



**Partridge Creek Young Guns
Participant Guide
2022-2023**

Partridge Creek Gun Club
1487 Hwy 78
Ridgeville, SC 29472

Partridge Creek Young Guns

Partridge Creek Young Guns is the official youth development program of Partridge Creek Gun Club. Young Guns is open to youth ages 10 – 18. The club's goals are to get youth involved in shotgun sports and promote Positive Youth Development.

Important Notice:

- The use of firearms comes with risks. However, if all safety rules are applied, the risk of injury reduces significantly. Therefore, safety and wellness must be the #1 concern for all involved.
- Shooting sports, in general, are highly competitive. This sport takes excellent mental and physical endurance, maturity, and upper body strength that may not be present in all youth. Coaches will evaluate and make determinations on eligibility. Remember, SAFETY is the top priority. We will do our best to keep those who have the desire and drive to learn engaged.

Simplified Rules of Firearm Safety:

- **MAT**
 - Muzzle: is always pointed in a safe direction.
 - Action: it is always open and empty.
 - Trigger: the finger is always off the trigger until ready to shoot
- Know your target and what is behind it, in front of it, to the left and the right.
- No firearm is loaded until the athlete is on the station and ready to shoot.
- The coach manages any equipment or ammunition failures.

PROGRAM:

Format:

Partridge Creek Young Guns is a unique format designed to improve youths' and parents' experiences. Young Guns is both a Club and a Competitive Team.

- Club
 - Those new to shooting sports
 - Designed to teach the fundamentals of shooting
 - Athletes shoot what they want and as much as they are comfortable with
 - Foundation building at this point
- Competitive:
 - Our competitive program shoots Skeet, Trap, and Sporting Clays as a team
 - There are team, squad, and individual scores and awards
 - Travel to other venues

Competitive Program Involved With:

4-H/Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP): These are nationally recognized programs with competitions throughout SC and other states. There is a National Match for 4-H and one for the SCTP program. Events are skeet, trap, and sporting clays.

COST:

Program Registration and Cost:

In addition to joining 4H and SCTP, there is a **\$40** program fee per youth.

- **SCTP:** Online application and electronic signature
 - SCTP is \$25 for athletes and \$35 for adult volunteers (Paid online)
- **4-H:** Online Registration
 - \$15 fee (Paid Online)

Estimated Equipment and Match Cost:

- Welcome to an expensive sport. So, what are the estimated costs?
 - Team Shirts: \$25 - \$30
 - 4H/SCTP match fees: \$35 - \$55
 - Practice fees: \$9.00 for Skeet and Trap (75 targets). \$25 for Sporting Clays (100 targets)
 - Ammo: \$40 per 100 shells
 - Shotgun: \$1,200 – 1,500 mid-grade estimates
 - Cart Rental Fee for a match: \$50 - \$55 (based on last year's cost)
 - Shooting Vest: \$50 or Shooting Pouch: \$20
 - Shotgun Chokes: \$40 - \$100 per. Recommend Carlson Chokes.

Please do not buy gear before asking or trying some of the gear teammates have. Just because a 12-gauge shotgun is what adults shoot does not mean little Johnny should or can. A 20-gauge shotgun will pattern similar to a 12-gauge shotgun and allow for a much better learning experience.

RSVPing and Event Registration:

RSVPing for Practices and Matches is a must! This is the only way for the coaches to plan and hold effective practices and arrange matches.

- **RSVP for Practice:** This will be done via Remind App and Email. **See Page 7**
- **RSVP and Registration for Matches:** For matches, you will RSVP and Register via the Partridge Creek Young Guns Website. When you RSVP, you will also pay your Registration Fee—this fee is non-refundable. <https://www.partridgecreekyoungguns.org/shoot-registrations>

Expectations:

For All:

- If you join Young Guns, you must join 4H and SCTP.
- If you join Young Guns, you will be active in Young Guns.
 - Active means:
 - Attend 60% of the practices. (If you want to compete)
 - Participate in skeet, trap, sporting clays, or five stand practices.
 - Attend at least one club workday.
 - Maximum effort.

