

A collage of grayscale images showing various shooting sports activities, including people at shooting ranges, target practice, and outdoor sports.

Alamo City Shooting & Outdoor Sportsfest

**San Antonio, Texas
September 22, 2007**

www.shootingsportscamp.com

Press Kit

**Contact: Damaso Torres (Event Director)
(210) 674-5559
dtorres@sf2a.org**



The Alamo City Shooting & Outdoor Sportsfest is an annual event organized and sponsored by Students for the Second Amendment and The Collegiate Firearms Instructor Program.

The purpose of this event is to introduce young people, families, and youth-serving organizations to the safe enjoyment of the shooting sports, as well as many other outdoor sports and activities.

The focus of the event is safety and education.

The Alamo City Shooting & Outdoor Sportsfest is made possible by the enthusiastic participation of dozens of outdoor-oriented organizations and associations.

Additionally, generous donations by shooting, hunting, and outdoor product manufacturers ensure this event's success year after year.

It is our belief that our nation is at risk of losing its shooting, hunting, and outdoor heritage. We are committed to the preservation of those values.

The Alamo City Shooting & Outdoor Sportsfest is held each year at The National Shooting Complex, located at 5931 Roft Rd. San Antonio, Texas 78258.

This event is offered as a public educational service to the South Texas community.

**Students for the Second Amendment
9624 Braun Run
San Antonio, TX 78254**

Alamo City Shooting & Outdoor Sportsfest



**San Antonio, Texas
September 22, 2007**

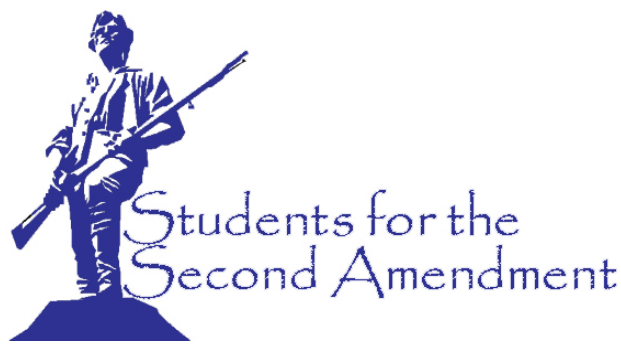
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Students for the Second Amendment is a non-partisan, campus based, student organization.

Students for the Second Amendment is dedicated to educating young people about their rights guaranteed in the Constitution of the United States, especially that right that is the guarantor of all the others - the Second Amendment.

Students for the Second Amendment is committed to instilling in students a love of country, the rule of law, and an understanding of not only their rights, but their obligations as freedom-loving individuals and citizens.

By sponsoring pro-gun rights speakers on campus, registering voters, endorsing candidates, legislative ratings, and lobbying in our state legislatures, Students for the Second Amendment stands on the front lines in defense of freedom against the assault on our young people by the academic left.

Our programs have introduced hundreds of college and high school students to the safe enjoyment of the shooting sports. We have generated tens of thousands of dollars worth of earned media in print, television, and radio. Most importantly, we have inspired a groundswell of pro-freedom, grassroots, student activism on campuses across the country.



The Collegiate Firearms Instructor Program is an ongoing project of Students for the Second Amendment. The goal of the program is to train college and university students to become NRA Certified Firearms Instructors.

The Certified Instructors then go back to their campuses to offer training to their classmates, and others, interested in learning more about the safe, competent, operation and handling of many types of firearms.

Our instructors also volunteer their training services to programs outside of the academic community, such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, The 4-H Shooting Program, Youth Hunter Education Programs, Big Brothers & Sisters, and JROTC organizations.

After two years serving as instructors, program members are strongly encouraged to apply to become NRA certified Training Counselors. As NRA Training Counselors, members will train others to become Certified NRA Instructors.

The CFIP introduced over 4100 young people to the safe enjoyment of the shooting sports in academic year 2006-2007.



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Second Amendment

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Titles are for identification purposes only.

Congressman Ron Paul
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

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P.O. Box 3372
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July 8, 2001

Students for the Second Amendment
129111 Vidorra Circle
San Antonio, Tx 78216

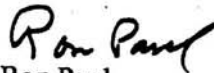
Dear Students for the Second Amendment:

As Congressman representing District 14 in Texas, I want to extend my full support and commendation to the Students for the Second Amendment

As stated in the United States Constitution, our freedom and independence depends on the rights of the American people to keep and bear arms. Your efforts to educate and organize students in defense of the Second Amendment is a great service to your community and country and I am proud to encourage and join with you in this endeavor.

