



# GRANT PROPOSAL

For Midway USA Foundation's Range Development Grant

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March 22, 2022

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Dear Midway USA Foundation,

Enclosed is a grant proposal for Spokane Rifle Club's program Spokane Junior Rifle Club. We are applying for Midway USA Foundation's Range Development Grant. SJRC is seeking \$6000 to purchase Orion Athena Targets for our club.

These targets will bring about a substantial change in how our shooters train for matches. SJRC seeks to provide youth ages 10-18 the opportunity to shoot competitively, as during these ages participating in sports is extremely beneficial to their development into adults.

Midway USA Foundation's Team Endowment Fund is a large part of how our team operates. We would love to continue to work together to change the future of youth shooting sports.

We believe that funding Athena Targets for SJRC is a perfect fit for your Range Development Grant, and would greatly appreciate your consideration.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Lesley Pearsall at [lesleypearsall@gmail.com](mailto:lesleypearsall@gmail.com), or call at (360) 710-8606.

Best Regards,

Ray Wilson  
Head Coach

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## Executive Summary

Spokane Rifle Club is a local nonprofit that has been a part of Spokane County's community for over 100 years. The program requesting funding is Spokane Junior Rifle Club, one of SRC's multiple active programs. SJRC strives to provide opportunities for youth ages 10-18 in Spokane County and surrounding areas to shoot competitively.

There is an incredibly important need for youth of these ages to participate in sports, for many reasons. Competitive sports have been proven to maintain physical and mental health in these years, as well as provide valuable skills essential to their future lives as adults. Competitive precision shooting, a unique blend of an individual and team sport, addresses this need. SJRC hosts an environment where any person ages 10-18 can competitively shoot, regardless of their financial situation, as this sport is quite expensive.

This grant proposal requests funding for Orion's Athena Target Systems, an electronic target system that would substantially change how SJRC trains for national matches. The Athena Targets, as we will discuss below, will help meet SJRC's objectives, and therefore help meet the need. These objectives include improving the shooter's performances, lining up shooters for potential scholarships to compete in college, and setting up SJRC for all the years to come.

We are requesting five Athena Targets, as SJRC's traveling team, who will be the primary users of the targets, consists of five shooters. Each target system costs \$1200, for a total of \$6000.

## Statement of Need

Participating in sports during the developing years 10-18 can significantly benefit youth's mental and physical health, as well as prepare them for their future.<sup>1</sup> As youth participate in sports, they learn how to work with a team, how to work towards something larger than themselves, and what it means to succeed. In turn, when they mature into adulthood, these benefits they've developed turn them into successful, contributing members of society.<sup>2</sup>

While any sport is beneficial to youth, precision rifle shooting, while not the typical basketball or soccer sport, is extremely adept at maintaining mental and physical health and fostering important life skills in youth.

It probably comes as no surprise that this sport isn't a popular one. As the political climate grows more and more hostile, this sport has diminished. In Spokane County alone, one can see this happening. Eastern Washington University used to have a precision rifle team, and there used to be a Spokane Valley junior rifle team, as well. There are no high school rifle

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<sup>1</sup> <https://herrenwellness.com/the-importance-of-youth-sports-participation/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://doaj.org/article/70e1cd800fa147e68ae223c41a53fd09>

teams in Spokane County. The closest one is in Walla Walla. That means that in Spokane County, this is classified as a non-high school sport, which means that this sport cannot receive funding from the school system. **The only junior precision rifle team left in Spokane County is the Spokane Junior Rifle Club.**

If we take away the politics, what we have left is a great sport that changes the lives of many youth in middle school and high school. There is an apparent need for keeping this sport alive and thriving for the coming generations. This is definitely where our visions alive. Both Midway USA Foundation and the Spokane Rifle Club actively works to keep this sport alive for the youth of Spokane County.

## Organization Description

Spokane Rifle Club (SRC) is a 501(c)(7) private, all-volunteer, member-run organization that has held a place in Washington State history for more than 100 years. SRC was founded in 1916 and strives to offer the best and most varied facilities for shooting sports in the Pacific Northwest. By providing a safe environment to shoot in, SRC wants the members to learn everything they can about their firearms. SRC serves gun owners in Eastern Washington and North Idaho, focusing on family involvement.

## Current Programs and Divisions

SRC has many active, well-organized programs that connect like-minded enthusiasts within the club. Here is a list of our current programs.

- Spokane Junior Rifle Club
- Armed Women of America
- Spokane Falls Muzzle Loaders
- Action Pistol League
- Cowboy Action

Along with our programs, we have separate divisions within our club to organize different competitions and community-based activities.

