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SAGA SNIPPETS

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10 Ways to Help Teach Safe Gun Handling

by Wendy LaFever
Tuesday, March 6, 2018

Mentoring someone who is brand-new to firearms can be one of the great joys in life. You get to show someone the proper and safe way to handle guns; you can change their entire perception of gun ownership (and gun owners); and you get to watch the smile dawn on their face as they realize that yes, they can do this too. But it's also a terrific responsibility. Someone who's introduced to firearms in the wrong way can be forever hesitant to pick one up again...or, worse, they may walk away from the experience with a negative view of what guns and shooting are all about. So it's crucial to make sure that a new shooter's experience is a positive one. Here are 10 tips to help make sure that it is.

1. Safety, safety, safety

Someone who has never actually shot a gun before is likely to have learned everything they do know from entertainment media, and as we all know, much of that is wrong. In particular, unsafe gun handling practices are regularly depicted in movies and on TV. (How many times have you seen the "good cop" go striding into a darkened room with their finger on the trigger? Don't get me started.) So long before you ever put a real gun in your "student's" hands, sit down with them and explain just how important the rules are.

2. Practice safety ahead of time

Get a "blue gun" (or, failing that, a squirt gun) and let your new shooter practice how to hold it with their finger outside the trigger guard. Show them how they need to move around the gun when it's on a table, so they'll know not to stand in front of it when on the range. If you have a laser pen (or, better still, a laser that you can mount on the blue gun), let them practice with that. Walk them through the situations they might encounter on the range, so they won't panic if something unexpected happens.

3. Model safety yourself

When you finally get your newbie to the range, make sure that you practice what you preach. Many experienced shooters can become complacent...it's just human nature. So ensure that when you're loading and unloading your guns from their cases, loading the guns themselves, and handling the firearms, that you are always following the rules yourself. To the letter. No excuses.

4. Choose a quiet day at the range

One of the things that tends to be the most surprising to a new shooter is just how loud gunfire can be, particularly in an enclosed space. (Most new shooters are shocked by the way that you can feel the noise as much as you can hear it, and it can be quite intimidating. You don't want your new shooter to be flinching every time the guy in the stall next to you sends a .308 Lapua downrange. ....make sure that the day you've chosen to bring your mentee in is going to be a quiet one.

5. Speaking of which...

Double up on ear protection. Make sure your new shooter has both soft foam plugs and earmuffs, and ensure that those plugs and muffs fit them correctly before you get there. If at all possible, take them to the store ahead of time and let them try them on. Then buy them their own ear protection. ....And while you're at it, make sure that they have safety glasses that wrap all the way around their eye area.

Continued....10 Ways to Help Teach Safe Gun Handling

6. Manage their expectations

I've already gotten started, so I might as well keep ragging on the entertainment media. How many times have you seen this in the movies: Someone needs to learn how to shoot. Their friend puts a pistol in their hands. They grip it effortlessly, and with grim determination begin to send rounds downrange. A few seconds later, they proudly pull back a target with a perfect 1-inch hole in the center. Sigh.

Now, it's true that there is such a thing as a "natural." However, most of us need plenty of time and practice to master the gestalt of hand-eye coordination, proper grip, trigger squeeze, sight picture and all of the other things that go into shooting accurately. Before you get to the range, make sure your newbie knows that they may barely get their shots on paper their first time out. Reassure them that it's quite normal, and that all you or anyone else really cares about is that they handle the firearm safely.

7. Start small

If your new shooter is interested in learning because they want a firearm for personal protection, it may be quite tempting to start them out with a gun designed specifically for that. A snub-nosed lightweight .357 revolver, perhaps, or a 12-gauge shotgun with an 18-inch barrel. Please resist this temptation, at least the first time out. Many guns designed for personal protection offer thumping recoil and (since most personal-defense situations happen at very close range) not the greatest accuracy in the world. It's possible your new shooter may later want to try something bigger, so by all means, bring the larger calibers along. But start with something in a .22...preferably something with a long barrel and good sights, so they can experience some success before they tackle the more challenging guns.

