



JAKES
TAKE
AIM NWTF
MANUAL

The graphic features a target with a red bullseye and a yellow center. The word 'TAKE' is in green, 'AIM' is in yellow, and 'MANUAL' is in black. A turkey is positioned behind the 'M' and 'NWTF' text. The background is a warm orange and yellow gradient with circular patterns.

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I. JAKES Take Aim program description

The NWTF's JAKES Take Aim program was made possible by a generous donation from Larry and Brenda Potterfield, founders of MidwayUSA. The goal of the JAKES Take Aim program is to present opportunities for youth age 17 and younger to try target shooting, clay target shooting and shotgunning in a safe, fun environment.

We will accomplish this goal through two programs.

1. Airgun program: each NWTF state chapter in the lower 48 states will receive a fully equipped airgun trailer to use during local JAKES/youth events. The trailer contains everything needed to set up an indoor or outdoor airgun range.

2. Shotgun program: through local shooting ranges and gun clubs, youth can shoot sporting clays. The program will pay for clay targets and ammunition for registered and approved events.

Each year NWTF chapters across the United States and Canada host JAKES (Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics and Sportsmanship) events to help pass on the traditions of responsible hunting, teach the principles of habitat management, hunting ethics and safety. Many JAKES events will incorporate the JAKES Take Aim airgun trailers.



II. Planning your JAKES Take Aim event

a. Safety first

Safety is the most important factor when conducting an event. The most critical element of JAKES events is the safety of the participants. You can have fun and be safe at the same time. Please see the Safety Script in this manual to use for your airgun instruction.

When you are planning your event, ask the following questions:

- Is the equipment safe and in proper working order?
- Do you have eye and ear protection for all volunteers and participants?
- Based on the number of children, do you have enough volunteers to have small groups?
- Is a first aid kit available? Does everyone know where it is located?
- Is one person in charge of handling emergency situations?
- Is a phone nearby to call for assistance if needed?

10 rules of shooting safety

Airguns are real guns; not toys. You or others can be killed or seriously injured if these rules are not followed.

1. Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. There are several safe "carries" depending on the situation. NEVER ALLOW THE MUZZLE TO POINT TOWARD A PERSON.
2. Treat every gun as if it is loaded. Never take anyone's word about whether or not a gun is loaded. Always check a gun to see if it is loaded when removed from storage or received from another person. Even if you have fired an airgun one or more times and no pellet or BB was expelled from the barrel, the magazine may not be empty. Any airgun can fail to feed for many reasons. ALWAYS TREAT A GUN AS IF IT IS LOADED EVEN IF YOU KNOW IT ISN'T.
3. Only load or cock a gun when you are shooting. A loaded gun has no place in your home or anywhere else.

4. Check your target and beyond your target before shooting. Be sure all persons are well clear of the target area before you shoot. You must be certain you have a safe backstop and that no person or property could be endangered.
5. Anyone shooting or near a shooter should wear shooting glasses. Also, all other persons should remain behind the shooter.
6. Never climb or jump with a gun. You can't control the direction of the muzzle if you stumble or fall. Safely lay the gun down or hand it to a companion if you must climb or jump.
7. Avoid ricochet. Never shoot at a flat, hard surface or at water. Ammunition can ricochet off water just like a skipped rock.
8. Keep the muzzle clear. Never let anything obstruct the muzzle of a gun. Don't allow the muzzle to come in contact with the ground.
9. Keep guns unloaded when not in use. Keeping guns unloaded when not in use is critical to the safety of you and others. When you finish shooting, put the trigger safety in the "on" position and unload the gun. Store guns so they are inaccessible to untrained shooters and store ammunition separately from the gun.
10. Respect other people's property. You should always leave another person's property exactly as you found it.

b. Audience

All events must be for youth ages 17 and younger. All children who attend your event must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Be sure to make this requirement clear on all registration materials.

The JAKES and JAKES Take Aim programs can be incorporated at many events including:

- Traditional JAKES events. The inflatable airgun range, outdoor airgun range or shotgunning event can be one of the stations youth rotate through during one day.
- Festivals, fairs or expos. Many chapters hold JAKES Take Aim Events in conjunction with other conservation organizations or state/community funded events. This is a good option for chapters that do not have the resources to hold an event on their own.
- Local sporting goods stores, banquets, schools, or anywhere that children are going to be present (and you have permission to use the range and shoot).

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d. Membership

Where applicable, the registration charge for a JAKES Take Aim program should include a JAKES membership – especially the shotgunning events. The NWTF's outreach programs count on the financial support of membership dollars to accomplish the NWTF's mission: the conservation of the wild turkey and the preservation of our hunting heritage.

If a participant is a current member, their membership fee will be waived but they must pay the event fee. Verify all memberships.

HOW TO PAY FOR MEMBERSHIPS

Membership is recommended for all attendees. Here are ideas for ways to pay for membership:

1. We strongly recommend charging a fee to participants to help cover the cost of membership. Your chapter may want to offer scholarships for participants who cannot afford to pay.
2. Find a local sponsor to cover some or all of the cost of memberships.
3. Set aside outreach contributions on your banquet financial report to cover the cost of membership.



e. Planning

Plan ahead! The more involved your activities are and the more participants you have, the more time you will need to plan. The following guidelines will help you prepare for a successful event.