Thank you for your great work!

Sincerely,



Ron Paul
District 14, Texas



ALAMO AREA COUNCIL BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

2226 N.W. Military Highway • San Antonio, Texas 78213-1894
(210) 341-8611 • (800) 940-2721 • Fax: (210) 341-7641
www.alamoarea-boyscouts.org

November 4, 2003

Ryan T. Bragg
Chairman
Students For The Second Amendment
2702 Mud Lake
San Antonio, TX 78245

Scout Law

A Scout is:

Trustworthy
Loyal
Helpful
Friendly
Courteous
Kind
Obedient
Cheerful
Thrifty
Brave
Clean
and
Reverent

Dear Mr. Bragg,

On behave of all of the Scouts and Parents of Eagle District which is part of the Alamo Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, I would like to thank the Students For The Second Amendment for all the help they provided at the 2003 Eagle District Fall Camp-O-Ree.

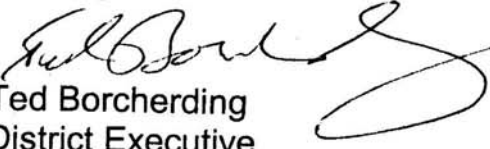
During the course of the event your organization provided no less than twenty-four volunteers to serve as Safety Instructors and Range Officers. The national standards of the Boy Scouts of America calls for a ratio of one Range Office to every eight students, thanks to your twenty-four Volunteers our ratio for most of the day was 1 to 4. Which meant our Scouts received a higher quality of program.

It is through the time and effort of organizations like the Students for the Second Amendment that the Boy Scouts of America can deliver its program to the youth of America.

Scout Oath

On my honor
I will do my best
to do my duty
to God and
my country
and to obey
the Scout Law;
to help other
people at all
times; to keep
myself physically
strong, mentally
awake, and
morally straight.

Thank you,


Ted Borcharding
District Executive
Eagle District



"Building Strong Values, Strong Leaders - For A Strong America"



Students for the
Second Amendment



Background Information

Objective

This request is in support of the Collegiate Firearms Instructor Program.(CFIP) The ultimate goal of the program is to create a self-perpetuating pool of qualified volunteer firearms instructors to serve the community, and fill the growing gap between generations of shooters, and to preserve our nation's shooting sports heritage.

The CFIP is an ongoing project of Students for the Second Amendment. Launched in 2002, the goal of the program is to train college and university students to become NRA Certified Firearms Instructors.

The Certified Instructors then return to their home campuses to offer competent training to their classmates, and others in the campus community interested in learning about the safe, competent, operation and handling of many types of firearms.

Our instructors also volunteer their training services to programs outside of the academic community, such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H Shooting Programs, Youth Hunter's Education Programs, Big Brothers and Sisters, and Junior ROTC organizations.

After two years serving as instructors, program members are strongly encouraged to apply to become NRA Training Counselors. As Training Counselors, members will train others to become NRA Certified Instructors.

Instructor certifications currently offered through the Collegiate Firearms Instructor Program include:

- NRA Basic Pistol Instructor
- NRA Basic Rifle Instructor
- NRA Muzzleloading Rifle Instructor
- NRA Basic Shotgun Instructor
- NRA Personal Protection in the Home Instructor
- NRA Home Firearm Safety Instructor
- & NRA Range Safety Officer

In addition to firearms instructor certification, we also offer Basic First Aid and Basic CPR certification cooperatively through the American Heart Association.

Background and Need

Recently, the so-called, "graying" of the shooting sports community has been lamented in trade journals and by pro gun-rights activists across the country. There is substantial evidence that an ever-widening age gap is growing between generations of shooting and hunting enthusiasts.

Without organizations like Students for the Second Amendment, and the Collegiate Firearms Instructor Program, (CFIP) our fear is that the traditions that built our great nation will pass quietly, and by little pieces, into history.

Our Collegiate Firearms Instructor Program is successfully working to fill this gap. Our programs served over 3000 youngsters in academic year 2006-2007 - and over 4,700 to date.

Expected Results and Benefits

The CFIP will certify forty new instructors and range safety officers in 2007. These new instructors will serve the rapidly growing demand for our volunteer training services.

