



# Youth Shotgun Shooting Sports Programs - 2025

St. Joseph County Conservation & Sportsman Club, Inc.

23640 Featherstone Rd, Sturgis, MI  
[www.conservationclub.net](http://www.conservationclub.net)



**4-H SHOOTING SPORTS**



**SCHOLASTIC CLAY TARGET PROGRAM (SCTP)**



**A.I.M. – YOUTH ATA TRAP PROGRAM**

**Coach Contact Info: 269-483-6803 or e-mail [trapgeek2010@gmail.com](mailto:trapgeek2010@gmail.com)**

**Team Facebook Page: [/stjoecountystraightshooterstrap](https://www.facebook.com/stjoecountystraightshooterstrap)**

## 2025 Youth Shotgun Practice Schedule

Sunday	Feb 23	2:00 pm	<b><u>Initial Sign-up Day!</u></b>
Sunday	Mar 2	2 - 4:00 pm	<b><u>Shooting Starts</u></b>
Sunday	Mar 9	2 - 4:00 pm	Practice
Sunday	Mar 16	9 am	<b>ATA Registered Trap*</b>
<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	<b>Mar 18</b>	6 - 8:00 pm	<b>Tuesday Practices**</b>
<b><u>Saturday</u></b>	<b>Apr 5</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>SCTP Fun Shoot</b>
<b><u>Sunday</u></b>	<b>May 18</b>	<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>Fund Raiser Shoot</b>

*\*NO PRACTICE on ATA Shoot Dates. Shoot fees set by Club youth rates.*

\*\*Practice switches to **TUESDAY** evenings on **March 18 and run until Sept 9, unless otherwise noted**, Tuesday shooting times are from **6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** unless there is a conflict with a club event or other practices are scheduled. You will be notified of any changes to this schedule. Open trap and skeet shooting on Sunday mornings (9 am) at the Club are also open to the youth at youth prices. **No practice if blizzards or tornados!** A **Hunter's Education certificate is required** (or other firearm safety training) to participate.

- **Make sure we have your current mobile contact information**
- **We will communicate with the team by text messaging and group chats and team Facebook postings (see below)**
- **Team Facebook Page: ... /stjoecountystraightshooterstrap**

## SCTP and AIM Information

**SCTP** (Scholastic Clay Target Program) and **AIM** (Athletics, Integrity, and Marksmanship) - a program of the ATA (Amateur Trapshooting Association) each have small participation fees for these programs. SCTP State Shoot and AIM State Shoot are held at Mason, MI. ***The National SCTP Shoot is held in Marengo Ohio in July and we plan on attending again this year.*** There are other shoots available and a schedule will be given separately. Program fees set by each program.

## Club ATA Registered Trap Shoot Information

There will be 5 ATA Registered Trap Shoots held at our club. AIM youth can shoot in these competitions. SCTP & 4H members who join the ATA may also shoot in these. Youth membership fee is \$12 annually. You can also join at any ATA shoot. The 2025 Club ATA Shoot Dates are: **3/16, 4/13, 6/7 and 8, 8/25, 10/13**, plus 8 mini-ATA shoots called **BIG 50's** scheduled later this year in the fall (Sept-Nov).

## ABOUT OUR TEAM

- The **St. Joe County Straight Shooters** is a mixed club team with youth from many different schools, including home schooled students.
- The student athletes involved are mostly from within our county, however we accept youth from other surrounding areas as well.
- These programs are all about youth development. We also believe the future of our sport will continue if we help our youth become responsible, active participants, and grow to be honest, respectful adults. And you get to meet great kids beyond your school!
- The team is active from February sign-up date until mid-September each year with weekly practices.
- The youth programs are equal opportunity activities and do not discriminate by race, sex, religion, ethnicity, national origin; age restrictions may apply only per program or by law.

The team has received many **NRA Foundation** and **MidwayUSA Foundation** Grants to help support youth participation in these beneficial programs. The team also has received donations from **Pheasants Forever** and **SCTP**.



## **HUNTER SAFETY EDUCATION & FIREARM SAFETY:**

Hunter Education (HE) classes (or an equivalent firearm safety training) are required before participating in the youth shooting sports programs. The Club HE classes are conducted free of charge and several classes are held at the Club each year for both youth and adults. There are also internet and home study courses. Check the MI DNR website online for class dates.

