



WHO WE ARE

WHAT WE DO

Tennessee Scholastic Clay Target Program (TNSCTP) provides youth from grade school through college an opportunity to compete in the three main shotgun disciplines—trap, skeet, and sporting clays—with peers from across the state.

TNSCTP promotes

- safe firearm handling
- dedication and responsibility
- leadership, teamwork and healthy competition

STATEWIDE REACH

37 shooting ranges utilized by teams across the state

43 counties with teams

89 teams statewide

2026 TNSCTP SEASON DATES

IRONMAN COMPETITION

MAR. 7-8 NASHVILLE GUN CLUB

SMASHVILLE SKEET CLASSIC

MAR. 21-22 NASHVILLE GUN CLUB

MULETOWN TRAP SHOWDOWN

APR. 18-19 MULTIPLE SITES

BIGFOOT BLAST

MAY 16-17 CROSS CREEK CLAYS

REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

MAY 28-30 MULTIPLE SITES

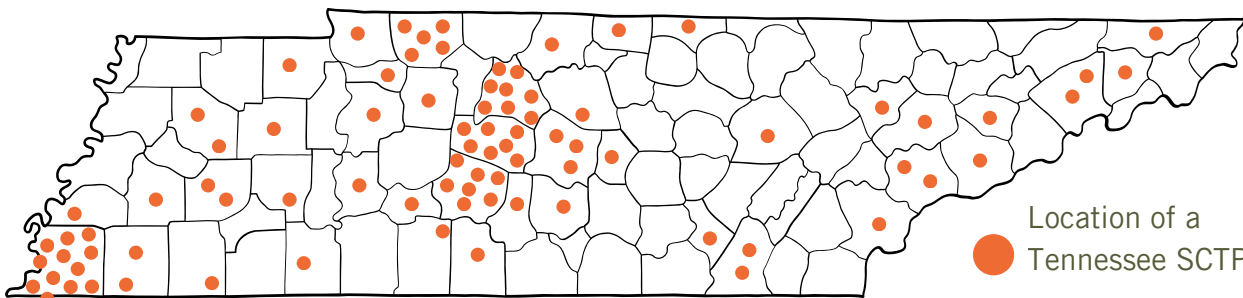
STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

JUN. 22-27 NASHVILLE GUN CLUB


NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

JUL. 11-19 CARDINAL CENTER (OH)

TEAMS ACROSS THE STATE



● Location of a Tennessee SCTP team



TENNESSEE SCHOLASTIC CLAY TARGET PROGRAM

2025 PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

1654

athletes

575

coaches &
volunteers

3424

state championships
entries

88

national titles

SHOOTING SPORTS AND CONSERVATION



Passed in 1937, the Pittman–Robertson Act returns taxes from firearms & ammunition sales to states to support wildlife and habitat conservation.

In Tennessee Scholastic Clay Target Program, athletes are introduced to a sport they can enjoy for a lifetime, all while supporting wildlife conservation and developing skills that can carry into other outdoor pursuits.

LEADING THE WAY IN SAFETY

Clay target shooting is one of the safest school sports. Trap and skeet have one of the lowest occurrences of injury reported rates (0.4 per 100 participants). Athletes follow strict safety rules, and shoot under close supervision.



All coaches and volunteers must pass a background check. Coaches are certified through NRA or SSSF Shotgun Coach Training programs.

COLLEGE TEAMS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Over 100 colleges and universities have clay target teams or clubs, some offering athletic scholarships. In Tennessee, this includes Bethel University, Bryan College, UT Knoxville, UT Martin, UT Southern and Vanderbilt University. TNSCTP also offers multiple scholarships to graduating seniors.

WHAT ARE SHOTGUN SPORTS?

HOW CLAY SHOOTING BEGAN

Target shooting originates in the 18th century as a form of hunting practice. By the 19th century, shooting clubs were common in the U.S., and shooting sports grew rapidly after World War I. Early matches used live birds released from box traps as targets. Clay targets replaced birds in the late 1800s, but many terms from that era are used today. Over time, clay target shooting has evolved into several games under the core disciplines of trap, skeet, and sporting clays.



TRAP

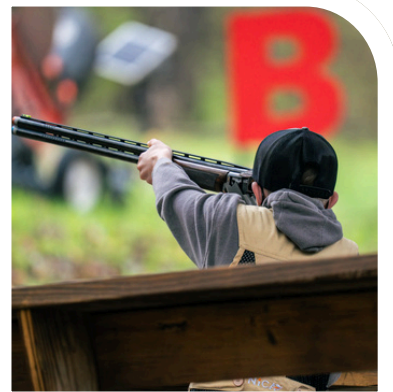
Athletes stand at 5 posts behind a central trap house and take turns shooting at a target. After each athlete shoots 5 targets at a post, they rotate to the next. This continues until everyone has shot at all 5 posts, for a total of 25 targets per round. Targets are thrown at a set height and distance, with varying angles, encouraging quick reaction time and strong focus.