- Chapter affiliation: All JAKES Take Aim events must be affiliated with an NWTF chapter. Chapter involvement ensures that outreach events are protected by NWTF's liability insurance coverage, which is extremely important to event participants and the NWTF.
- Look for funding: State chapters may have funding available through the state Hunting Heritage Super Fund, the state Outreach Fund and/or the Versa Max Fund. Contact your NWTF regional director for information about applying for these funds.

f. Program Requirements

Events must be registered with the NWTF six weeks prior to taking place (see forms section). Each participant's parent or guardian must sign a release form (see forms section). Requests for the trailer should be made at least four weeks in advance through the state contact.

The chapter/agency must report the number of youth who shoot at each event using the JAKES Reporting Form (see forms section).

This information is vital to the program and will help determine the continuation of the grant that helps fund JAKES Take Aim.

g. Location and facility

You need a good location for your event. Determine what type of range you will need using the "Select and set up your range" guidelines in this manual. Once you know what type of JAKES Take Aim event you will host, begin researching locations. Always visit the location prior to the event. You must provide restroom facilities. If your location does not have adequate facilities, portable restrooms can be rented.

National forests, gun clubs, 4-H camps, hunting preserves and private properties often provide the necessary room and facilities required for a quality event. Special consideration should be given to shelter from weather, adequate parking and safety. Also, consider how many participants can be accommodated comfortably at the facility.

Check all facilities at least one day before the event. Make sure to have access to your facility by securing keys to gates or doors. Ensure electricity and water are turned on, and that heating/cooling units are operating.

Make sure the facility is handicap accessible. Even if you do not have a disabled participant registered, you should always be prepared.

III. Airgun program

a. About the trailer

The trailer is the property of the NWTF and is part of the JAKES Take Aim program, made possible by a generous donation from Larry and Brenda Potterfield, founders of MidwayUSA. Each state chapter is responsible for maintaining, storing, scheduling and restocking the trailer. See detailed instructions in this manual.

The trailer is a 6-foot by 10.5-foot, V-nose trailer, equipped with a single axle. It weighs 1,100 pounds unloaded. There are two doors: one on the passenger side (or right side) front of trailer, which permits entry to the front compartment. A spring ramp door opens the rear section of the trailer. The trailer has dome lighting and an electrical outlet. A spare tire and mounting kit are included in the front compartment of the trailer.



i. Trailer contents

Each airgun trailer is equipped with:

- Six (6) Daisy Grizzly model 840 youth airguns; single-pump pneumatic; shoots BB or pellet (shoot only BBs in inflatable range)
- Four (4) Daisy Buck or Model 10 youth BB guns; lever-action BB gun (for younger shooters)
- Two (2) Winchester Model 1028 break barrel pellet rifles; 1,000-foot-per-second velocity, solid hardwood; TruGlo sights; 4x32 scope (**outdoor range use ONLY**)
- Two (2) Winchester Model 1029 break barrel pellet rifles; 1,000-foot-per-second velocity; black composite stock with thumbhole; no open sights, 3 – 9 X 32 variable scope (**outdoor range use ONLY**)
- Two (2) Powerline model 953 Target Pro pellet rifles; single-pump pneumatic; rifled steel barrel; TruGlo sights; five-shot indexing clip (**outdoor range use ONLY**)

Daisy inflatable range and fan

- BBs and pellets
- Twelve (12) pairs of Daisy Shooting glasses
- Airgun target pads
- Two (2) pellet traps
- One (1) 6-foot-long table
- Two (2) metal folding chairs
- One (1) tent
- One (1) removable jack wheel
- One (1) spare tire
- One (1) mounting kit

ii. Initial setup and checklist

Once the airguns and supplies are received, several items must be assembled before initial use. The guns must be removed from packaging. The pellet traps will need to be assembled and the peep sights installed. Do not wait until the day of the event to assemble the products.

The NWTF highly recommends storing the Buck and Grizzly airguns in one gun rack and the break-barrel airguns in the other rack. **The Buck and Grizzly airguns are the ONLY guns to be used in the inflatable range.** The Winchester break-barrel guns and Powerline Target Pro models are only to be used on an outdoor range and CANNOT be used in the inflatable range.

These guns will cause severe damage to the inflatable range.

Before using the airgun trailer, use the following helpful checklist:

- Inspect the trailer to ensure that everything is in working order. Check the tires, doors, etc. Make sure the jack wheel is removed prior to pulling the trailer.
- Ensure that each of the airguns you plan to use at your event is working properly. If you find a problem, mark the airgun with flagging tape or tape a note to the gun. Guns can be returned using the repair form (see forms section).
- The Buck and Grizzly airguns are the ONLY guns to be used in the inflatable range. The break barrel guns are only to be used at an outdoor range and CANNOT be used in the inflatable range.
- Make sure you have release forms to be signed by each participant's parent/guardian. If you will have a large number of youth, use the list-style release form. These can be placed on clipboards and take less time to complete than the lengthier form.
- Make sure there are enough BBs/pellets, targets and shooting glasses.
- Review the recommendations for airgun ranges in the JAKES Take Aim manual prior to your event.
- If you are using the inflatable range, familiarize yourself with it and the instructions in this manual prior to setting up the range.

iii. Expectations

Users are expected to:

- Inventory supplies and equipment after each activity. There is an inventory and restocking form in this manual. Do not return or send the trailer to the next user without first notifying the next user of missing supplies.
- Wash the outside of the trailer if needed and sweep the inside. Please keep the trailer clean for the next user. Use of the trailer will be contingent upon adhering to the guidelines in this manual.
- Secure all doors with padlocks when not in use.
- Remove the jack wheel before driving with the trailer.