**OUR COACHING PHILOSOPHY:** Always ***“Safety First, Fun Second!”*** We coach with integrity and respect for all our youth athletes. We coach ***“two-deep”*** meaning your child is never alone with one adult, for your child’s safety and your peace of mine.

## ABOUT THE PROGRAMS WE OFFER

*Team members choose from any or all of the following:*

### **4-H SHOOTING SPORTS:**

For youth ages 12-19 the Club offers the shotgun shooting sports of trap and skeet. Double Trap may also be offered at the county level. The Club holds practices on Tuesday nights April through mid-September. The state tournament is held somewhere in Michigan usually in July or August and the county shoot is held in September at our Club before the St. Joseph County Grange Fair. A Fair book still project is required for trophy and medal eligibility at the Fair.

### **SCHOLASTIC CLAY TARGET PROGRAM:**

For youth in ***Grades 12*** and under, a ***Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP)*** team offers shotgun competition in trap, skeet, and/or sporting clays. The breakdown of youth groups is below:

- **Rookies:** Grade 5 and under
- **Intermediate:** Grade 6 - 8
- **Senior:** Grades 9-12

The team practices concurrently with the 4-H & AIM programs to allow youth to participate in all programs. SCTP has a “team” orientation versus an individual orientation. However, some individual awards are available. There are optional competitions at the local, State, and National levels. We choose which competitions we want to participate in. The National Shoot is a multi-day shoot normally held in July in Marengo, OH. There are also opportunities for Olympic “Bunker” Trap and Olympic Skeet.

### **AIM – Trap Shooting from ATA:**

AIM stands for Academics, Integrity, and Marksmanship. This program is for youth shooters from grade school through college age. Our Club offers this program for additional optional competitive trap (*and now skeet and sporting clays*) shooting opportunities with the ATA, the Amateur Trapshooting Association. This program offers individual, as well as, team awards. The AIM National Competition is in August in Sparta, IL.

Classification by “age group” for AIM participants are as follows:

- 11 and under – Pre-sub
- 12-14 – Sub-Junior
- 15-18 – Junior
- 19-22 – Junior Gold

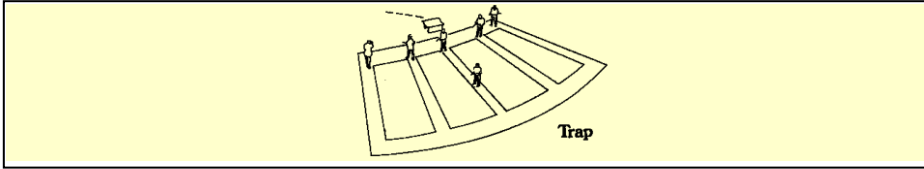
*The age group categories are based on the youth’s age on Sept 1 of the current ATA “target year” and continues thru Aug 31.*

### **High School Clay Target League (HSCTL):**

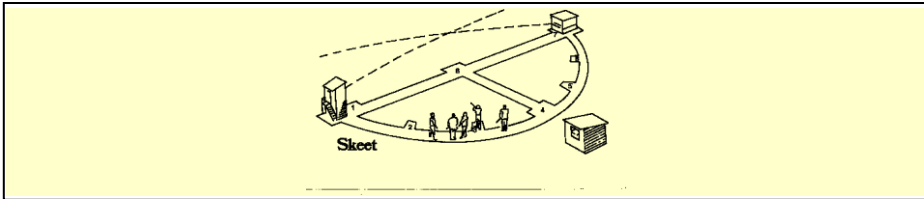
See your individual High School to learn if they offer this program. Currently Constantine and Vicksburg offer this sport through our Club.

## THE SHOTGUN “CLAY TARGET” SPORTS

**TRAP SHOOTING:** A “round of Trap” is 25 thrown clay targets shot at random angles away from the shooters from 5 “posts”. There are 3 games of standard American Trap – Singles from the 16-yard line, Doubles from the 16-yard line, and Handicap anywhere from 19 to 27 yards behind the trap machine depending on assigned yardage and ability. The trap machine oscillates between each shot (except in the game of Doubles). The programs of 4-H, SCTP, and AIM each hold trap shooting events at the local, state, and national levels. It is one of the fastest growing youth sports.