- Black Powder Cartridge Rifle Division
- Cast Bullet Division
- High Power Division
- Hunter Education Division
- Indoor Range Division
- Legislative Division
- Muzzleloader Division
- Pistol Division
- Shotgun Division
- Smallbore Division

## **Staffing**

SRC's Board of Trustees are all volunteers, and each one has been involved with the club and the community for many years. SRC hires paid Range Safety Officers, who are trained in range safety and all hold current training certifications.

## **Major Accomplishments of Spokane Junior Rifle Club**

The Spokane Junior Rifle Club, the program for which we are requesting funding, has been extremely successful in changing the lives of youth in our community. Four Olympians have come out of SJRC, as well as the 2019 National Championship Team for CMP's Three-Position Air Rifle Championships in Camp Perry, Ohio. Numerous athletes have gone on to compete in NCAA, attending college on shooting scholarships.

## **Affiliations**

SRC is affiliated with the National Rifle Association, United States of America Shooting, Civilian Marksmanship Program and The Washington State Rifle and Pistol Association.

## **What We Stand For**

SRC puts safety first, while inhibiting an environment in which learning and enjoyment of the outdoors takes place every day. SRC offers the most diverse and high-quality shooting facilities in the Pacific Northwest. SRC has been a staple in Spokane County's community for the last 100 years, and will continue to be a major part of the community for as long as there are people who want to connect and shoot their firearms.

## **Program Description**

The Spokane Junior Rifle Club (SJRC) is a division of the Spokane Rifle Club. SJRC is a competition club for youth (male and female) between the ages of 10 and 18 that compete in the disciplines of 3-Position Smallbore Rifle, 3-Position Air Rifle, and International Air Rifle.

## **Goals and Objectives**

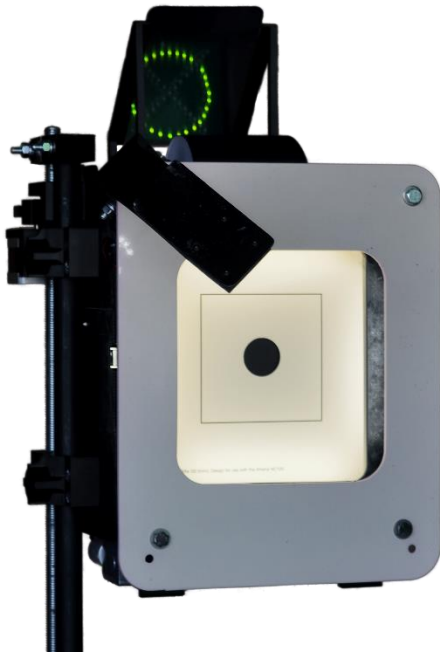
SJRC strives to make available for all interested youth the opportunity to compete in this sport. Competitive shooting is an excellent sport for young people because, in addition to marksmanship, it teaches many essential life skills. Among these skills are discipline, patience, problem solving, attention to detail, and stress management.

Here are our three specific objectives to achieve our goal.

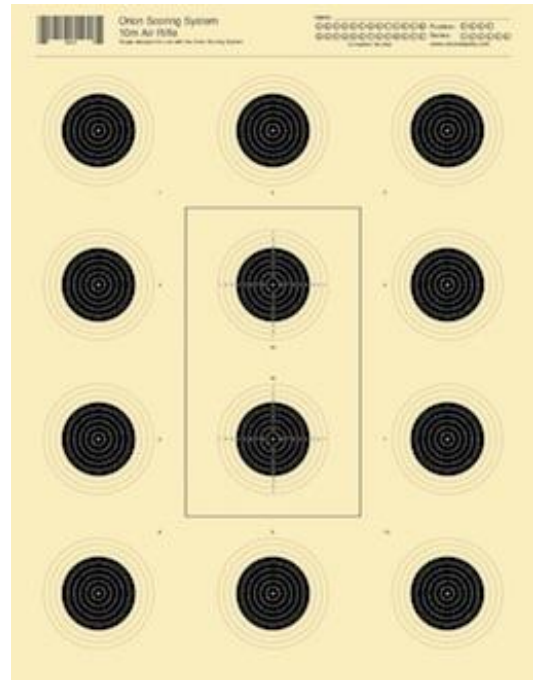
- Shooters work to better their performances, in their process and therefore scores.
- Give more opportunities for our shooters to advance in the sport after high school.
- Set up our team for all the future shooters who will be involved in our club.

## How Athena Targets Will Help Reach our Objectives

Electronic Athena Targets, which are very similar to the electronic targets used in national competitions, will elevate the training experience SJRC can provide the shooters. SJRC's traveling team consists of the top five shooters, which can fluctuate, who collectively or individually score high enough to qualify for national matches. These take place in Fort Benning, Georgia; Camp Perry, Ohio; Olympic Training Center, Colorado; and other elite ranges across the United States.