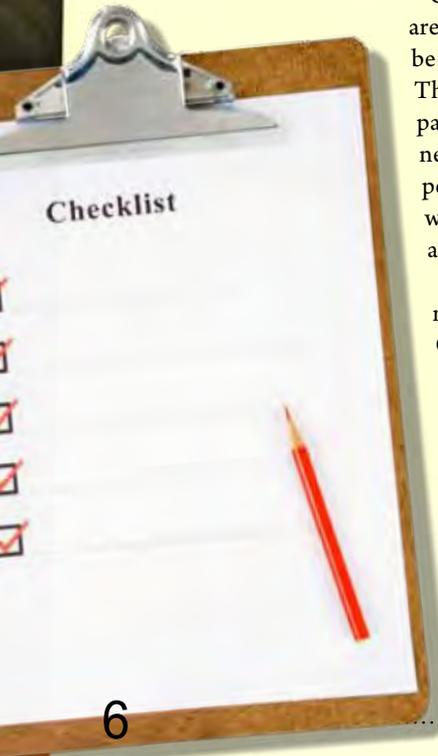
The trailer requires the towing vehicle be equipped with:

- A standard 2-inch ball, class-II hitch, rated to tow up to 3,500 lbs.
- A standard 4-pin flat male/female connector for trailer lighting
- A hitch with a minimum tongue weight capacity of 350 lbs.

iv. Connect to a vehicle

Connecting to the trailer is simple for those who use the correct procedure and common sense.

1. Remove the hitch receiver padlock and push forward and lift the locking lever simultaneously to unlock the 2-inch ball receiver. Raise and lock jack stands at the rear of trailer.



Checklist

2. Raise the trailer tongue using the tongue jack until the trailer tongue is slightly higher (1 inch to 2 inches) than the top of the ball on the towing vehicle.
3. Back the towing vehicle CAREFULLY until the ball is under the trailer hitch receiver.
4. Lower the trailer tongue (using the tongue jack) until the receiver seats completely over the 2-inch towing ball. Pull back and down on the locking lever. Insert the padlock and lock it to secure the locking lever in place.
5. Raise the tongue jack COMPLETELY (as far as possible). Remove the wheel and place it in the front compartment of the trailer.
6. Connect the safety chains from the trailer tongue to the towing vehicle hitch.
7. Connect the lighting cable four-terminal, male, flat plug to the towing vehicle's four-terminal, female, flat plug. Then test all running lights, stop lights and turn signal lights for proper operation.
8. Check the trailer contents to ensure items are stored and secured for travel.
9. Make sure you have keys to the padlocks and then close and lock front and rear doors
10. Drive safely and within appropriate speed limits. REMEMBER, you are towing a trailer!

4. Raise the trailer tongue using the tongue jack until the trailer tongue is slightly higher (1 inch to 2 inches) than the top of the ball on the towing vehicle.
5. Move the towing vehicle forward CAREFULLY until the ball is clear from the trailer hitch receiver.
6. Lower the trailer tongue (using the tongue jack) until the trailer is level. Lower and lock jack stands at the rear of the trailer.
7. Unload the trailer safely and set up the shooting range.

vi. Licensing and insurance

Trailers are licensed and registered in each respective state. The NWTF carries liability and physical damage coverage on the trailers. If an accident occurs, please contact your NWTF regional director and state JAKES Take Aim contact immediately.

b. Airguns and supplies

Your air gun trailer is stocked with everything you need for a Daisy indoor and outdoor airgun range. Some of the equipment you receive will require set up before it can be used. Please read the JAKES Take Aim program manual before using the trailer.

v. Disconnect and park

Seek a level, solid parking area and check it for safety concerns. Follow these directions to disconnect and park the trailer.

1. Open the doors, being careful of items that may have shifted during transport. Locate the jack wheel and reattach it.
2. Disconnect the lighting cable and safety chains from the vehicle.
3. Remove the hitch receiver padlock. Push forward and lift the locking lever simultaneously to unlock the 2-inch ball receiver.

i. Select and set up your range

For indoor settings you must use the inflatable range.

There are three options for outdoor ranges:

1. The inflatable range. Exercise caution in windy weather.
2. The basic airgun range. Use youth BB guns (Grizzly and Buck).
3. The advanced range. Older, more experienced, shooters use high-velocity pellet rifles (Winchester Model 1028 and Powerline 953).

ii. About the inflatable indoor range

Equipment for use with the inflatable range:

- Six (6) Daisy Grizzly model 840 youth airguns; single-pump pneumatic; shoots BB or pellet (shoot only BBs in inflatable range)
- Four (4) Daisy Buck or Model 10 youth BB guns; lever-action BB gun (for younger shooters)
- BBs **ONLY**
- Twelve (12) pairs of Daisy Shooting glasses
- Twenty (20) airgun target pads

The NWTF Daisy inflatable BB gun range is designed for use with low-velocity, youth BB guns. The Daisy Buck and Grizzly guns provided in your trailer are appropriate for this range.

Do not use this range with multi-pump airguns, break barrels, firearms or even airsoft guns with velocities in excess of 350 feet





per second. **Do not shoot pellets in this range.** Also, note that lead pellets are not for use by shooters age 12 and younger.

Safety is the first priority:

- This range is designed for one-on-one instruction.
- The instructor should explain shooting safety rules, hand the gun to the shooter with the safety in the “on” position and cock and load the gun.
- When the range is unattended, all guns and ammunition should be removed and secured.
- Do not use the range for storage as it can be lifted and accessed from underneath.
- The shooter and the instructor should always wear shooting glasses.
- Only one shooter and one instructor should be at each firing point at any time. Parents and onlookers must stay outside.

