A Guide for New Shooters

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Let’s Get Started

If you’re like millions of Americans, you’ve either recently purchased your first gun, or you’re seriously thinking about it. Whether you have decided that you’d like to go to a range to try out a few different types of firearms to see what works best for you, or whether you want to make sure that you properly develop your skills, you will find that the guidance of a qualified mentor is a key to success. While instruction from an NRA Certified Instructor should be the foundation of firearms training, a mentor can help you build on that training. Having assistance from someone you trust will help you take charge of your personal safety in a safe, supportive environment. Your NRA is here to help you get started in what you may find to be a lifelong pursuit.

NRA Certified Instructors

NRA Certified Instructors offer premium firearms training for everyone, regardless of your age or level of expertise. For additional information, go to nrainstructors.org.
What to Expect

Going to the range is fun and easy, once you know a few simple rules.

The main thing that all gun ranges have in common is that it’s all about safety. (Turn to page 6 for the NRA Basic Rules of Gun Safety.) Aside from that, every range is different. Some allow you to rent firearms; others don’t. Some have strict rules about what kind of targets you may use. Some are busy, while at others, you and your mentor may be the only shooters present.

Range Safety Officers
Most ranges have Range Safety Officers (RSOs), whose job is to supervise shooters, enforce the rules, and handle any problems that may occur. The Range Safety Officer has absolute authority on the range. Your mentor may want to introduce you to the RSO so they can explain what’s expected of you.

Range Commands
Two of the most common range commands are “cease firing” and “commence firing.” “Commence firing” is the command given to tell everyone it’s safe to shoot. “Cease firing” is used whenever all shooting must stop. During a ceasefire, there is no handling of firearms. The key things to remember are:
1. Chamber is empty and ammunition source (magazine) is removed.
2. Action is open.
3. Hands off!
4. Step away from the firing line.

Find ranges near you
You can go to findnra.nra.org and check the box for “Places to Shoot” and type in your ZIP Code.

Other Things to Remember

1. Do not fire at posts, supports or target frames.
2. Shoot only range-approved targets.
3. If you set out frames to support your targets before starting, return them to the storage area once you are done. However, never go past the firing line (i.e., downrange) until the RSO says it’s safe to do so.
4. If your club or range allows pets, keep them on leashes or under control at all times. Pets unused to gunfire might panic on a range.
5. It’s good etiquette to leave the range better than you found it.
Five Things You Need At the Range

Don’t be intimidated: Going shooting is much less gear-intensive than you may think.

A Gun Case
Unless the “range” is your back yard, you’ll want something to transport your firearm. Gun cases are available in just about every conceivable size at prices that won’t hurt your wallet.

Ear Protection
Even a .22-caliber rifle can produce a sound of 140 decibels (dB), which is enough to cause hearing damage. You can protect your ears without breaking the bank. Foam inserts, especially doubled up with earmuffs, work wonders.

Eye Protection
Eye protection is also crucial. Protect your eyes with a pair of shooting glasses. Look for glasses that are impact resistant and specifically labeled for use in the shooting sports.

Ammunition Designed For Your Firearm
Check your owner’s manual to make sure you only buy ammunition recommended by the gun’s manufacturer. Your mentor can help you select the best option for your gun.

Targets
Of course you’ll want something to shoot at, and not all ranges sell targets. Some beginners like to start with reactive targets, which may do things like show a color change where your bullet strikes. Be aware that many ranges stipulate paper targets only.
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Gun Safety Is Everyone’s Responsibility

Know your target and what is beyond it. You must be sure that there is something that will serve as a backstop to capture bullets that miss or go through the target.

Know how to use the gun safely. Before handling a gun, learn how it operates. Read the owner’s manual, and work with your mentor until you know how to safely open and close the action and how to unload the gun.

Be sure your gun is safe to operate. Just like other tools, guns need regular maintenance. Regular cleaning and proper storage are a part of the gun’s general upkeep.

Use only the correct ammunition for your gun. Each gun is intended for use with a specific caliber or cartridge. Only cartridges designed for that particular gun can be fired safely. The owner’s manual will list the cartridges appropriate for your gun.

Wear eye and ear protection. The sound of a gunshot can damage unprotected ears. Also, gun discharges can emit debris and hot gas that can cause injury to your eyes. Wear safety glasses and earplugs whenever you shoot.

Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting. Even if you don’t drink or do drugs, be aware that some legal drugs, like prescription medicine or over-the-counter remedies, can impair your ability to shoot safely.

The Big 3 Rules

**ALWAYS**
keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.

**ALWAYS**
keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.

**ALWAYS**
keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.

Following these rules at all times will help keep you safe. But there’s plenty more to know.
Few decisions are as important as selecting your personal defense ammunition. Winchester developed the W Train & Defend system with full metal jacket training ammo (T) ballistically matched with jacketed hollow point Defend ammo (D). Winchester Train & Defend ammunition offers less recoil with the threat-stopping power needed when it counts.
Get the **Picture**

Here’s how to get a sight picture that will lead you to shooting success.

