



Division of
Outreach Programs
and Shooting Range Facilities

THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS

Program Objectives

The Mississippi Scholastic Shooting Program (MSSP) is a team-based, youth development program that uses the shotgun sports of:

Skeet

Trap

Sporting Clays

The program utilizes life skills such as discipline, safety, teamwork, ethics, self-confidence, and other life values to teach hunting skills through the safe use of hunting equipment, including firearms, and their relationship to hunting situations.

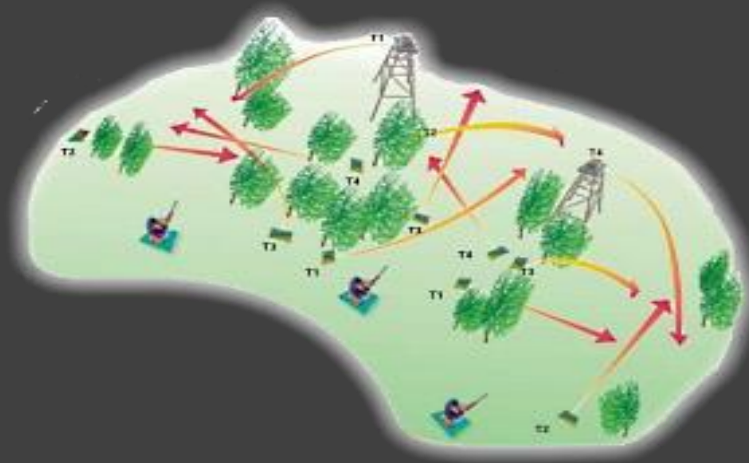
The MSSP is **not** designed to compete with 4-H or other youth-based organizations but should complement those in schools.

The MSSP will provide youth an opportunity to compete for their schools in a scholastic shooting sports program and be able to win prizes and scholarships in a variety of categories.

Discipline Overview

Sporting Clays

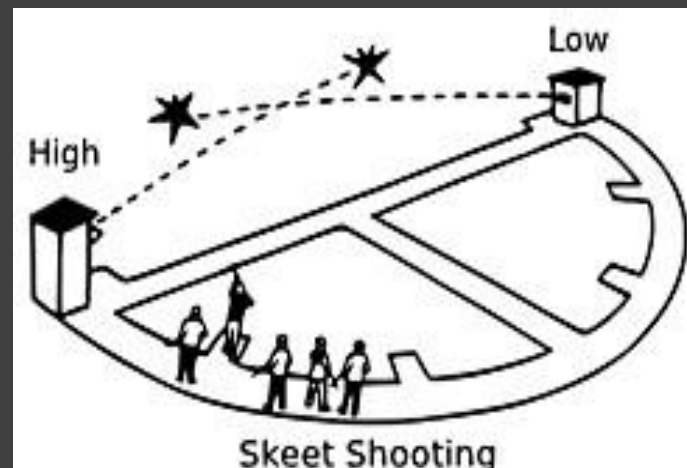
Sporting Clays is often described as golf with a shotgun. *Sporting Clays* is set on a walking course in a natural environment. The shooter moves from station to station where targets are presented differently at each station to mimic hunting situations for species such as quail, grouse, pheasant, dove, ducks, geese, and rabbits.



Discipline Overview

Skeet

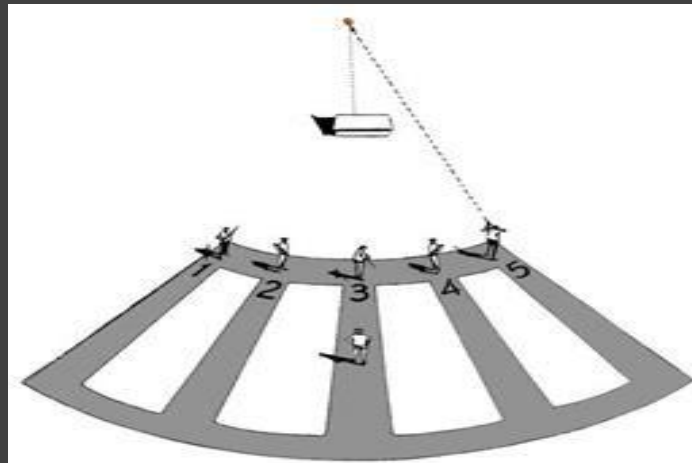
Skeet simulates the crisscrossing hunting action of flying upland birds, such as dove. The shooter rotates through different stations along a semi-circle, as targets from two opposing houses (one at each corner of the semi-circle) “pass” across the field. The 2-target presentations are thrown one-at-a-time, and at the same time, for an additional challenge.



Discipline Overview

Trap

Trap simulates the flight path of flushing game birds, such as grouse, pheasant, and quail to hone a hunter's skills. The targets are thrown from a single location, in front of the shooter, who moves in a semi-circle to change the angle and difficulty of the going-away shot.



Three Important
Questions that
Schools have:

What is the liability risk?