**SKEET SHOOTING:** A Skeet round is 25 crossing clay targets from a high and low house in a semi-circle consisting of 8 stations. Some targets are thrown as Singles targets and others are Doubles, depending on the specific station. The 4-H, SCTP, and AIM programs each have skeet shooting at the local, state, and national levels.



**SPORTING CLAYS:** Often referred to as “golf with a shotgun” as each sporting clays range is different in layout and target presentation. Plus, the arrangement of the target throwing machines are often changed to make the game more interesting. Our Club has a modified form of Sporting Clays called “5-Stand” for sporting clays practice or as a game in itself. Sporting Clays competition is currently offered by the SCTP and AIM programs and there are local, state, and national competitions. Sporting Clays is the most difficult of the shotgun sports to master, but can be the most fun!

## St Joe County Shotgun Team Rules & Safety Rules

**TOBACCO & DRUGS:** Team members take good care of their bodies and respect all laws regarding tobacco, alcohol, and drugs. They do not commit the following violations:

- Possession or use of alcohol or illegal drugs – this violation will **terminate participation on our team!**
- **No Drugs, No Way, No Time! It’s a Safety Thing and It’s Illegal! Period.**
- **No Smoking on Club grounds or during any team events. No smoking by ANYONE under 21.**

**FIREARM SAFE HANDLING RULES:** *These primary NRA firearm safety rules are MANDATORY!*

- **Always Treat All Firearms as if They Were Loaded**
- **Always Keep Firearm Pointed in a Safe Direction**
- **Always Keep Finger Off Trigger Until Ready to Shoot**
- **Always Keep Action Open & Unloaded Until Ready to Shoot**

**TEAM RULES:** Team members will also know and practice all of the following:

1. **Always follow all firearm safe handling rules.** Always treat all firearms as if they are loaded. **AT ALL TIMES!**
2. Always follow the instruction of the Coaches with respect for the safety of everyone.
3. Eye Protection and Ear (hearing) Protection are mandatory. Our team has some for your use if you do not have any.
4. No open toe shoes on the range. No resting the shotgun on the toe or any part of the body. This is a rule for all youth shooting sports programs. Violations will get you disqualified.
5. Shell pouch, shooting vest, or belt with shell box are required. Our team has some for use if you don’t have any.
6. Horseplay during practices and competition is strictly forbidden. It’s a safety and respect thing.

**ACADEMICS:** Team members place academic performance as a priority. They must be eligible by their school’s standards in order to participate in this extracurricular sport, just as they would for a school sponsored sport. Parent’s responsibilities are to ensure their athlete is not in academic jeopardy.

**BULLYING:** **At no time will bullying or hazing be tolerated.** Team members will show respect for others, be kind, be courteous.

## 2025 PLANNED TEAM EVENTS & COMPETITIONS\*

EVENT AND LOCATION	DATE
1) SCTP SW MI Club Conf Trap & 5-Stand "FUN SHOOT" @ St. Joe Co. Cons Club (OUR HOME CLUB)	April 5
2) SCTP SW MI Club Conf "Fun Shoot" Trap & Sporting Clays @ Hillsdale	April 19
3) Spring Fling Trap @ Mason	April 26
4) SCTP SW MI Conference Champ Trap @ Mason	May 3
5) Howard TWP Youth Trap @ Niles	May 10
6) "Pull-4-Pledges" Home Fund-Raiser <i>*Funds raised by our team to be matched by Pheasants Forever up to \$1500</i>	May 18
7) SCTP SW Club Conf Champ Skeet & Sporting Clays @ Kent Co Cons. League	May 18
8) SCTP SW Conf "Fun" Skeet & Sporting @ Capital Area Sportsman League	June 14
9) SCTP State Trap Champion @ Mason	June 29
10) SCTP State Skeet & Clays Champion @ Mason (Skeet 6/26-27 & Clays 6/27-28)	June 26-28
11) AIM MI State Trap Champion @ Mason	July 5
12) SCTP National Championship @ Cardinal Center, Marengo, Ohio [7/18&19]	<i>Week of July 14-19</i>
13) Fall Brawl Trap @ Mason	Sept 22