The initial determination of success will be the certification of forty new firearms instructors and Range Safety Officers. Demand for our training services has continued to grow. The program is continuing and evolving. The success and impact of this program is almost without limit.

We have scheduled NRA First Steps Rifle classes for the Texas Youth Hunter's Program this summer and fall. There are four Cub Scout Day Camps coming up this fall, with an average of two hundred youngsters attending. A growing number of Boy Scout troops, Venture Crews, and Junior ROTC units are scheduling safety and marksmanship programs for their youngsters well into the summer of 2008.

Our goal is to make the CFIP a model for others across the country.

Past Successes

The Collegiate Firearms Instructor Program and its activities, have been featured in several nationally distributed publications and journals, including; *The Washington Times*, *Gun Week*, *Women and Guns*, *Boy's Life*, *Texas Wildlife*, and *Texas Wildlife Extra*. Also, numerous radio and television programs, as well as print media. Students for the Second Amendment and The Collegiate Firearms Instructor Program have generated an estimated \$78,700.00 worth of earned media in 2006-2007.

The Collegiate Firearms Instructor Program hosted an NRA Shooting Sports Camp in September of 2006. The event was attended by over 550 youth, their parents, and adult leaders. The next Alamo City Shooting & Outdoor Sportsfest is scheduled for September 22, 2007.

The CFIP has hosted dozens of NRA First Steps Rifle and Shotgun training classes. We have forged a cooperative program with the Texas Youth Hunter's Program, providing their minority and inner-city participants with basic marksmanship and safety training prior to their first hunt.

Additionally, Students for the Second Amendment has worked tirelessly on voter registration and in support of pro-gun rights candidates at the state and national levels. In 2004 we registered close to eight thousand voters in several counties in Texas. The Students for the Second Amendment's Candidate Information Table has become a fixture at area gun shows and other pro-freedom events in Texas during election season.

Students for the Second Amendment has hosted several pro-gun speakers and forums on college and university campuses. Some past speakers include; author, Dr. John R. Lott Jr., actress and NRA board member, Susan Howard-Chrane, TSRA President Ralph Talbot, Congressman Ron Paul, and Texas Land Commissioner, Jerry Patterson.

Please visit our website for additional information regarding our activities and programs.

www.sf2a.org

Please contact me with any questions, or for any additional information.



Damaso Torres (210) 674-5559
Executive Director dtorres@sf2a.org
Students for the Second Amendment
& The Collegiate Firearms Instructor Program

9624 Braun Run
San Antonio, TX 78254



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Second Amendment

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Damaso Torres

Executive Director

St. Mary's University



The Washington Times

<http://www.washtimes.com>

WASHINGTON, D.C., TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2006

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metropolitan Washington area

Triggering interest

By Alison Hoover

College students have organized clubs on dozens of campuses to defend their Second Amendment rights -- and to have fun with guns.

"We go to the gun range because it's fun and educational," said Michaela LeBlanc, a senior at Smith College in Northampton, Mass. Miss LeBlanc travels to the nearby Smith & Wesson Shooting Sports Center with friends from the Smith College Republicans. This fall, they will seek recognition from the college as an official club.

At the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Dax Dixon founded the Tar Heel Rifle and Pistol Club. He said he thought fellow students would benefit from shooting, a skill he started learning before elementary school. The club sponsors lectures on Second Amendment rights and gun safety and travels to ranges to allow members to practice shooting disciplines.

Mr. Dixon said the university provides funding for speakers and shooting supplies on the condition that club members use all ammunition on the same day they purchase it.

The conservative Leadership Institute, based in Arlington, is among the outside organizations helping students start campus gun clubs.

The institute formed its Campus Leadership Program in 1997 "to assist conservative students in the forming of independent groups on their own campuses," said Morton Blackwell, founder and president of the institute. "In many cases, the left has succeeded in making campuses left-wing indoctrination centers."

Field representatives from the Campus Leadership Program help students "choose what the focus of their activities is going to be," he said, and then work with them to develop the leadership skills they need to maintain their organization.

He said about 45 of the 738 active groups with which the program works are dedicated to Second Amendment issues.

To recruit field representatives, Gun Owners of America sponsored an ad that began, "Do you know someone who is pro-gun, who likes working with college-age kids, and who is in need of a full-time job in the fall?"