Athletes:

- This is your sport. Own it.
- You are responsible for your equipment. Come ready to practice or compete.
- On the field, you are not a son or daughter; you are an athlete.
- You will follow the rules of the club, venues, and programs.
- You are to communicate in advance if you are not able to practice.
- You are to be a positive role model for younger shooters.
- Learn from others. Support your fellow athletes. Sportsmanship always wins.
- Always shake (fist bump) your trappers and scorekeepers' hand when leaving the field.
- Your honesty and integrity always win in the long run.
- Athletes will hold roles of responsibility on a rotational purpose. You are to take these seriously.
- **If You Compete, these additional rules apply:**
 - If you shoot a qualifier, you have also committed to shooting the championship if you make the cut.
 - You have agreed to practice and follow the instructions of the designated program coaches.
 - You will be placed on a squad. You will be removed and put on a standby list if you cannot meet a squad member's obligation.
 - You are to be at matches you commit to. Your squad counts on you.

Parents:

- Supporting your child is a must.
- Parents are not coaches, yet parents coach (see the first bullet).
- RSVPing for practice is a must. We use the Remind App and email.
- Being involved in the program is a must.
 - Coaching (per the rules and policies of the Young Guns program)
 - Fundraising
 - Administrative
 - Planning meals
- A positive attitude and reinforcement are essential.
- Parents observe during events. They do not enter the field or the station.

Coaches:

- Coaches will be aligned to a discipline to support practices with some variety.
- Coaches will support the program and squads' needs regardless of whether they have an athlete in the program or squad.
- Coaches will avoid coaching their children.
- Coaches are required to obtain proper certification from the required organizations.
- On the field, coaches are not parents; they are coaches.

- Coaches are required to follow best practices in coaching youth.
- Coaches are expected to stay current on program rules and policies.

Youth Safety:

- No one-on-one contact
- A parent/guardian/another coach must be present if the youth requests additional practice.

Practice:

- **9:00 to 12:00 pm on 1st and 3rd Saturdays.** Meet at the Skeet House (sign over the door)
- Practices are communicated a few days before. If the club has an event, we will not have practice. If youth have a match, there will still be practice for those who do not attend the match if coaches are available.
 - Skeet and Trap cost around \$9 a practice; this covers target costs (75 targets).
 - Sporting Clays cost a \$20 flat rate.
 -

Youth Roles of Responsibility:

Roles or responsibilities are designed to instill traits needed in today's world. Youth will grow from these roles over time. We are not to solve the problem for them. Let them try to figure it out.

- Squad Leader
 - Squad Leader presides over the beginning of the practice. They ensure everyone is present and ready to start. In addition, the Squad Leader is the direct line of communication between the Coaches and Athletes.
- Assistant Squad Leader
 - Assistant Squad Leaders are responsible for all youth in the classification (Intermediate Entry, Intermediate Advance, JV, SV) that the Assistant Squad Leader is a member. Each squad will have an Assistant Squad Leader. They are to ensure that all members have all the safety equipment in place before starting practice on their designated field or rotation; shotguns are properly carried and stowed, ammunition is on hand, and keeping a good practice rhythm. If there are issues, guidance is needed, or support, the Assistant Squad Leader will let the Squad Leader know. Urgent matters are directed to the coach.
- Club Secretary
 - Ensures that everyone is signed in.
 - Collect any scorecards or other pieces of paper from youth and adults and turn them into the committee or head coach.
 - Inventory any Young Guns gear and note if items need replacement.
- Safety Lead
 - Ensures everyone has appropriate safety equipment. Safety equipment includes clothing. Safety Lead is not responsible for firearm issues; a coach will handle this. Safety will acquire some loaner equipment from the coaches if someone lacks safety gear.
 - Safety is also responsible for designating someone to conduct the safety brief every practice.

Steering Committee Roles and Responsibilities:

The steering committee's goal is to keep the program moving in a positive and productive direction. Therefore, the steering committee will meet at a minimum quarterly (unless decided otherwise) during practice. In addition, the steering committee provides the following support to the Head Coach.

- Financial management: Will be added to the bank account and manage income and expenses as needed by the program. A monthly report will be created, showing all income and expenses.
- Logistic support such as:
 - Planning parties: Christmas Party, Fall Movie Night, Birthday
 - Planning lunch menus for tailgates
 - Fundraising: Planning at least once a year
 - Coaches records: Keeping records of coaches certs and applications
 - Athletes records: Keeping records for applications, medical and other waivers
 - Squad development: Workout squad strategies that meet the intent of the program and support athletes.

Coaching Staff:

Coaches are critical in both the safety and management of the program. Coaches must be of good character and be able to work with youth and adults alike. Coaches must meet the following criteria:

- Must be 18 years or older
- Must receive approval from the Head Coach
- Registered with 4H/SCTP and any other program as needed
- Must have taken or scheduled to take the appropriate coach's certification training and background checks.