*\*As a team we decide which shoots to go to, and the team members choose which shoots to attend. However, we must pre-register within set dates to participate in each of these shoots. Commitment to the team is very important!*



# PULL-4-PLEDGES "FUN-RAISER" 25

## YOUTH TRAP TEAM FUND RAISER FOR SCTP STATE AND NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

- **When:** Sunday, May 18 at 1:00 pm, we will hold our annual fund raiser and internal fun trap competition
- **What:** This will be 2 rounds of regular trap for a total of 50 targets
- **Cost:** *Minimum of 3 Sponsors to participate!*
- A light lunch will be available (*suggested donation*)
- **Trophies:** Top scores in each Division (*if more than 5 athletes participate in the division, otherwise Divisions may be combined*):
  - Rookie (grade 5 and below)
  - Intermediate (grades 6-8)
  - Senior (grades 9-12)
  - Plus, the athlete that brings in the Most Sponsors and the athlete that brings in the MOST Money will also win trophies! This can be the same or different individuals.

**Contact:** 269-483-6803 for more information or to get your Sponsor Pledge forms. Forms must be turned in before shooting.

*\*Not Tax-deductible*

## ABOUT OUR COACHES

Our 9 shotgun coaches are certified by either SCTP, NRA/USAS/CMP, 4-H, ATA, or hold multiple certifications. Background checks are performed on each coach per program rules.



**Leslie York, Head Coach:** Leslie is an ATA and NRA/USAS Level 2 Certified Shotgun Coach. She also has certifications in 4-H and is a Hunter Ed instructor. She shoots trap competitively and recreationally.



**Larry York, Assistant Coach:** Larry is an ATA and NRA/USAS Level 1 shotgun coach. He is certified by 4-H and is a Hunter Ed instructor and shoots trap competitively and recreationally.



**Bill Thompson, Asst. Coach:** Bill is an NRA Level 1 shotgun coach, is also certified by 4-H, and is a Hunter Education Instructor. Shoots trap & skeet recreationally.



**Pete Davis, Assistant Coach:** Pete is an SCTP shotgun coach, a hunter, and a Hunter Ed instructor. Shoots trap recreationally.



**Jim & Karen Perlberg, Asst. Coaches:** Jim and Karen are certified Shotgun coaches with SCTP and shoot trap competitively and recreationally.



**Charles Fritts, Asst. Coach:** Chuck is an SCTP certified Shotgun coach and Head Coach of the Schoolcraft Eagles High School Trap Team in the separate High School Clay Target League.



**Kevin Reinbold, Asst. Coach:** Kevin is an NRA Certified shotgun coach and previously coached a youth team in Nebraska. Kevin shoots skeet primarily.



**Ava Larson, Asst. Coach:** Ava is an avid ATA competitive trapshooter that is in the process of obtaining her SCTP coaching credentials. Ava shot trap on a youth SCTP team herself and hunts with her dad.

## ABOUT THE SJCCC CLUB



The St. Joseph County Conservation and Sportsman Club (SJCCC), Inc. encompasses 182 acres and was first established in 1937 to promote conservation, fishing, hunting, and the safe, ethical participation in the shooting sports. It is a membership-based club that is all-volunteer and a civic 501 c (4) non-profit. Some scheduled activities are open to the public, including the shotgun sports.

### THE CLUB OFFERS OPEN TRAP & SKEET – YEAR ROUND

**TRAP** St Joseph County Conservation & Sportsman Club trap is open to the public “year-round” on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am and Tuesday Evenings at 6pm (*usually Mar - Nov*).

**SKEET** The Club also has a Skeet Field open Sunday 9am & Tues 6pm (*on Tuesdays skeet usually runs Mar through Nov*).

**5-STAND & Sporting Clays** The Club’s 5-Stand range has 8 machines, throwing Standard, Rabbit, and Midi targets. Open Sun 9am & Tues 6pm, weather permitting. (*5-Stand is closed in winter.*) Other type targets are planned for 2025.

**CLUB WEBPAGE:** Go to [www.conservationclub.net](http://www.conservationclub.net) for information, membership, upcoming events and more!