Speaking of making it easy to succeed, instead of bringing bulls-eye targets, why not use paper plates instead (if your range allows it)? Any hit on the plate will count as a "win," and your newbie won't be stressing about the fact that they didn't put their first shots right on the bullseye.

8. Stay calm

.... it's entirely possible that, caught up in the excitement and trying to concentrate on a bunch of new things at once, your mentee might make a mistake. Perhaps he or she leaves the gun pointed downrange after the RO has called a ceasefire. Or hands you the gun without verifying that the chamber is empty. What's important is that you remain calm, and simply tell them in a conversational tone what to do next. If you must take over the situation yourself, by all means do so, but don't do anything to panic them.

9. It's not about you

Another thing that can be very tempting for an experienced shooter is to show off just a bit. Hey, we're all human. Do resist the temptation to take the gun from your new shooter's hands and show them just how many bullets you can put through the same hole in that target. Remember, this is for them. Praise them for the hits that they do make, and positively reinforce every time they do something safely and correctly.

10. Follow up

You're all done shooting, the guns have been put away, and now it's time to go home. The lesson isn't over, though. Ask them how they felt about the experience, and listen to their answers. If they still have questions, answer as honestly as you can. If you don't know the answers, find someone who does. Perhaps they may be interested in receiving further instruction in a classroom environment ...

Most importantly, invite them along the next time you go to the range, too. Until they make some friends in the shooting community, they may be hesitant to go back to the range by themselves.

Extracted from:
https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2018/3/6/10-ways-to-help-teach-safe-gun-handling/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=insider&utm_campaign=0318

General SAGA Matters

SnapScan

SAGA has activated SnapScan for quick and easy payments at HuntEx.

If you haven't used ScapScan before.....

It is an app that allows you to simply pay with your phone. It supports credit cards and most debit cards from any local bank, as well as 3D Secure-enabled international bank cards.

Your card details are securely encrypted on your phone, neither SAGA nor Scapscan have access to them.

To download SnapScan search your phone app store for the SnapScan app, or visit the Snapscan home page www.snapscan.co.za for links.

SnapScan is available for Apple iPhones, smartphones that run Android operating software (Samsung, Huawei and others), as well as most BlackBerry phones (note that you need to have BlackBerry World installed to access the app store). Zest, Windows and feature phones are unfortunately not currently supported.

SnapScan is completely free for users to download and use. Network operator data charges do apply, but the app is less than 10 MB in size, depending on the device you use.

Transactions also use very little data, about the same amount as a single WhatsApp message.

Once the app is downloaded you link your credit or debit card and in less than 5 minutes, you're good to go!

To pay with SnapScan you open the SnapScan app on your phone and tap on "Scan" to scan the SnapCode (a QR code, or square barcode) displayed at our point of sale at HuntEx. This identifies us as SAGA and prompts you to enter the amount you wish to pay. Enter your 4-digit PIN or use TouchID on your Apple device, to secure and complete the transaction. SAGA will receive a notification to confirm that the payment has been made.

Office Telephone Lines

The SAGA office has been experiencing a lot of downtime on the Telkom telephone lines.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused and can assure you that every effort is being made to normalise the situation.

HuntEx Reminder

SAGA will be at HuntEx 2018 from Friday 27 April to Sunday 29 April (VIP day on Thursday 26 April).

Visit us at Stand 251 in Hall 2 to meet the team , see and buy our new insignia, renew your membership or sign up a new member.

An email giving more details will following mid-April.

YouTube Gun Video Ban

https://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/talkingtech/2018/03/22/youtube-ban-videos-gun-sales-and-modifications/448674002/

YouTube to ban videos about gun sales and modifications

Mike Snider
USA TODAY, March 22, 2018

YouTube is tightening its restrictions for content about guns and now forbids videos about the selling and making of firearms, ammunition and accessories.

The Google-owned video sharing site recently banned videos about how to convert firearms to make them fire more quickly, such as bump stocks. The Justice Department recently took action to ban the devices that speed up the pace of gunfire and allow semi-automatic guns to fire at a rate that mimics a fully automatic firearm.