Second Amendment Sisters Inc. focuses on teaching women to shoot but also supports college gun clubs.

"Guns have been so demonized" to college students, said Mari Thompson, president and founder of Second Amendment Sisters. "We want to make sure that [students] know what the facts are, so they will carry on when we're gone."

The organization is looking for campuses with enough interest in forming student groups.

Students for the Second Amendment began at St. Mary's University in San Antonio. Damaso Torres said he and co-founder Ryan Bragg "wanted to do skeet and trap shoots for students twice per year."

The group's Collegiate Firearms Instructor Program trains college students to become instructors certified by the National Rifle Association. Through close ties with the firearms industry and product donation, Students for the Second Amendment offers instruction at a heavily discounted price. In the past academic year, the group trained "4,100 kids in and around South Texas." It also has three certified NRA counselors who are qualified to train potential instructors.

Mr. Torres said Students for the Second Amendment has established a group at every campus where it has made the effort and experienced little resistance from school administrators. "There are a lot of students that think the way we do," he said.

He said campus chapters let students realize they are not alone in their views and give them support to speak up in class to defend the Second Amendment.

The group is funded mainly through an independent effort. Mr. Torres credits an interest group on the social network MySpace.com for attracting many of the 2,000 members.

"We respect the right of young people to discuss this issue," said Peter Hamm, communications director for the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. "The more people study it, the more likely we are to curb gun violence in this country, and that involves new laws."

Mr. Hamm has told Cybercast News Service (www.cnsnews.com) that college gun groups are "absolutely not a problem," and that it is now "much more likely that young people who think we need stronger gun laws in this country are likely to make sure their voices are heard, too."

He did not cite any examples of campus groups in favor of stricter gun laws.

Students often have called for gun control, especially in response to events such as the 1999 massacre at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., but those favoring gun rights have become increasingly active.

Miss LeBlanc said the gun club at Smith "will be a great tool to educate students about the Second Amendment" and it will help "take away the stigma" about firearms.

Students for the Second Amendment Train Collegiate Instructors

By Dave Workman, Senior Editor

With funding from the NRA Foundation, some help from the Citizen's Committee to Keep and Bear Arms (CCRKBA), and cooperation of a San Antonio, TX, shooting range, the Texas-based Students for the Second Amendment (SF2A) held its first basic firearms instructor course the final weekend of June.



Training Counselor Fredd Bergman clarifies a point for Kimberly Martin, CFIP member, and Student Government President of San Antonio College.

The Program, according to SF2A founding member Damaso Torres, was designed to certify college-age firearm instructors who will go back to their individual campuses and offer firearms training courses. This first batch of instructors was trained to teach the National Rifle Association's (NRA) basic Home Firearms Safety course, Torres explained, and they will now be able to offer that course to students on college campuses all over the Lone Star State.



Students prepare for class.

A student at St. Mary's University, Torres previously attended San Antonio College, and that fact turned out to be a stroke of good luck. While the initial instructor course was taught at A Place To Shoot – an outdoor range with an indoor classroom – future courses will be offered at the Regional Law Enforcement Academy's facility on the San Antonio College campus. Director Brady Thompson is fully supportive of the program, Torres said.

Fifteen new instructors were turned out in the first class, and more training is on the horizon.

SF2A's program received grant funding from the NRA Foundation, Torres said, thanks to support from Fredd Bergman, chairman of the local Friends of the NRA and an NRA Training Counselor. His program also got some assistance in its early stages from CCRKBA collegiate affairs director Jessica Mainard.



Fredd Bergman and Ernie Roney, with students Peggy Wendrock and Kimberly Martin, back row: John Heard, Damaso Torres, David Kelly, and Matt Bragg.

Torres acknowledged to Gun Week that offering firearms training on a college campus, or at least to college students, may be one of those proverbial "tough nuts to crack." There's an obvious anti-gun bias on campuses across the country," Torres admitted, "and no less here in Texas. Where else has socialism and communism survived other than North Korea and college campuses?"

Torres noted that student instructors must be at least 21 years old to obtain full NRA instructor certification, but they may be certified as assistant instructors if they are at least 18 years old.



Bergman instructs Matt Bragg with a Springfield Armory 1911-A1 model in .45 caliber.