The first time you set up the inflatable range, allow at least 30 minutes. Subsequently, you’ll be able to set it up in less time.

1. Invert the bag and pull it off of the rolled-up range.
2. Untie the cord around the girth of the rolled-up range.
3. Spread the range out completely and drag it into place.
4. Position the air-input tube where you want the rear of the range. Be sure it is located close to an electrical outlet.
5. Extend the input tube fully and keep it mostly straight.
6. Attach the air-input tube to the fan nozzle with the Velcro on the end of the tube. Make this connection as air-tight as possible.
7. Make sure there are at least 2 feet of clearance around the fan intake. Ensure no fabric can be drawn into the intake since this could burn up the fan quickly. If curtains are nearby, place a box between the fan intake and the curtain to prevent the fabric from being drawn to the fan.
8. Zip the four vents closed before you plug in the fan. There are two vents under Velcro flaps at the base of the back of the booth. There are also two vents under Velcro flaps inside the firing points on the base at the front of the booth. These must be closed for the booth to inflate.
9. Plug in the fan and push the red reset button on the plug. Also, there is a rocker switch on the fan. The range will inflate in one minute.
10. After the first 30 seconds, most of the range should be inflated but you may need to lift up on the upper “beams” along both sides of the range to complete the inflation.

Setting Up the Target Runners:

1. Unzip the right side of the range and step inside.
2. Hang one large pulley from each overhead ring inside, at the rear of the range using the snap provided on the pulley.
3. Unwrap the cord and target holder. Tie one end of the cord to the rear of the target runner (the small loop at the end of the wire). Then thread the cord through the large pulley, going under the pulley wheel, toward the back and out over the top toward the front of the range. Pass the cord through the right brass grommet located above the firing bench area – from the inside to the outside.



4. Identify the two sets of two small pulleys attached by a bent wire. These wires each go under a Velcro flap in the shooting area of each firing point.
5. Reach outside (or have another person help you) to run the cord through the two pulleys on the wire as shown, back up and through the remaining brass grommet above, into the range area.
6. Pull the cord back inside the range through the remaining grommet and tie it snugly to the front wire circular hoop of the target holder (the one at the top of the vertical part of the wire).
7. NOTE: The cord completes a circuit. When you are outside in the firing bench area and pull down on one side of the cord you will send the target down-range. When you pull down on the other side of the cord you will bring the target back to the firing point.
8. Reach through the firing slit and clip-on a paper target using the clip included with the wire target runner. When you retrieve each target, give the target to the shooter, recognize their ability, discuss actions that may have affected their shooting, and encourage them to continue to shoot at home or in a structured program under adult supervision.

9. Store guns in the scabbards provided on the wall between the two firing points.
10. Store targets, shooting glasses and BBs in the pouches provided on the wall between the two firing points.

Packing Up:

1. Make the range safe by storing all BB guns and ammunition.
2. Enter the range through the zippered side panel. Untie the cords and remove the target holders and large pulley.
3. Remove the small wire with pulleys under the Velcro flap in the shooting areas. **DO NOT LEAVE ANY METAL WIRES OR PULLEYS INSIDE OR ATTACHED TO THE RANGE AS THEY MAY PUNCTURE IT WHEN STORED.**
4. Use a large magnet or a cup to collect the BBs from the retention trap below the targets. You can purchase a magnet on a handle (it looks like a small broom) at Lowe's or Home Depot for about \$15. Run the magnet inside and around the general area as a courtesy to the property owner.
5. Inspect the booth and, using a damp rag, wipe off any dirt and grime so the next user receives the range in a condition that reflects your pride in the JAKES Take Aim program.
6. Open the front Velcro flaps at the base of the range and unzip the vents while another person opens the rear Velcro flaps and unzips those vents. The booth will begin to deflate quickly.
7. Unplug the fan and remove the air intake tube from the fan so the air in the range can be expelled.
8. Allow the booth to completely deflate.
9. Remove your shoes. Walk on the booth in sock feet from the center out toward each vent and toward the air intake tube to force air out of the booth. You may do this more than once.
10. Fold the booth. Two people, on one side – one at the front and one at the rear – should fold one side of the booth toward and beyond the center point. Then fold the other side toward and beyond the center so that the two sides overlap. Once folded, the booth width of the folded booth must be no wider than the height of the bag.
11. Roll the booth tightly from the front toward the back, allowing air to escape.
12. Tie the rope around the girth of the rolled booth and stand the rolled booth on one end.
13. Slip the bag over the booth, invert and cinch the bag closed. Repeat steps 8 through 12 if the booth won't fit in the bag.

iii. Set up a basic and advanced outdoor range

For use with a basic outdoor range:

- Six (6) Daisy Grizzly model 840 youth airguns; single-pump pneumatic; shoots BB or pellet (shoot only BBs in inflatable range)
- Four (4) Daisy Buck or Model 10 youth BB guns; lever-action BB gun (for younger shooters)

- BBs
- Twelve (12) pairs of Daisy Shooting glasses

For use with an advanced outdoor range (for older, more advanced shooters):

- Two (2) Winchester Model 1028 break barrel pellet rifles; 1,000-foot-per-second velocity, solid hardwood; TruGlo sights; 4x32 scope (outdoor range use ONLY)
- Two (2) Winchester Model 1029 break barrel pellet rifles; 1,000-foot-per-second velocity; black composite stock with thumbhole; no open sights, 3 – 9 X 32 variable scope (outdoor range use ONLY)
- Two (2) Powerline model 953 Target Pro pellet rifles; single-pump pneumatic; rifled steel barrel; TruGlo sights; five-shot indexing clip (outdoor range use ONLY) pellets
- Two (2) pellet traps

It is important that you plan ahead and allow adequate time to set up your range before your event. If you can, visit the range site ahead of time to be certain you can set up your range in a good location where it can be operated safely.

