

Jr. Shooting Sports

Competitive shooting is a popular recreational activity and, for some, a pathway to the U.S. Olympic Team. Since 1991, and with its partners, The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program has provided rifle safety, marksmanship training and shoulder-to-shoulder competitions for young people through local post-affiliated clubs using .177 caliber air rifles.

The Americanism Legion Americanism Division annually presents its Junior Three Position Air Rifle Tournament. This world class competition provides American Legion Affiliated youth competitors an opportunity to test their marksmanship ability in competition with other junior competitors throughout the nation.

The competition begins on November 1, 2019 with a Postal Match; a match in which competitor's fire on their home ranges using targets that have been marked for identification. The fired targets are then returned to the American Legion for scoring and ranking for awards. Annually more than 1,300 individuals and 200 teams participate.

The tournament is divided into three rounds of exciting competition.

The First Round team tournament is a "paper" match and will be comprised of the top four athletes' individual tournament scores. A club with at least four individuals enters one team; at least eight individuals enters two teams; and so on.

The First Round and Second Round of the Individual Tournament are postal matches, whereas the Third Round is the Individual National Championship and a shoulder-to-shoulder completion.

The American Legion Individual Three Position Air Rifle National Championship is held in July at the USA Shooting range facility located at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The winners in both the Precision and Sporter category will each receive a \$5,000.00 college scholarship provide in part by The American Legion and The Sons of the American Legion. The two winners are also honored as part of the Youth Champions Delegation during the American Legion Convention.

Additionally, a \$1,000.00 college scholarship will be awarded to the second place finishers in both the Sporter and the Precision categories. This scholarship is being generously provided by The American Legion Auxiliary.

If you're looking to join their Postal Competition please visit www.legion.org/shooting/postal_match for details. For information on **Starting** or **Joining a Local or State** level American Legion Shooting Sports Program, please visit our RESOURCES webpage at www.legion.org/shooting/resources.

To contact **your** American Legion Department State Headquarters **directly** for local Junior Shooting Sports Program information, please visit www.legion.org/departments.

Gerald Hammerschmidt
Sons of The American Legion
National Americanism Vice Commission Chairman