In the future, Torres said instructors will be offered certifications in basic pistol, basic rifle, and basic shotgun, plus range safety officer and personal protection in the home. Eventually, it is his goal to have all these courses available to college students across Texas. There is a website with more information about the organization: www.sf2a.org. Or by telephone at: (210) 674-5559.

Women & Guns

Student Group Hosts First Ladies Only Class

On June 10, the Collegiate Firearms Instructor Program hosted its first ever Ladies Only Pistol Class in Texas. There were eighteen participants in this inaugural class.

Many mother and daughter teams were in attendance, and some women came from as far away as Friendswood, Kerrville, and Boerne. NRA Instructors included Peggy York, San Antonio Coordinator for the Texas Outdoors Women Network, David Kelly and Damaso Torres, both NRA Training Counselors with the Collegiate Firearms Instructor Program.

The Collegiate Firearms Instructor Program is a project of Students for the Second Amendment. The goal of the program is to train college and university students to become NRA Certified Firearms Instructors.

The Certified Instructors will then go back to their campuses to offer training to their classmates, and others interested in learning more about the safe, competent operation and handling of many types of firearms. Instructors also volunteer their training services to programs outside of the academic community, such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the 4-H Shooting Program, Youth Hunter Education Programs, and JROTC organizations.

The Ladies Only event was an official NRA First Steps Pistol Class, and an NRA Women on Target program. Thanks to a grant from the NRA Foundation, all tuition, books, materials, firearms, ammunition, eye and ear protection, and lunch was provided at a very nominal cost to the students.



A variety of handguns were available for students to evaluate.



Results of the shooting event were positive!

The class was conducted at the new Lone Star Weapons and Tactics complex just outside of Devine, Texas. Owner Dawn Brzostek and Manager Cale Conley did a great job of making the ladies feel comfortable, welcome, and saw to every need.

Students enjoyed the brand new air-conditioned classrooms and safe, controlled range facilities. Participants varied in age from teenagers to senior citizens. Everyone had a great time.

Because of the great success of this class, a Ladies Only Shotgun Class is being planned for the near future. If you are interested in participating in these exciting programs, contact the Collegiate Firearms Instructor Program for information and registration.



Students on the line at the first ever Ladies Only pistol class held by the Collegiate Firearms Instructor Program, a project of Students for the Second Amendment.

Students for the Second Amendment is dedicated to the preservation and defense of cherished freedoms enumerated in the Constitution of the United States, especially that freedom which stands as the guarantor of all the others-the Second Amendment.

Students for the Second Amendment works on college and university campuses to bring the truth regarding our constitutionally protected rights to students who have been misled by an academic establishment that is often hostile to true freedom and individual liberty.

For more information on the group, including its Collegiate Firearms Instructor Program, log on to their website at: www.sf2a.org.



Sight picture demonstration by instructor Peggy York as David Kelly and Damaso Torres observe.

Shooting for the Future

By John W Heard IV

- San Antonio, Texas

Ready on the right! The range master's loud command caught twelve-year-old Matthew Walls by surprise. The boy thought back to the classroom portion of his lesson earlier in the day. Breathing ...Sight picture...

Ready on the left!

The boy wiped away a bead of sweat that suddenly ran down his nose. The heat of a South Texas Memorial Day was yet another factor the young shooter had to deal with.



Ready on the firing

line! Matthew resisted the temptation to glance down the firing line at his fellow scouts. Instead he focused on the position of the sights on his Marlin .22 rifle. **Shooters, Commence Fire!** This was it. Finally, after three long classroom hours of safety, rifle parts, functions, and basic marksmanship lectures, Matthew was going to do what he came to do. Squeeze, don't pull, he thought, let out half a breath...a little more pressure on the trigger...

Matthew squeezed off his first round. He was surprised by the lack of kick and the light report of the gun. He squinted down range at his target. He couldn't quite tell where the bullet had hit. No matter, he'd check when the relay was finished. All Matthew wanted now was to put another one down range. He was sure of one thing though; he was going to have a good day.

All across South Texas this scene is being played out over and over, thanks to the efforts of The Collegiate Firearms Instructor Program(CFIP). The CFIP is a project of Students for the Second Amendment(SF2A).

SF2A is a non-partisan, campus based, student organization that is dedicated to educating young people about their rights guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution, especially that right that is the guarantor of all the others - the Second Amendment.