1. Establish a safe backstop

When establishing a safe backstop, location and direction of the range are of primary importance. Set up the range where shooters will be shooting away from congested areas. Ideally, you will have several hundred yards of open space or unoccupied woods behind your range.

NEVER set up the range so that you'll be shooting toward people or a parking lot.

Bales of hay make an ideal backstop. Three large, round bales (each about 6 feet in diameter) will create an excellent, 18-foot-wide backstop. Or, you can use 18 rectangular bales of hay (stacked six wide and three high) to create a backstop.

2. Secure the range

Purchase a roll of orange flagging tape and a dozen plant stakes to rope off the range area. Your goal is to prevent observers from walking in front of the shooters. You must rope off the sides of the range and an area behind the bales of hay so no one can approach from behind the range.

The roped off area should be wider than the range. Use the orange tape to completely enclose the range area so the only entrance to the range is from behind the shooters.

3. Measure the range

Measure 16 feet, 5 inches from the bales of hay to the front edge of two tables (the edge furthest from the hay) where the shooter will sit. 16 feet, 5 inches equals exactly 5 meters. If you don't have a tape measure, you can pace off 15 feet. You can accommodate two shooters per table.

4. Targets

Paper targets can be pinned to two large pieces of corrugated board. You'll need one sheet of cardboard per target/shooter. Use plastic pushpins (not metal thumbtacks that might cause a ricochet) to pin paper targets to the cardboard.

5. Get ready

Shortly before your event begins, place one gun at each firing point. Also place one package of pellets/BBs and two pairs of shooting glasses (one pair for the shooter and one for the instructor who is working with that shooter) at each firing point.

6. The event

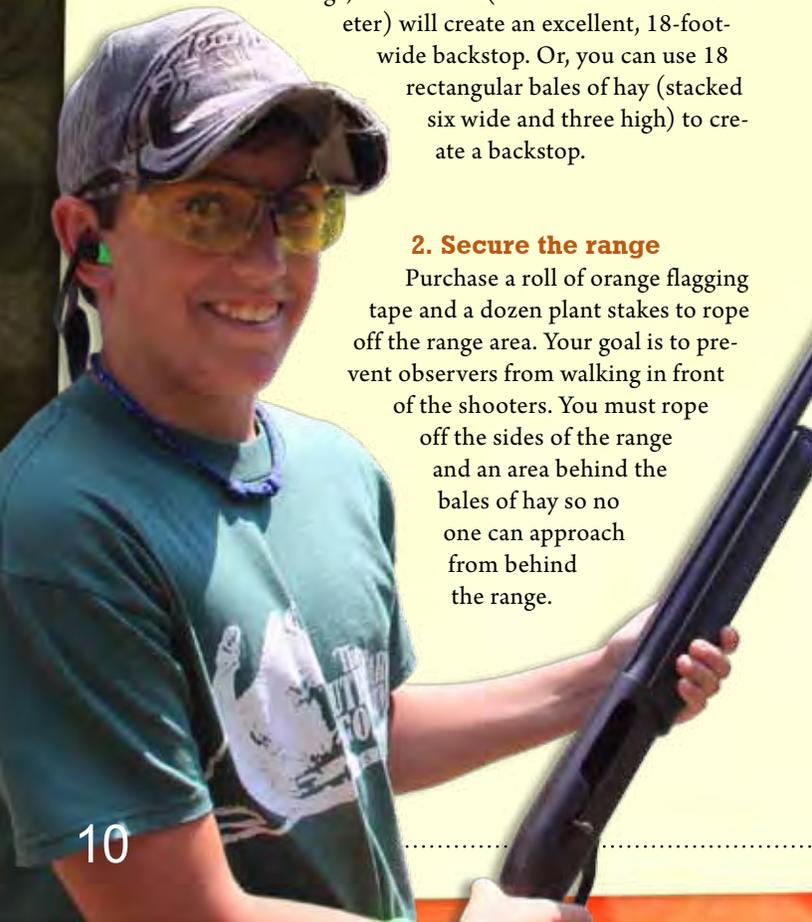
The airgun range is an excellent activity for young and first time shooters. We recommend that young people over age 10 be allowed to shoot at the range under the supervision of adult instructors. The Daisy Airgun Range provides an excellent opportunity for you, the rangemaster, and instructors to teach valuable safety lessons and marksmanship skills that will last a lifetime.

During the event, an instructor must work with each shooter, regardless of the shooter's level of experience. Once the guns and ammunition are on the table, an adult instructor must supervise the range. If the adult needs to leave the range, even for a short time, secure the airguns first.

7. Restock and report problems

BBs, pellets, targets and shooting glasses are replenished through the JAKES Take Aim program. Please use the restocking form in this manual to order supplies. Always take inventory of supplies and equipment after each activity. Do not return or send the trailer to the next user without first notifying the next user of missing supplies.

If you experience problems with your equipment please use the repair form in this manual to report problems and return equipment. It will be returned to the manufacturer for repair.