Coaches are needed to support skeet, trap, and sporting clays. Coaches must understand, at least at the basic levels, the rules of the game. In addition, coaches must be able to identify shooting issues, provide corrective actions, and provide positive reinforcement.

Match Rules:

Please look over the rules for the programs we discussed. **The links** section of this document will take you to each group's homepage; from there, you will find the rules.

Parents Heads-up:

- We are an all-weather sport, cold, hot, rain or shine, so planning is essential. Recommended items to bring to matches:
 - Rain gear (may even want rain boots)
 - Cold weather gear (hats, gloves, jacket, hot hands, etc.)
 - Sunscreen and bug spray
 - Motrin/Tylenol
 - Water (Strongly discourage caffeinated drinks as caffeine negatively impacts vision)
 - Snacks (granola bar or snacks that can be eaten without grabbing with hands).

Shoots can make for a long day. Travel, shoot, awards, travel back. The team intends to have potlucks or picnics to feed our starving masses when feasible. Parents, this is where you play a crucial role in planning and executing.

Common Terms:

- **Squadding:** This is forming a group of athletes for a match. For Skeet and Trap, it is typically five athletes per squad. For Sporting Clays, it generally is three athletes per squad.
- **Alternate:** This is an athlete that is not in a squad. This athlete will shoot for their HOA.
- **Highest Overall Average:** The computed average for a round of Skeet, Trap, or Sporting Clays. For example, 90 out of 100 clays is an HOA of 90%. If no one else gets a higher score, the athlete wins HOA.
- **Report Pair:** When a total of two clays are thrown, but one at a time
- **True Pair:** Two clays thrown at the same time

Links:

- **SCTP:** www.sctp.org
- **Facebook:** @PartridgeCreekYoungGuns
- **Young Guns Website:** www.partridgecreekyoungguns.org
- **Remind App:** Class Name: Partridge Creek Young Guns
- **Venmo:** @partridgecreek4H

Contact Information:

- **Coach Rob Dudley:** radudley@gmail.com, 843-276-9862
- **Coach Johnny Bevon:** johnny@bevonre.com, 843-478-5859
- **Coach Derrick Phinney:** dphinne@clemson.edu, 843-560-0609

Athlete and Parent Homework

- Get the matches on your calendar.
- Study the rules. The links above take you to their organization's pages.
- Communicate with the coaches if there are any issues or concerns.

Participants Rules and Policies. Read Carefully

As a participant, both youth and adults, you are responsible for appropriately representing the Partridge Creek Gun Club and its 4-H / SCTP Shooting Sports Program. Therefore, you are expected to conduct yourself to bring honor to you, your family, 4-H, and Partridge Creek.

As a member of Partridge Creek Young Guns:

- Safety glasses and hearing protection are required for anyone on the field and encouraged for those observing.
- I am responsible for keeping fields and facilities clean and in good repair. Damage caused by horseplay or abuse will be the responsibility of the athletes to correct.
- I understand that no guns will rest on toes, no hands on the muzzle.
- I understand that shotguns will be carried muzzle up and actions out for semi-autos and broken and over the shoulder for break action at all practices and events.
- I must maintain safe and healthy habits while with Young Guns, even outside practice.
- I will RSVP for practice using the Remind App or email. Nothing worse than a coach showing up, and no one else does.
- I understand, as with any shooting sport, athletes are the only people who may coach each other during the competition.
- I understand if I am not involved in a match, I may not enter the field. Doing so may lead to a squad's disqualification.
- I am to act professionally, maintain school grades, and respect others on and off the field.
- I will shake their trapper's hand and thank them after all team members have completed shooting a station or match.
- I will work cooperatively with other 4-H participants, youth, volunteer leaders, families, Cooperative Extension faculty and staff, and others courteously and respectfully.
- I will live up to my highest expectations to return home proud of who I am and what I have done.
- I understand closed-toed shoes are required. No Crocs or sandals are allowed.
- No shirts with questionable language or pictures. If you have to question if you can wear something, don't. If your grandmother would disapprove, then don't wear it.

If I do not conduct myself within the above guidelines, I may expect:

1. To explain my actions to the adults in charge and accept my actions' consequences.
2. To be dismissed from the event and sent home early at parent/guardian expense.
3. To have adults in charge, work closely with parents/guardians, Extension personnel, and others to see that disciplinary actions are appropriate and logical consequences for all concerned.
4. A letter or verbal notification describing the infraction and/or inappropriate behavior will be provided to my parent/guardian and the county Extension Office.
5. Dismissal from the program

Athlete Signature: _____

Parent / Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____