The primary goal of SF2A is to help young people develop a love of country, the rule of law, and an understanding of not only their rights, but also their obligations as freedom-loving individuals and citizens.

The CFIP trains and certifies college and university students, as well as others, to become NRA Certified Firearms Instructors and Range Safety Officers.

Once trained the Certified Instructors go back to their respective campuses to offer training to their classmates, and others, interested in learning more about the safe, competent, operation and handling of many types of firearms.

CFIP instructors are required to offer their training services to groups outside the academic community as well.

The CFIP firearms instructors volunteer their services with such youth groups as; Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, the Texas Youth Hunter Program, and JROTC programs.

The Collegiate Firearms Instructor Program was, at the outset, funded with a grant from the NRA Foundation.



The grant money was initially used to fund training materials for instructor certification and for materials and training aids for the new instructors to use while teaching their students.

NRA Training Counselor Fredd Bergman generously taught the instructor certification classes at no charge. Bergman is also a member of the SF2A/CFIP Advisory Board.

The idea for the CFIP was first conceived by SF2A founders, Chairman, Ryan Bragg and Executive Director, Damaso Torres. The program was born out of what they then recognized as a lacking in the number of qualified firearms instructors needed by many youth groups in Texas.

"We started this program to help fill a gap we believe is growing ever wider today between generations of shooters in our society," said SF2A/CFIP Executive Director Damaso Torres. "Once we certified our first instructors we were almost overwhelmed by the immediate demand for firearms training from many different youth groups such as Boy Scouts and 4-H," he added.



Kelly Walls is the mother of Matthew Walls who participated in a recent First Steps Rifle class taught by CFIP instructors.

She said of the class, "Every scout in our group enjoyed the class and expressed a desire to continue to develop their new skills. I recommend this program to any youth organization. Our highly skilled instructors ensured each scout learned the correct fundamentals of rifle handling, safety, and shooting."

The CFIP's first class was an NRA First Steps Rifle class for youngsters involved in the Texas Youth Hunter Program in September 2002. Nine young shooters, many of them first-timers, and a parent attended the daylong class.

Jerry Warden, Director of the Texas Youth Hunter Program, (TYHP) is enthusiastic about the relationship his organization has been able to forge with SF2A/CFIP.

Warden said, "The support that TYHP has received from CFIP has allowed the program to provide safe, educational and ethical hunts to thousands of youth..," he said. "CFIP has added a new dimension to our program by teaching firearms safety and marksmanship to our youth. Their mentorship will have a positive effect on the current generation of youths' attitudes and use of firearms."

Four more First Steps Rifle classes are tentatively scheduled for TYHP participants and their parents in San Antonio, Houston, and Dallas, this fall.

SF2A/CFIP has received some support from other shooting-sports related organizations and manufacturers.

"NRA/ILA, NRA Foundation, and the National Shooting Sports Foundation, among others, have been generous in supporting the goals of our programs," said SF2A Chairman Ryan Bragg, "without continuing support from our friends in the firearms industry and pro-shooting sports organizations, the CFIP would absolutely collapse."

Bragg stated that the group plans to certify forty new instructors in rifle, shotgun and range safety officer by November 30th. With an additional fifteen instructors certified in pistol and home firearm safety by the end of the year.

The greatest challenge for the group is, as always, a lack of funding. "It has been a constant challenge to keep up with the demands placed on our program," said Bragg. "I hope the day never comes when we have to tell an eager group of kids that we simply don't have the resources to help them out."



SF2A/CFIP has recently embarked on an ambitious project to raise enough money to purchase twenty bolt-action .22 rifles and twenty 20-gauge shotguns for use by their young students.

The group wants to keep ten rifles and shotguns in San Antonio, and ten of each in the Houston area to support their growing program there.

SF2A/CFIP has also recently begun teaching the NRA's acclaimed, Eddie Eagle Gun Safety Program to elementary school age children.

Though based in Texas, SF2A/CFIP is working hard to expand its programs nationwide. The group has state coordinators in eight states and growing rapidly. "Ultimately, we want the CFIP to become a model for individuals and groups who share our vision for preserving our nation's shooting tradition," said Torres. "And just as important, to preserve our founding father's heritage of freedom that they, and Providence, have handed down to us" he added.

Teaching youngsters to safely enjoy the shooting sports is only one facet of the group's commitment to preserving those freedoms. Since its founding in 1999, SF2A has been

extremely active on campus and in the community.