What is this program going
to cost?

What is the season for
competitions?

Liability

All events take place away from a school's campus.

- **Competitions are held at MDWFP Shooting Facilities**
 - Mclvor Shooting Facility in north Mississippi
 - Turcotte Shooting Facility in central Mississippi
 - McHenry Shooting Facility in south Mississippi
- **Practices are held off campus**
 - Private land of parents
 - Private shooting facilities in your area
 - MDWFP shooting facilities

Insurance polices usually cover Shooting Sports

- A standard school insurance policy covers shooting sports under the same category as a “high risk” activity such as contact sports. If a school participates in football, archery or bass fishing they are covered (by most policies) to participate in shooting sports.

Cost

Cost of competitions are incurred by MDWFP (except for shells)

- No registration fees, no gate fees, no payment to officials
- If a shooter participates in each of the three MDWFP sponsored events, it will take a yearly total of 400 shotgun shells for competitions (We strongly suggest bringing extra shells for each shooter for gun malfunctions and trap malfunctions.)

There is not a school uniform requirement

- We allow each school to decide if they want a uniform and to what level that want their uniform to be:
 - Vest, caps, shirts, etc...
 - We do require eye and ear protection which can be purchased from us for less than \$5.00 per student.
 - Each shooter will need to have access to a shotgun (students may share). Pump, semiautomatic and double-barrel are allowed. No single-shot shotguns are allowed.

Teams are required to have at least eight (8) practices per year

- Students will need shells for practices and competitions. We suggest parents/participants provide shells instead of the school.

Schools can offset costs by applying for *Youth Program Initiative (YPI)* grants through the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.

- The monies received from the YPI grant can be used to purchase uniforms, pay for travel, purchase shells, purchase clay throwers, pay for practices at shooting facilities, ect...
- YPI is not a one time grant. It can be re-submitted each year.



The length of the season is the entire school year (August – May).



We are considered a “club” instead of a “sport,” which enables MSSP to not be locked into a specific time frame.



MSSP is an outreach project for our agency. We want to make sure that it does not interfere with other school activities that might limit our number of participants.

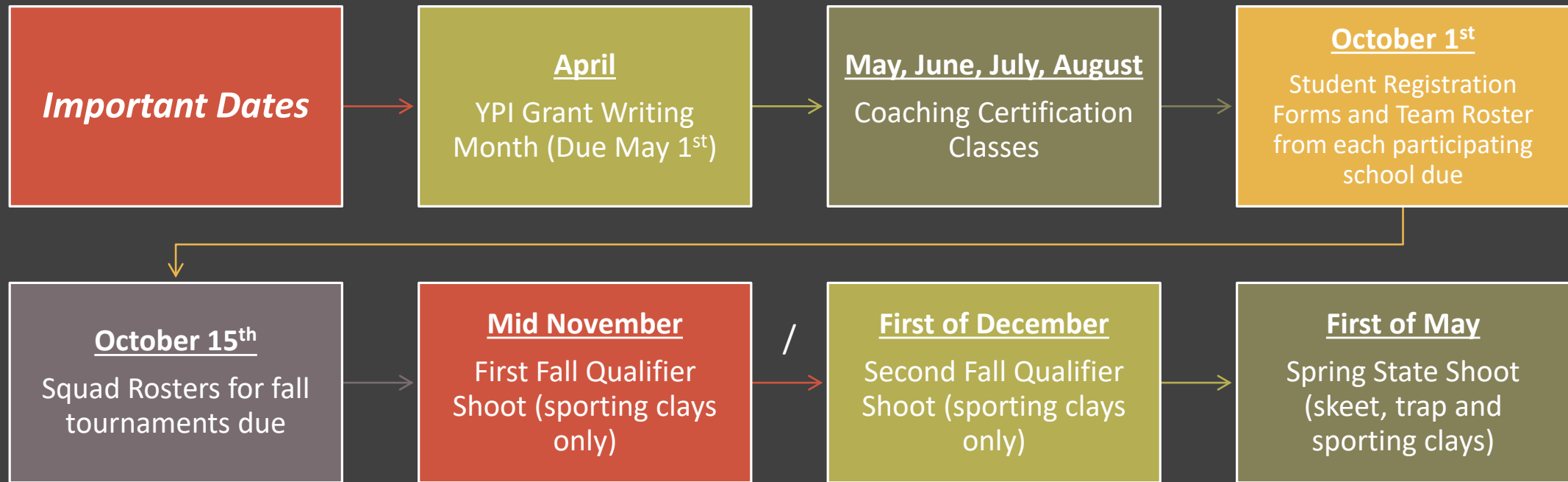


We understand the need for students to participate in multiple activities. We do our best to work with each school to make the program viable and successful.



Our Conservation Officers trap at all MSSP events. We must therefore work around various hunting seasons. We also work around other events such as: state testing, graduations, other sports, 4-H and school holidays.

