traditions remain intact.”

Each fall, the YSSA conducts its annual National Youth Shooting Sports Program Needs Assessment to identify youth shooting sports programs that are being limited in growth by their need for additional equipment and supplies. IWLA chapter youth program leaders are welcomed and encouraged to submit an application for such support.

The shooting sports industry receives numerous requests annually from youth and social organizations seeking financial and product support. As a service to the shooting sports industry, the YSSA provides guidance as to which of these programs should be considered as priority in having the greatest return on investment measured by projected program growth and participation.

More details on loaner shooting equipment, discounted ammunition, and possible grant funding from YSSA can be found online at <http://youthshootingsa.com/home>.

National Hunting and Fishing Day Event Support



The National Hunting and Fishing (NHF) Day Live It! Grant is a proactive, grassroots program supported by Yamaha to celebrate hunters and anglers and all they do for conservation.

This grant is provided annually by Wonders of Wildlife, which coordinates NHF Day, to deserving organizations to help further the goal of “connecting everyone to the outdoors.” Applications are accepted from organizations that focus on conservation and promote hunting and fishing. A committee will review each

application and award grants to help fund deserving events.

All events must be NHF Day focused and hosted in August/September of the current year. Events that may qualify for funding include fishing derbies, hunting or outdoor expos, and mentored hunting experiences for kids.

Examples of how these grants can be used include equipment rental for an event, marketing of the event, and purchasing outdoor equipment.

Grant applications will be accepted April 1 - May 31. All materials must be postmarked by May 31 to be considered for funding. Applications will be reviewed by June 17 and funds will be distributed by June 30.

To apply for a NHF Day Live It! Grant, download the Guidelines and Application Form at www.nhfday.org.

For questions regarding the NHF Day Live It! Grant, IWLA chapters can contact Wonders of Wildlife at (417)225-1118 or nhfday@wondersofwildlife.org or write to Wonders of Wildlife, 500 West Sunshine, Springfield, MO 65807.

Other Possible Sources



Other conservation organizations (noted on left) may also offer grants in support of youth shooting sports programs.

We recommend that you visit these organizations' websites, where you will be directed to either a “Chapter Locator,” “Regional Chairman” or “Regional Director.” Send a letter, e-mail, or call the person at the number listed to learn about the grant application process.

Be prepared to meet with their organization's local committee/chapter or go to a fundraising banquet. Fundraising banquets are a great place to ask for help, show your support, and establish a partnership with your IWLA chapter.

New Corporate Partnership

A new opportunity for League chapters was recently announced that will help those who are engaging youth in the shooting sports.



Throughout the year, **Federal Premium** offers target ammunition for purchase at a discounted price to eligible non-profit organization's youth programs.

Consistent with its deep commitment to training the next generation of hunters and shooters to be safe and proficient, Federal offers a limited **Youth Shotshell, Youth Rimfire and Shooting Accessories Program** to approved organizations.

Normally this corporate offer was limited to approved youth shooting sports education organizations: 4H Shooting Sports, SCTP, AIM, Boy Scouts, FFA Shooting Sports, USAYESS, High School Shooting Sports Programs, Collegiate programs. However, others such as IWLA chapters are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

This may be limited to one order per organization each seasonal offering, no individual shooter orders. This is for ammo to be used in youth shooting sports programs exclusively, such as marksmanship training and hands-on hunter education, and is not for resale.

Interested IWLA chapters meeting these criteria are encouraged to reach out to education@vistaoutdoor.com to be added to their mailing list for these special program offerings. You will then receive any mailings they send out announcing such offers for shotshells, rimfire ammo, and shooting accessories. Be sure to identify your IWLA chapter's name (include Izaak Walton League in title) and location (city, state), and describe the types of youth shooting sports activities you conduct and the estimated number of youth in your programs.

How To Apply For Grants

The League has long been the beneficiary of grants from various sources, including foundations, government agencies, and endowments. Chapters with a 501(c)(3) tax

exemption status can and *should* seek and receive such grants and donations.

Fundraising is 90 percent planning and 10 percent asking. Once you have an idea for your program or project, the planning begins.

The planning process includes:

- Information gathering
- Assessing your resources
- Finding potential grantors
- Writing the proposal
- Grant reporting obligations

You can find extensive how-to details in the *IWLA Chapter Manual*, Unit II: "Finance, Legal and Fund Raising" on pages 15 to 22 and supporting appendices C, D, and E.

New IWLA Award for 2017

The League recently announced its newest national award – the Shooting Sports Award – to recognize individuals, groups, and organizations (member or non-member) judged to have done outstanding work to advance the shooting sports within or in support of the Izaak Walton League during the past year.

More details are available on the League's website at www.iwla.org/awards.

In The Next Issue

The next issue of *Ikes On Target* will include news about the "National Hunting and Shooting Sports Action Plan" (also known as the R3 Initiative) – a national strategy to recruit, retain, and reactivate hunters and recreational shooters.

The current issue of *Outdoor America* magazine (2017 Issue 1) offers an informative article on the topic, "A Roadmap for the Future of Hunting and Shooting Sports," which you can find online at www.iwla.org/publications.

Ikes On Target is a publication mailed to current chapter presidents and designated shooting sports coordinators.

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For more information, contact:

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Check out www.iwla.org/shootingsports today!

