

## **Marion County Fish & Game Junior Rifle Program**

Marion County Fish & Game Association (MCF&G) offers a Junior Rifle Program to develop marksmanship skills in young individuals wishing to participate and compete in the shooting disciplines of 3-P smallbore, Precision 3-P Air Rifle and International Air Rifle. Participation in the Junior Rifle Program is open to the public for juniors under the age of 21. The skills of rifle marksmanship are taught through weekly supervised practice sessions that educate young shooters in safe gun handling, range rules and etiquette, and rifle shooting from the three positions of prone, standing and kneeling. Outdoor smallbore marksmanship training occurs during the months of April through September. Indoor air rifle training runs from October through March. The goal of the program is to develop and encourage participation in organized competitions that are approved by the NRA or USA Shooting. Membership and levels of participation in the MCF&G Junior Rifle Program are as follows:

1. **Introductory / Probationary Period.** Juniors new to competitive smallbore and air rifle may apply to participate in the program at an introductory and probationary status. Juniors wishing to participate at this level can attend the program for a one month period (4 practice sessions) without obligation to join. This allows the junior shooter and parent, or guardian, an opportunity to learn about the program and determine if there is a greater interest in participation and skill development. MCF&G will provide the junior applicant with a rifle, ammunition, basic equipment, instruction and supervision. There is no set minimum age requirement for junior participation; however, age 12 is considered a starting point. The actual starting age depends on critical factors such as the junior's interest, maturity, ability to take instruction, and support from the parent or guardian. If at the end of the introductory period, should MCF&G have concerns about a junior's participation in the program; it may be recommended that future participation be postponed to a later date. There is no fee for juniors who are part of a family membership to MCF&G and wish to participate in the Introductory Period. For non-members of MCF&G, there is a \$10.00 fee for each junior who wishes to participate in the four week Introductory Period.
  
2. **Participation Status.** Applicants who have successfully attended the Introductory Period are welcome to actively participate in the Junior Rifle Program. MCF&G will continue to provide the junior participant with a rifle, ammunition, necessary equipment, instruction and supervision during weekly practices at MCF&G. Participation Status requires fee payment to MCF&G to cover the cost of ammunition, targets and equipment usage. The following options of payment are available to junior participants:
  - a. A non-member of MCF&G can participate in the Junior Rifle program at a \$ 115.00 semi-annual fee, or \$20 per month.
  - b. Becoming a member of MCF&G will provide the junior shooter with many benefits, to include a reduced semi-annual participation fee of \$55.00, or \$10 per month.

- c. Junior participants that are not members of MCF&G, but have at least attained an NRA Classification of Sharpshooter or USA Shooting level D Classification in 3-P smallbore or air rifle, will pay a semi-annual fee of \$25.00.
- d. Junior participants that are members of MCF&G and have attained an NRA Classification of Sharpshooter or USA Shooting level D Classification in 3-P smallbore or air rifle, will only pay a semi-annual fee of \$15.00.
- e. Junior participants that are members of MCF&G and have attained an NRA Classification of Expert or USA Shooting level C Classification in 3-P smallbore or air rifle, will only be required to pay a semi-annual fee of \$5.00.

The semi-annual fee provides the junior shooter with use of a rifle, targets and frames, shooting mat, spotting scope and stand, kneeling roll, shooting glove, rifle sling, hand stop, and offhand stand with ammunition box. Ammunition for practice will be provided by MCF&G for Juniors at Participation Status 2.a or 2.b. Juniors at Participation Status 2.c, 2.d. or 2.e. will be responsible for providing their own ammunition; however, a lesser grade practice ammunition, if available, may be purchased by the parent or guardian from MCF&G at a discounted cost. Additional targets, beyond those provided for regular weekly practice, may be purchased by the Junior at Participation Status 2.c, 2.d. or 2.e. The benefit of purchasing practice ammunition and additional targets from MCF&G will also be made available to Juniors at Participation Status 2.b.

The Junior shooter and his/her parent or guardian is responsible for the proper use of MCF&G equipment. Any equipment that is lost or damaged due to mistreatment or neglect shall be replaced or repaired, as determined by MCF&G, at cost to the parent or guardian. Rifles are to be used exclusively for the purpose of target practice and match competitions. Available MCF&G equipment will be issued based on the junior's skill level and commitment to the program. MCF&G does have some clothing (i.e. shooting coats and pants) that may fit a junior participant and will be loaned if available. Junior shooters are encouraged to purchase their own clothing. Funds of the Junior Rifle Program will typically not be used to purchase clothing.

The Junior Rifle Program is a great way for the parents or guardian to share in the development of the young shooter, meet other people interested in marksmanship and promote the shooting sports. The parents or guardian of the junior participant must be involved in the Junior Rifle Program to insure its success. The initial step to accomplish this is for the parent or guardian to make sure your junior participant is prepared for attending practice on a regular basis. Parents must also participate in program support activities. Examples of these activities include but are not limited to: range set up before and clean up after weekly practices, learning the fundamentals of 3-P shooting to reinforce coaching, scoring targets at matches, officiating matches, administrating matches, participation in fund raising activities and helping to administer the Junior Rifle Program itself.

It is important for participants to understand that the instructors and administrators of the MCF&G Junior Rifle Program are volunteers. Without their time, effort and dedication, the Junior Rifle Program would not exist at MCF&G. At times, changes to the Junior Rifle Program may be necessary. Efforts will be made to consult with participants concerning any changes to the program; however the final decision and time of implementation will ultimately be made by the program director.