Sight alignment for rifles and pistols simply means that the eye is lined up with the gun’s front and rear sights so that an imaginary line connects all three in the proper manner. Sight alignment for shotguns means connecting the eye with the front bead/barrel muzzle in a line that intersects the path of the clay target.

The most common rifle/pistol “open” sights consist of a square rear notch and a front blade. The properly aligned front sight should be centered in the rear sight notch, side to side. The top of the blade should appear even with a line extending across the top of the notch.

Many rifle (and sometimes pistol) shooters opt to use optical sights, commonly a scope that magnifies the target image. In use, the shooter simply aligns the reticle or dot with his or her desired point of aim.

Once the rifle/pistol sights are properly aligned, imagine extending that line until it touches the target at the desired point of impact. If adjustment is necessary, move the gun, the shooter and the aligned sights as a unit.

Always focus on the front sight. Because your eye can only focus on one element of a sight picture at a time, focusing on the front sight allows you to keep all three elements (target, front and rear sight) aligned. When shooting a shotgun at moving clay targets, always focus on the clay to account for movement. If shooting slugs, then the rifle rules apply.
Professional pitcher Andrew Cashner is known to throw some nasty fastballs. But off the field, it’s all about the Curve. As a firearms enthusiast and avid outdoorsman, Cashner praises the all-new Taurus Curve for its game-changing design, reliable performance and unparalleled concealability.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
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<tr>
<td>First-ever LED light and laser built into frame</td>
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<td>Snag-free design</td>
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<td>Bore-axis sighting system for instinctual shooting</td>
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<td>Built-in holster-free belt clip</td>
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<tr>
<td>.380 ACP, 6+1 capacity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lightweight 10.2 ounce subcompact pistol</td>
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<td>Includes two magazines and a trigger protector</td>
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**SUGGESTED RETAIL: $392**

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TAURUS UNLIMITED LIFETIME REPAIR POLICY™
Cleaning and maintaining your guns preserves their functionality and value, and keeps them safe and accurate. The effort and attention you put into maintaining your firearms will pay off in peace of mind that your guns will do what you need them to do.

1. Choose a work area that is well-ventilated and well-lit.
2. Remove all ammunition from the area.
3. Set out your supplies.
4. Find the owner’s manual from the manufacturer. It should explain how to take the gun apart and clean it.
5. Once you have the gun disassembled, start with cleaning the bore. Clean from breech to muzzle whenever possible.
6. Use a cleaning rod of the correct diameter. They often come sized for .22-cal., .30-cal. or shotgun/muzzleloader diameters.
7. Start with solvent-wetted patches to loosen the fouling. After you’ve run three patches through the bore, it should be ready for the bore brush.
It may sound intimidating, but caring for your gun is easier than you think.

Proper Gun Storage

Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons. Many factors must be considered when deciding where and how to store guns. A person’s particular situation will be a major part of the consideration. Dozens of gun storage devices, as well as locking devices that attach directly to the gun, are available. However, mechanical locking devices, like the mechanical safeties built into guns, can fail and should not be used as a substitute for safe gun handling and the observance of all gun safety rules.

For transport, shooters use hard or soft cases depending on circumstances and preference. Airlines require hard-shell locking cases, but for driving to the range or hunting areas, most owners rely on lightweight soft cases.

Gun Storage Options
- Gun safes
- Pistol lock boxes
- Quick-access devices
- Locking drawers
- Gun cases
- Locks that attach to the gun

Keeping it Clean

8 Thread the brush to the cleaning rod and wet the bore brush with solvent. Ten passes with the brush should be enough. Run three more wet patches through the bore to pick up the fouling loosened by the bore brush. Repeat this process until your patches appear clean.

9 Wipe down the cleaning rod before finishing up with dry patches.

10 Run a patch lightly soaked with oil down the bore. Beware: Oil in the bore can create excessive pressure, a dangerous condition. Run a dry patch down the bore before you shoot your gun again.

11 Once cleaning is complete, reassemble the gun right away.

12 After you have reassembled the gun, check the safety and the trigger for proper function.
be the one...

Remember your first time shooting, hunting, fishing or camping? Remember who took you?

The sad truth is, there’s a growing segment of American society – especially young people – who have limited access and no guidance to experience shooting, hunting, fishing and camping. With your help that trend can change, by taking someone new with you the next time you go. Help someone make a first, and you can be the one that might change their life.

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City .................................................................State .................. Zip ..................................
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CARD NUMBER ............................................................ EXPIRATION DATE ........................................

SIGNATURE .................................................................

**RETURN APPLICATION WITH PAYMENT TO:**
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11250 Waples Mill Rd, Fairfax, VA 22030

*Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for processing.*

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