These new restrictions, which take effect next month, prevent videos involving direct sales of firearms or certain firearms accessories, as well as videos that link to firearms sales sites. Videos that show how to make and modify firearms are banned, also.

YouTube's move comes as gun control supporters have increasingly targeted tech firms in the wake of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Fla. last month that left 17 students and staff dead. Last month, gun control supporters attempted to pressure Amazon, Apple and Google to drop the NRAtv channel from its streaming video devices.

The new firearms video restrictions are an update of some already-established prohibitions regarding content about guns, the company says.

"We routinely make updates and adjustments to our enforcement guidelines across all of our policies," YouTube said in a statement to USA TODAY. "While we've long prohibited the sale of firearms, we recently notified creators of updates we will be making around content promoting the sale or manufacture of firearms and their accessories, specifically, items like ammunition, gatling triggers, and drop-in auto sears."

YouTube says on its website it will now prohibit videos about direct sales of firearms and accessories, instructional videos about making firearms and modifying them (to include, or example, high-capacity magazines).

But the new firearms content policy could have its downside and be unconstitutional, said the National Shooting Sports Foundation, which has a YouTube channel with more than 5,000 instructional videos. "We see the real potential for the blocking of educational content that serves instructional, skill-building and even safety purposes," the organization said in a statement.

The NSSF notes that Facebook has shut down some pages of firearms retailers that were following the social network's rules. "Much like Facebook, YouTube now acts as a virtual public square. The exercise of what amounts to censorship, then, can legitimately be viewed as the stifling of commercial free speech, which has constitutional protection. Such actions also impinge on the Second Amendment."

NRA Statement on YouTube Censorship Announcement

Friday, March 23, 2018

Fairfax, Va.— Chris W. Cox, executive director of the National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action (NRA-ILA), released the following statement on Friday:

"YouTube is now in the business of political posturing and censorship. Millions of Americans watch YouTube videos every day to learn more about the safe and responsible use of firearms, and those videos show law-abiding gun owners participating in lawful behavior.

By banning this content, YouTube is engaging in politically motivated censorship and alienating the millions of people who turn to the website for education and training. Currently, anyone can go to YouTube and watch a video to learn how to make a bomb, yet the company wants to ban videos depicting lawful gun use? It's absurd. This new policy runs counter to the American traditions of open dialogue and tolerance for diverse opinions and firmly plants YouTube, and its parent company Google, against the freedoms so many Americans hold dear."

Remington to File for Bankruptcy

http://money.cnn.com /2018/02/12/news/companies/ remington-bankruptcy-plans/ index.html

by Aaron Smith
February 12, 2018

Remington, one of the oldest and most well-known gun companies in the world, plans to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

The plan would allow Remington Outdoor Company to stay in business while restructuring its debt. The plan allows for Remington to reduce its debt by $700 million and contributes $145 million of new capital into its subsidiaries, according to the company.

Remington said in a statement that its operations "will not be disrupted by the restructuring process." "Payments to trade partners, employee wages and other benefits, support for customers, and an ongoing high level of service to consumers will continue without interruption," it said.

Remington is owned by the private equity firm Cerberus Capital Management. Cerberus will give up that ownership once restructuring is complete, a spokesman said Monday.

Remington, which is headquartered in North Carolina and has a sprawling factory in Ilion, New York, has faced legal trouble in recent years.

The company settled a class action lawsuit regarding allegations of defective rifles a few years ago. It has also been sued because of the mass shooting in 2012 at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Conn. The company produces the Bushmaster rifle used in that shooting.

The gun industry, which also includes publicly traded companies like American Outdoor Brands (AOBC), owner of the Smith & Wesson brand, as well as Sturm Ruger & Co. (RGR) and Vista Outdoor (VSTO), has experienced slumping sales since the election of President Donald Trump.

Gun sales surged to record levels in 2016, when Barack Obama was president and there were fears that Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton would implement gun controls.

When Trump, a Republican endorsed by the National Rifle Association, was elected, those fears were alleviated. But sales also dropped off.

-- CNNMoney's Julia Horowitz contributed to this story.

Watch this space …for more interesting firearm snippets