IV. Sample Safety Script

Before the students can shoot at the range, you must cover important safety rules. This can be done at the range location but before they are allowed to sit at the firing points.

Make sure to avoid using the word “weapons.” Weapons have a negative connotation and insinuate that the guns will be used to hurt people. Call them “airguns,” “guns” or “rifles” instead.

Below is a sample script:

Welcome to the NWTF/Daisy Airgun Range. We’re going to have fun today and everyone here is going to get to shoot a Daisy airgun.

How many of you have an airgun – a BB gun or a pellet rifle? Good. We have some experienced shooters and some first-time shooters. These are the airguns we’ll be shooting today (hold one up).

(NOTE: Be certain that the gun safety remains “on” and that your finger is never on the trigger during any of the following demonstrations.)

This is a single-pump airgun. It also shoots pellets but we’ll be shooting BBs today. These guns don’t make a loud noise and they don’t have any recoil.

One thing I really like about shooting is that almost anybody can do it. You don’t have to be the most muscular, or the fastest or the smartest. Shooting just takes concentration.

You’ll learn a lot from shooting – like discipline, self-control, responsibility and patience. Parents, are those personality traits every one of you would like for your kids to have? This program will teach those qualities.

Safety First

We’re going to talk a lot about safety today. Airguns are not toys; they’re guns. And, when carelessly used, misused or criminally used, they can cause serious injury or death. That’s why learning to handle guns safely is so important to you and to others around you.

Airguns are not firearms because they don’t use powder or have an explosion in the chamber.

Airguns use compressed air to send the BB or pellet down the barrel. The way you handle this airgun and the safety rules we’ll follow will be the same ones you’ll use with a firearm someday. This is an excellent time to start practicing safe gun handling habits.

10 rules of shooting safety

Who thinks they know the number one rule of safe shooting? By following this one rule we’ll always be safe. Who knows what that rule is?

Who can tell me what the potentially dangerous end of the gun is? That’s right it’s the muzzle – or the end of the barrel. So

what do we need to control at all time? Right.

The first rule of shooting safety is to always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. If we keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, we’ll be safe and so will everyone around us.

(NOTE: Now review and discuss each safety rule. Ask the students what each one means and how it would keep them and others safe.)

Safe carries

Let’s come back for a minute to that first safety rule: Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. What does that mean – a safe direction?

(NOTE: Allow student input.)

Of course you should never allow the muzzle to point at a person – not at yourself and not at anyone else. But how can you do that?

(NOTE: Take a gun and, with your other instructors, demonstrate some safe carries in various situations.)

(Have gun over your shoulder.) If I’m on the first floor or a two-story building, is this a safe carry? No, it’s not.

(Cradle the gun with the muzzle pointing down.) If I’m on the second floor of a building, is this a safe carry?

(Have gun over your shoulder again.) If we’re walking behind each other in the woods and someone’s behind me is this a safe carry?

How about if we’re walking side by side in the woods? Can I cradle it in my arm – pointing out to the side?

I think you get the idea. A safe carry is really based on your surroundings. You have to be aware of where that muzzle is pointing at all times.

Building a correct sight picture

To accurately shoot this or any other rifle, you have to build a correct sight picture. That means lining up the rear sight with the front sight and properly lining up those sights with the target.

Being “off” just a degree or so can mean that by the time your BB gets downrange and hits the target the impact of that BB may be several inches off the bullseye. So, let’s take a minute to learn about the sights on this particular gun.

This gun has sights that are pretty typical of what you’ll find on most hunting rifles. These are sometimes called “iron sights”. The rear sight is called an open sight and looks like this. Notice that it has a notch in the middle. The front sight is a blade sight.



When you look down the barrel, you'll see the notch in the rear sight and you'll see the front sight, which looks like a blade.

When you look down the barrel and properly align them, they should appear like this (show illustration number three on next page). Notice that the front sight, the "blade" is lined up inside the "notch" of the rear sight and that the top of the blade is level with the top of the notch. See that?

Let's look at our target now. When you look down your sights and have them properly aligned, you want to put the top of that "blade" just under the center ring. (Show illustration number four on the next page).

Does everyone understand how to build a proper sight picture? It can make the difference in how well you shoot, so don't hesitate to ask a question

Dominant eye

How many of you have heard of dominant eye? Do you know which one of your eyes is your dominant eye? Let's do an exercise and find out which is our dominant eye. Please break up into five small groups so each of you can work with one of my instructors.

First, extend your arms all the way, open your hands and overlap the web between your thumb and forefinger – like this. Just leave a small hole. Now hold up your hands straight out in front of you and look through that small peephole at my nose.

(NOTE: As the students look at you, from about 10 feet away, you'll only be able to see one of their eyes – their dominant eye. Point at each student and tell them which is their dominant eye: right or left. Now, bring your entire group back together.)

Why is it important to know which is your dominant eye? That's the eye you'll look down the sights with. You'll close your other eye. Some of you will be right handed and have a dominant right eye. Some of you will be left-handed and have a dominant left eye. And some of you will be right handed and have a dominant left eye – that's called being cross dominant.

What can we do about our dominant eye? Really nothing. That's just the way we were born. But, if you're cross dominant, you might want to think about shooting with the other hand. It's easier to learn to shoot with the other hand than it is to shoot with the other eye. Our instructors will work with you and talk to you about dominant eye and which hand you should shoot with.