According to J. Clint Morris, SF2A's Political Director, the group has generated over \$20,000 worth of earned media in statewide and national radio and television coverage of its activities.



"SF2A has brought

pro-gun rights speakers to university campuses, we have lobbied for pro-gun legislation in our state legislature, we have spent hundreds of man-hours working for pro-gun candidates on both the state and national level, such as Texas' new Land Commissioner, Jerry Patterson," Morris said. Patterson was the author and driving force behind the Texas Concealed Weapon law when he was a state senator.

"We hope our efforts and successes will be encouraging to others around the country," said Torres. "It is ultimately self defeating to waste your time lamenting the loss of our traditions and freedoms instead to getting involved and doing something to make a difference."

If you'd like more information on the Collegiate Firearms Instructor Program or Students for the Second Amendment, please see their website at: www.sf2a.org. Or by telephone at (210) 674-5559.

John W. Heard IV is a Senior, finance major at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. He is the Director of Media Relations for SF2A/CFIP.



Shootout promotes gun rights

Event also
puts stress
on gun safety

By MANNY GONZALES
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

Raising his voice just above the gunshots echoing in the distance, conservative Congressman Ron Paul pointed to a group of young pro-gun rights supporters Saturday at the San Antonio Gun Club and deemed them "defenders of the Constitution."

"If you do not defend this system, you will lose it," Paul told more than two dozen members and guests of the recently organized Students for the Second Amendment.

The group — composed mostly of college and high school students from South Texas — welcomed pro-gun lawmakers Paul, R-Surridge, and GOP state Sen. Jerry Patterson of Houston to its second annual Alamo City Shootout.

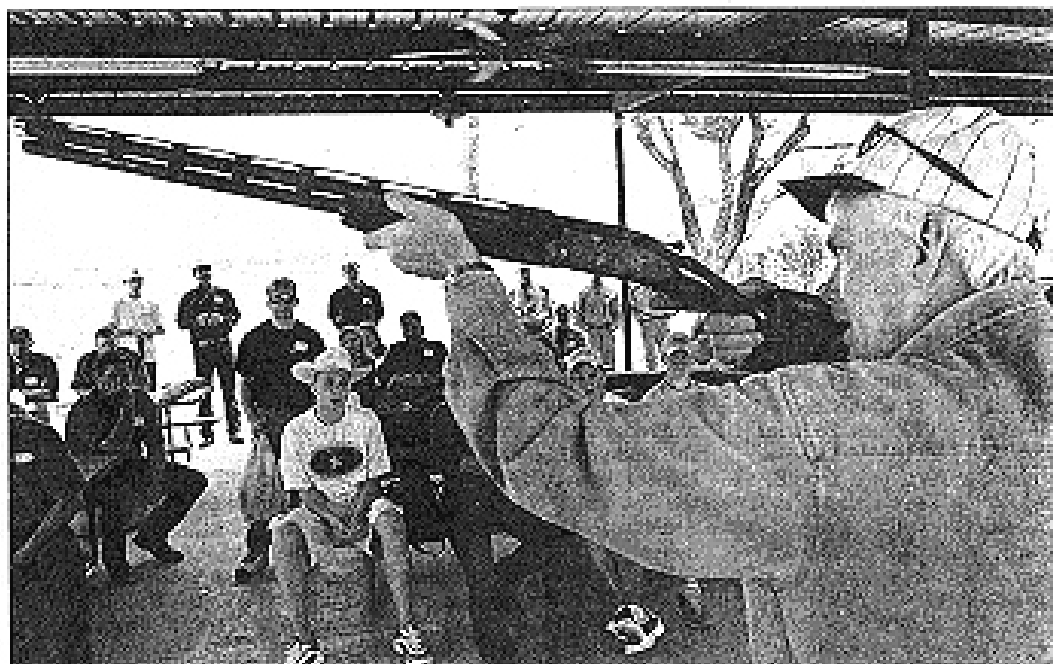
The event, which featured skeet shooting, was intended to teach gun safety while enlisting support for area grass-roots youth organizations that support the right to keep and bear arms.

The message wasn't lost on the young ears of Ezra Cochran, 14, of San Antonio, who had just shot skeet with a 20-gauge shotgun for the first time.

"If people like them don't stand up, people my age won't have these rights," Cochran said.