*Athena Target System*



*Paper Orion Target*

On the left, you can see the Athena Electronic Target. It has one bull, compared to the paper target on the right, which is what SJRC currently uses, that has ten competition bulls and two sighter bulls in the center. In a shooter's process, when shooting on a paper target, they have to adjust their position slightly after each shot to change their natural point of aim. When shooting on an electronic single bull target, this step is eliminated in the process. Since process is the most important element of precision shooting, this small change can have other impacts. After a shooter trains for months for a national competition, going to a new range and new targets can take away the focus from competing.

The Athena targets will also impact stress training, as with the electronic targets the shooter's score is displayed for everyone to see immediately. This is significantly different from a paper target, when only the shooter can see the score through a spotting scope before the targets are collectively scored. This experience at a national match can put a lot of

pressure on the shooter, whereas if the shooter were already used to having their score immediately on display, it wouldn't be as much of a shock to their system.

So far, we've looked at how the Athena targets will achieve our first objective of improving process and scores through training. The targets will also help achieve the second objective, as college recruiters keep a close eye on the shooters at national matches. The better prepared they are, the more likely they will shoot better. This, in turn, will get more attention and potentially more scholarship opportunities.

The last objective, setting up our team for future generations of shooters, will be greatly benefited from the Athena Targets. As only the advanced travel team shooters will use the targets, and will be put away between practices, the quality will be preserved. So when the advanced shooters graduate high school and move on, the intermediate shooters will fill their shoes and have the Athena targets to practice on and prepare them for national matches.

## **Methods**

Through providing gear, time, and a facility for dedicated practice, both physical and mental, we wish to achieve objective one. Over the years, we have acquired a large collection of the expensive shooting gear and rifles. Our indoor and outdoor ranges are great areas to train. We have allotted time Tuesday and Thursday nights, as well as the weekends when we have competitive matches.

We want our shooters interested in going further in this sport after high school graduation to have as many opportunities as possible. When our traveling team competes at national matches, this is where college coaches and recruiters keep an eye out. By preparing our shooters to perform their best at these matches, the more opportunities they will receive.

By acquiring a variety of training equipment, training coaches and range officers, and upkeeping our range, we are setting up the future generations of shooters.

## **Administration**

All of our staff are volunteers. Orange titles are on the Board of Trustees of SRC. As described, each one of our staff has at least one kid that has been or still is shooting on SJRC.

Lesley Pearsall is in charge of the finances and reporting. Ray Wilson is in charge of facilitating the practices and coaching the intermediate and advanced. Steve Christian is works as our main Range Safety Officer. Bob Orth coaches the beginner shooters. While these are our main staff, many additional parents fill in as ROs and match director helpers.

### **Ray Wilson, Head Coach, RO**

- Coach for over 10 years
- Taken traveling team to 14 national matches
- Coach of 2019 CMP National Championship team (Cassidy Wilson, Taylor Christian, Ben Tafoya, Zachary Pearsall, Garrett Pearsall)



- One kid through SJRC (now shooting in NCAA)

#### **Lesley Pearsall, Match Director, Treasurer**

- Former accountant
- 10 years of experience working as a treasurer for nonprofits
- Three kids through SJRC

#### **Steve Christian, Executive Officer, Coach, RO**

- Coach for eight years
- Two kids through SJRC (one now shooting in NCAA)

#### **Bob Orth, President, Coach, RO**

- President for fourteen years
- Coach for over thirty years
- One kid through SJRC (who is now 48 years old)

### **Evaluation**

To evaluate the effectiveness of the Athena Targets in achieving our objectives, we will collect both qualitative and quantitative data.

Lesley Pearsall will interview the shooters and determine the impact the Athena targets have had on their practices and training experience. These will take place one month after starting training with the targets, six months, and finally one year.

To support the qualitative data, Ms. Pearsall will track the scores of the shooters, calculating the averages, over the next year.

Mr. Wilson and Ms. Pearsall will evaluate the progress and adjust accordingly to ensure our objectives are met.

### **Sustainability**

Our program is set up to be sustainable for as many years as there are still shooters interested in competing. Here are specific areas of funding we have and are receiving.

- Donations
- Fundraisers
  - Handing out coffee at a rest stop
- Participating in the Bighorn Show (a local outdoors convention)
- Other grants
  - Midway USA Foundation
  - Friends of the NRA
- Membership fees

Through these incoming funds, our club is set up financially to support our shooters for as long as there are shooters wanting to compete.

## Conclusions

Thank you very much for reading and considering choosing Spokane Rifle Club for Midway USA Foundation's Range Development Grant. SJRC strives to give youth the chance to better themselves and their futures, and the Athena Targets will help SJRC meet this even further. Thank you for your consideration.



*Spokane Junior Rifle Club 2022*