SKEET

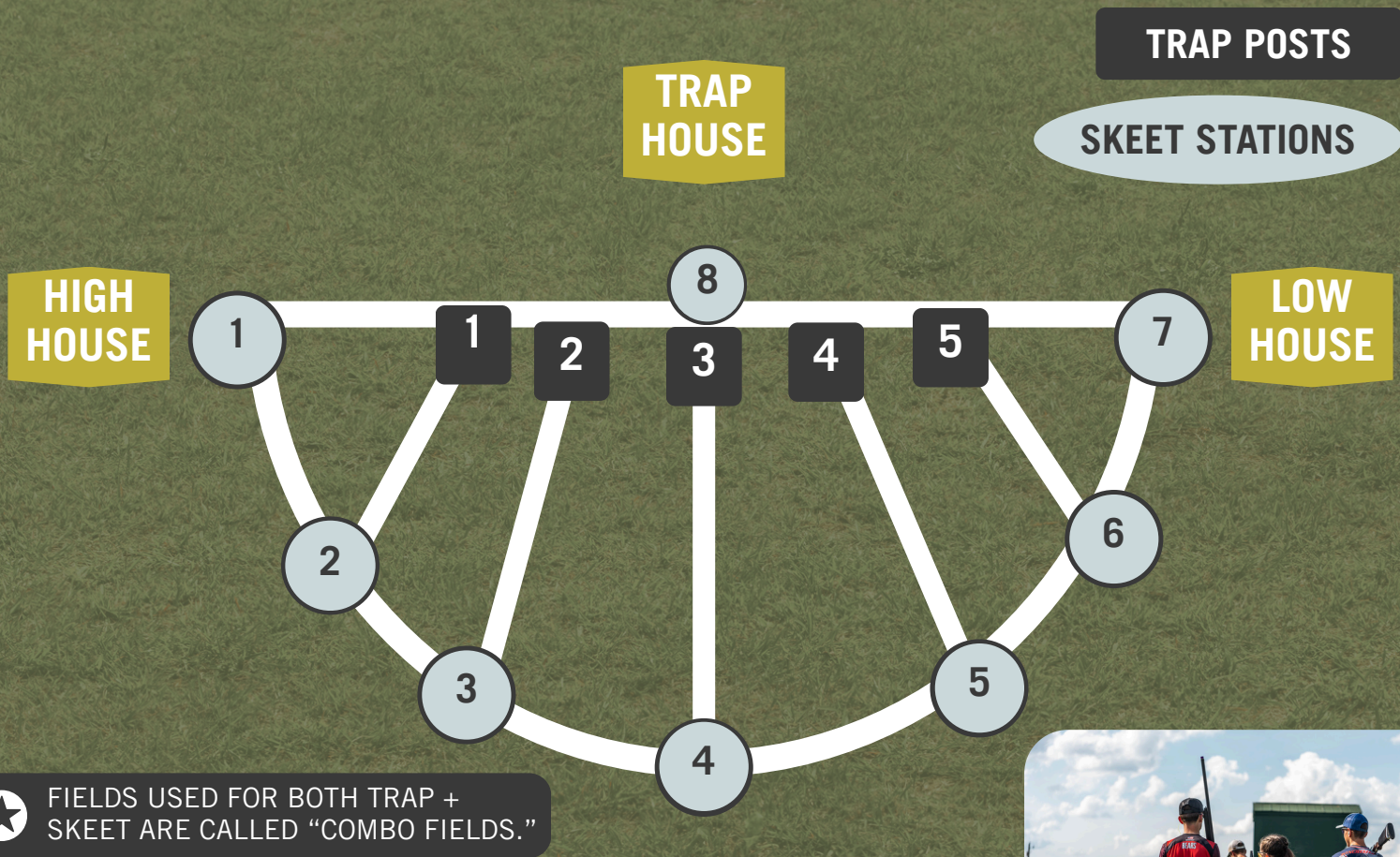
Athletes go through 8 stations on a semicircle field, shooting targets from a high house on the left and a low house on the right. A round consists of 25 targets: two singles and one double from stations 1, 2, 6, and 7, and two singles from stations 3, 4, 5, and 8. Target angles vary with the athlete's position on each station. Skeet highlights smooth swings, and lead control.

SPORTING CLAYS

Nicknamed “golf with a shotgun,” athletes follow a course of 8 to 20 stations (typically 50 or 100 targets total). At each station, targets are thrown in singles or pairs at different sizes, angles, heights & speeds. Each course is unique, so success in sporting clays relies on adaptability and target recognition.



TRAP AND SKEET FIELD LAYOUT + BASICS



COMMON TERMS

Pull: Verbal call said by athlete to release target

Box: One round of 25 targets

Dead: Scoring term for a broken target

Lost/Loss: Scoring term for a missed target



TIME EXPECTATIONS

In competition, athletes will shoot 4 boxes (4 rounds of 25 targets)

Trap: 1 hour to complete

Skeet: 2 hours to complete

SCORING

Dead:  Lost: 

EQUIPMENT

- 12- or 20-gauge shotgun
- Shooting vest / shell pouch
- Eye and ear protection
- Ammunition