The congressman focused his 20-minute speech on the protection of liberty and gun rights.

"I believe in freedom for moral reasons," Paul said. "I don't want



ROBERT MELERO/STAFF

Jamie Gaines of the San Antonio Gun Club gives instruction in gun safety Saturday during the second annual Alamo City Shootout at the San Antonio Gun Club.

the government on my back, in my wallet or in my house."

Patterson followed up with a challenge for the young people to organize and support pro-gun legislators.

"Students for the rights to keep and bear arms; that's where the rubber meets the road," said Patterson, pointing out these pro-gun supporters need to look to the future. "What about tomorrow? What about 10 years from now? That's what we're protecting — the generations to come."

Students for the Second Amendment founders said the group has more than 100 members and is growing fast. They said they are trying to bring Na-

tional Rifle Association President Charlton Heston to town later this year.

Co-founder Damaso Torres, a student at St. Mary's University said his organization is making an effort to spread across the state. However, he said they're facing an uphill battle because entrenched organizations oppose their cause and support wanes every time a shooting makes the headlines.

"Our message is education about the gun issue," Torres said. "The gun law isn't the answer. ... Which one of the gun laws would have kept that police officer from being shot to death the other day?"

Southwest Texas State University junior Josh Bagley, 22, said he believes the Shoot Out provides an invaluable public service by teaching gun safety while promoting shooting as a sport.

"It also gets rid of a lot of the misgivings of what firearms do and what they're for," Bagley said. "Passing this knowledge down from father to son is the best way to teach responsibility for firearms. When you allow guns to be a dirty little secret, then kids become intrigued by them and then they sneak around their parents to get to them, and that's when people get hurt."

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THE SIGNPOST

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Keeping campus, 'well regulated'

By Wendy Leonard | editor in chief

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Ogden, UT - Upon frequenting the local shooting range, Weber State University automotive students Shawn Austin and Kevin Bishow found there was a way they could get more involved in campus activities. Together with advisor Nickie Sawyer of Academic Advisement, they formed the Students for the Second Amendment on campus last week.

"We're a couple of automotive students on campus; we figured this would help us get involved in the school and at the same time, have a little fun," Bishow said.

The club, working to become a part of the national affiliate of Students for the Second Amendment, is planning to dispel the "bad rap" gun owners often get because of those who misuse their gun rights and privileges.

"It's a club that promotes the safe use of firearms and lets us exercise our right to use them," Bishow said. "We hope to get people involved in certification and safety classes that will help educate about guns."

Students for the Second Amendment was founded in December 2002 in Texas. Since its founding, Students for the Second Amendment has grown from chapters on two campuses in Texas to chapters and state coordinators in 17 states. According to its national mission, the group inspires attitudes of "pro-freedom, grassroots, and student activism."

Students for the Second Amendment is nationally dedicated to educating young people about their rights guaranteed in the Constitution of the United States, specifically in the Second Amendment.

The Second Amendment states: "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

Austin said there are many groups that oppose gun rights and that they are able to make their case

publicly. "This is just our venue to get our beliefs out there," he said. Much is in the works for WSU Students for the Second Amendment. They are planning to have guest speakers from the National Rifle Association and the Constitutional Rights Group speak to campus about gun safety, which is a priority for the organization. All members will be required to complete a gun safety course.

"We don't believe guns should be handled callously," Austin said. "They should be handled in a safe manner and people shouldn't fool around with them."

Having a license is not required to join the club -- nor is having a gun, for that matter.

"It's important to open everyone's eyes to something new; you've got to try everything at least once to know if you like it," Austin said. "If there's someone who hasn't shot a gun, I'll show them how to safely shoot mine, and I'll let them try it."

The club plans to visit the shooting range on a regular basis, as some of the members already do. Some other events are also being planned, such as a "Skeet Shoot" and a "Turkey Shoot" later in the year.

Some of the members are also planning to participate in upcoming shooting competitions at Buffalo Island and in Reno, Nev. The competitions test for accuracy and ability through events such as obstacle courses.

The club is currently accepting memberships, along with yearly membership dues of \$21. Membership includes an official card, and possibly discounts at sporting goods stores and at recreational shooting places.

Students for the Second Amendment will be meeting this week to finalize organizational plans. Interested students can contact organization president Shawn Austin via his WSU student e-mail account or call him at 702-277-0970.