Demonstrating the gun

This is a single-pump, single-shot pellet rifle. The first thing I'll do is put this gun on safety. When I push this button and the red doesn't show, the safety is in the "on" position. This gun will not fire. When I push this button the other way and the red shows, the safety is in the "off" position and the gun will fire when I pull the trigger.

I never put my finger on the trigger until I'm ready to shoot. What does the red mean on the safety? That's right: it's "off" safety and ready to fire. You should never rely on this or any other mechanical safety.

Who can tell me the best safety device? (Point at your own head).

You are the only "safety" you should ever count on. Never go by what any other person tells you or rely solely on what any mechanical device indicates. You alone, by controlling this gun and its muzzle direction, will keep it safe.

To cock the gun, simply pull this bolt back all the way. That opens the chamber where you will eventually load a pellet. (Do not actually load the gun at this time).

You'll notice that the pellet has a small, solid head and a flared "skirt." The pellet flies through the air in this direction – head first with the flared skirt trailing behind. While I have the bolt open and the gun unloaded, I'm going to pump the forearm one time to give it power.

If I put a pellet in the chamber now – I'm not actually going to do that – and pushed the bolt forward, the gun would be loaded, pumped and on safety. Once I've sighted my target, I'll take the gun off safety, put my finger on the trigger and squeeze the trigger.

Trigger pull

When I've sighted my target, should I yank on the trigger? No. If I do that, I'll disturb my aim and my shot will not be accurate. When you're ready to pull the trigger take a deep breath, let about half of it out, and then squeeze the trigger.

Shooting

Now it's time to begin our shooting instruction. We have two firing points and an instructor to work with each of you. We can take two shooters at a time. I'll ask you two to take a seat at the tables but don't touch the guns until I tell you to.

Now we're all seated. Everyone has to wear shooting glasses.

Instructors, please open the bolt, pump and load the gun for your shooter – keeping the safety "on" at all times.

Shooters, let's go through these steps and shoot – whenever you're ready. Shoot at your own pace until you've put five shots



in your paper target. (Allow them adequate time to shoot).

Making the range safe

ANNOUNCE: Shooters, take your final shots at this time if you are not already finished. Open the bolts on your rifles. Put the safety in the “on” position. Hands off the guns please. Shooters stand up and step behind your chairs for me. Thank you.

(Instructors should verify that all guns are on safety and bolts open.)

Instructors, the range is safe. You may now go downrange and retrieve your student’s paper target.

Scoring the target

(NOTE: Instructors should add up the total points scored by determining where the pellet hit the target. You can usually see the point of impact from these flathead pellets. If not, use your best judgment. If a pellet breaks the ring, it earns the next highest score even if the majority of the impact is in the lower score ring.)

Safety Review

(NOTE: After all students have had the opportunity to shoot, reassemble your class.)

How many of you had a good time shooting? Who shot the best score on a paper target? Do you remember the 10 safety rules? What’s rule number one? Take those rules with you. It makes a great small wall poster in your room. Be sure to tell your parents what you learned here today.

Those of you who like shooting competitively might consider getting involved in a marksmanship program. Most of today’s best shooters started shooting early – like you.

Most members of the USA Shooting Team, the team that trains at the Olympic Training Center and represents our country at World Cup and in the Olympic Games, got started with an airgun. Airgun competition is an Olympic event.

Whether you want to compete, win a Gold Medal in the Olympics, hunt with your parents or just shoot for fun in your backyard, shooting provides a lifetime sport and a lifetime of fun.

Thank you for your attention today. I enjoyed working with each of you. Shoot safely.

V. Shotgun program

a. Overview

The shotgun portion of JAKES Take Aim will be event-specific and all events must be approved through the program coordinator, Rhett Simmons. Shotgunning requires a larger demand for space and specialized equipment. You should contact local shooting ranges and shooting clubs to assist with these events. Through a grant, the JAKES Take Aim program will pay the club for clay targets and ammunition. These funds are limited so please negotiate with the host range or club for the best possible prices.

b. Getting started

Find a shooting range in your area. There are several websites that can help you get in contact with a local range or shooting club:

- National Shooting Sports Foundation (wheretoshoot.org)
- National Sporting Clays Association and National Skeet Shooting Association, (nssa-nasca.org)
- Amateur Trapshooting Association (shootata.com)

Contact the range and explain the JAKES Take Aim program. Many shooting ranges know that hunters and shooters are getting older, and that fewer young people are getting involved in shooting sports.

Some clubs and organizations have started programs that get young people involved in shooting. Many work closely with local youth shooting organizations such as 4-H, Scholastic Clay Target Programs (SCTP) and Youth Shooting Foundation programs. The people who run local shooting ranges should be receptive to hosting a JAKES Take Aim shotgun event. Negotiate a price for target fees, based on the type of clay target event

the club specializes in.

Trap is a shooting event where five shooters take turns shooting targets presented from machines that are located a short distance in front of the shooter in a bunker or trap house. These targets are moving away from the shooter at varying angles. The five shooters rotate through five positions, attempting to hit five targets at each position. A “round” of trap includes 25 targets. Typically, each round costs between \$4 and \$7.

When skeet shooting, shooters attempt to hit crossing targets presented from two machines in “houses” – called the high house and low house – located on either side of the shooters a short distance away. Shooters rotate through eight positions with different distances and angles. A “round” of 25 targets typically costs between \$4 and \$7.

Sporting clays is like golf with a gun. Targets are presented on a course where participants rotate from station to station, and targets are presented in various combinations. They are designed to mimic hunting situations and use the terrain and specialized targets and machines to accomplish this goal. A typical round is 100 targets. However, rounds can be modified to suit the participant. Prices range from \$20 to \$45 per round of 100 clays.