Season



The shoots will be multiple day events with each school assigned a specific 3 hour flight time on one day. This makes it easy to work around football playoffs, basketball games, ect...

Each school must have one head coach that will attend and complete the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) 1-Day Shooting Coach Class.

- *There are multiple dates throughout the summer months for coaches to choose from.*
- *Classes will be held at each of our MDWFP shooting facilities.*
- *The class is free of charge.*
- *Assistant coaches are also encouraged to attend.*
- *The class will:*
 - *Certify the coach to be a Mississippi Hunter's Education Instructor.*
 - *Teach the coach range safety.*
 - *Instruct coach on the rules, requirements, disciplines, paperwork and scholarship opportunities for MSSP.*
 - *The coach will be presented with all the information needed to implement this activity for his/her school.*

Each student must complete the MDWFP Hunter's Education Course.

- *Coaches will be certified instructors that can teach the students this course.*
- *Students can take the online course approved by MDWFP.*

Team Requirements

Divisions for Fall Qualifier Shoots

The State Championship Shoot will not be broken into Senior Varsity and Junior Varsity. All shooters that qualify will be shooting in one division.

Senior Varsity - Grades 10, 11, & 12

Junior Varsity - Grades 7, 8, & 9

Senior Varsity Team - Grades 10, 11, & 12

(3-shooter squads determined by the coach) with a maximum of 4 squads per school.

Junior Varsity Team - Grades 7, 8, & 9

(3-shooter squads determined by the coach) with a maximum of 4 squads per school.

Junior Varsity can shoot up, but Varsity can not shoot down.

To participate on a Senior Varsity Team, a shooter cannot be 19 years old BEFORE August 1st of the school year in which he/she wishes to participate.

To participate on a Junior Varsity Team, a shooter cannot be 16 years old BEFORE August 1st of the school year in which he/she wishes to participate.

Awards

Each year there will be an *Overall School Champion*. This title will only be awarded to schools and will be determined by taking each school's top three (3) individual shooter scores in each event and totaling them to determine the highest score encompassing all 3 events at the State Championship Shoot. Clubs are welcome to bring teams to compete in this program; however, they are NOT eligible to win the title of *Overall School Champion* and any student who attends a school that has a team participating in MSSP is required to shoot on his/her school team.

AWARDS FOR FALL QUALIFICATION SHOOT

ALL AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN TO BOTH VARSITY AND JUNIOR VARSITY FOR SPORTING CLAYS

HOA Sporting Clay

1st -3rd Place Overall Female Sporting Clay

1st -3rd Place Overall Male Sporting Clay

1st – 3rd Place Sporting Clay Team (3 shooters each place)

Top 50 Squads will advance to the State MSSP Championship Shoot.

Top 10 Squads will advance to the Regional Southeastern Clay Combine.

AWARDS FOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SHOOT

THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WILL NOT BE DIVIDED INTO VARSITY AND JUNIOR VARSITY

HOA Skeet

1st-3rd Skeet Male

1st-3rd Skeet Female

1st- 3rd Skeet Squad

HOA Trap

1st-3rd Trap Male

1st-3rd Trap Female

1st-3rd Trap Squad

HOA Sporting Clay

1st-3rd Sporting Clay Male

1st-3rd Sporting Clay Female

1st-3rd Sporting Clay Squad

HOA MSSP Combine Champion (*This will be the 3 discipline scores added together*)

1st-3rd MSSP Combine Champion Male

1st-3rd MSSP Combine Champion Female

1st-3rd MSSP Combine Champion Squad

MSSP Combine School Champion

Scholarships



In 2003, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) established a foundation to assist in protecting and preserving our wildlife heritage.

The Foundation is the only outdoor organization that directly supports the MDWFP, which has the primary responsibility for hunting, fishing, shooting sports and conservation in the state.

Through the Foundation's financial support, various wildlife and educational projects associated with the MDWFP are made possible.

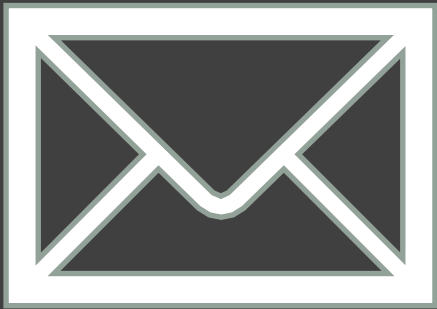
In 2018, The Foundation for Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks allocated \$10,000 each year for scholarship money to be awarded to MSSP participants.

In 2019, MDWFP and the Foundation partnered together with the State Treasury Department to provide a venue to reward the \$10,000 in scholarship monies that the Foundation allocates for MSSP.

The students who receive scholarships provided by the Foundation through MSSP competition will have an interest-bearing MACS (Mississippi Affordable College Savings) account established for them.

Opportunities for MSSP students do not end upon completion of high school. Several colleges and universities, both in-state and out of state, have shotgun shooting teams or are in the process of establishing teams.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:



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