Contact area youth shooting groups. Begin by asking local shooting clubs and ranges if there are any existing youth shooting programs. Contact them and fill them in on the program and your desire to host an event at a local club. These groups are an important component for the success of your event. They will bring their youth shooters to the event, thereby guaranteeing a good turnout.

Also, youth shooting groups have certified coaches and instructors as leaders and a great avenue for volunteer recruitment to assist during the event. If the club does not have any leads, try contacting state-level leaders for these groups, like the state director for 4-H Shooting Sports. College extension offices also are a great place to start.

Choose a date. Ask for assistance from the youth shooting groups for possible dates for your event, so your event doesn't conflict with another youth shooting event.

Set an agenda for the event. The following is a typical agenda:

- 9 a.m. – Registration opens**
- 9:30 a.m. – Safety meeting (required)**
- 9:45 a.m. – Range is open for all established shooting teams with certified coaches**
- 9:45 a.m. – Shooting clinic for all new or inexperienced shooters**
- 12 p.m. – Lunch on your own**
- 1 p.m. – Shooting resumes**
- 4 p.m. – Wrap up/clean up**

New shooters must have early success at breaking targets. This is something that must be discussed with the host club. Are there target machines available to set up a shooting clinic area?

The shooting clinic needs to be staffed with certified youth shooting instructors. Many of the new or inexperienced shooters are intimidated by the organized portions of clay target shooting and will prefer to stay with the shooting clinic targets. These targets need to be relatively easy targets such as slow, incoming targets or slow, straight-away targets.

Advertise your event. You and your volunteers can post fliers and posters, available on www.nwtf.org, throughout the community and the host club's lodge. If you can, create an electronic version of your flier and post it to the JAKES website, community websites, and the host shooting club's newsletter or internet bulletin board.

Send your event flier to all the state-level youth shooting program directors. They can disseminate the information to all their organization's members across the state. These groups will recognize the JAKES Take Aim program as a great opportunity for free practice and may travel quite a distance to take advantage of this program.

c. Requirements

JAKES Take Aim has few requirements; however, they are extremely important.

You must document the number of participants at your event. Please find attached a copy of the “Volunteer/participant release of liability & photo release form.” Have every participant complete this form to make sure we have a written record of their participation. The form also serves as a photo and liability release.

For JAKES Take Aim events in the Southeast, participants must be JAKES or Xtreme JAKES members. All participants complete the “Volunteer/participant release of liability & photo release form”. If the participant is already a JAKES member, write their membership number in the upper right corner. If not, collect the \$10 annual membership fee and mark the form paid. This form contains all the information needed to complete the membership record.

Keep all your receipts for travel, food, and costs associated with the event. Be sure the host club understands that the NWTF will issue a check to reimburse the cost of shooting based on the invoice the shooting club supplies to the NWTF.

d. Volunteer assistance

Depending on the number of participants, several volunteers will be needed to ensure a smooth event. Events with more than 100 participants will require three people to assist with registration, two dispensing ammunition, and four certified instructors for the shooting clinic. The host club should provide trap mechanics and loaders as part of their contribution.

For less than 100 participants, two people should help with registration, one should dispense ammunition, and two certified instructors will be required for the shooting clinic. You may allow the experienced shooting teams to trap and score for themselves. However, an adult coach or volunteer must accompany each group.

Please call (800) THE-NWTF and ask for Rhett Simmons, Mandy Harling or Chris Piltz at NWTF headquarters for assistance with ordering ammunition, registration forms and hearing and eye protection. These items will be drop shipped to an address you provide. We are working with national sponsors who represent these products in order to get the best price and thereby stretch the granted funds as far as possible.

Prizes are optional. We do not encourage awarding prizes based on shooting ability. If donated items are available to award as prizes, you can use different-colored theatre tickets to determine the prize that is won. If the participant picks a red ticket out of the bucket, they win a prize designated for red tickets, and so on. This alleviates the necessity of participants to wait until everyone finishes shooting. They can draw for a prize and leave, if necessary.

Ask for help from the participants. In order to reduce clean up, at the beginning of the event during the welcome, remind the participants that we are guests of the host club and want to make sure that we leave the facility the way we found it. Ask them to pick up their spent cartridges and dispose of trash appropriately.

Be sure to thank the club, your volunteers, sponsors, and organizations that have helped make the event happen.

e. After the event

JAKES Take Aim events can lead to more and bigger events in the community. Often, when NWTF volunteers are seen giving back to the community, people will be more willing to collaborate on other or similar events.

The contacts you make through this event can lead to NWTF banquet committee growth, new banquets, and/or other fundraising events.

Many of the people you will meet through JAKES Take Aim events are not NWTF banquet attendees and this may be their first experience with the NWTF. Also, many shooting clubs that host these events have large lodges or pavilions where new events could be held and a new audience to attend them.

Organizers must weigh the cost/benefit of attempting fundraising during the event. Remember, the participants are young and are usually focused on the shooting activities. A dinner with a silent auction and raffles after the shooting event could work in some instances.

Be sure to turn in the necessary paperwork after

your event. It is imperative to the success of this grant that event organizers complete and turn in the registration and reporting forms. If memberships are collected, be sure to send new memberships to NWTF headquarters so the membership can

be processed. Include the name of the local chapter where the new members will be assigned.

Signing up and reporting new members can lead to an increase in incentives earned by the local chapter.

