

**Title:**

Firearms Safety and Personal Protection/Self-Defense Training Programs

**Applicants Name & Contact Information:**

Tripoli's Triggers Firearms Training and Education Center  
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**Awareness/Public Benefit:**

Tripoli's Triggers offers a line of firearm safety and self defense training courses. Applicants must be 21 years of age or older and have a valid carry permit or be eligible for a carry permit, in a check provided by Tripoli's through ATF.

The self-defense training program allows participants to learn several components of proper self-defense based on the usage of handguns. In this program, participants will not only learn several shooting techniques, they will also have to accommodate decision making, concentration, and self-discipline. To ensure a safe environment, hearing and sight protection will be provided. By using frangible lead free ammunition, Tripoli's Triggers emphasizes the reduction of health hazards that are commonly found in other shooting ranges. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Lead overexposure is one of the most common overexposures found in industry and is a leading cause of workplace illness.

For traditional firearm safety, Tripoli's Triggers offers a firearms safety course. In this event, firearm safety and basic pistol shooting skills are presented. Participants learn the rules and importance of firearm safety. Participants are educated about the differences between revolvers and semi-automatic pistols and how to operate them appropriately which includes loading and unloading. From there, principles of marksmanship are taught.

**Mission, Goals, and Objectives**

**Mission.** Since 1930, the United States population has doubled, the number of firearms has quintupled, and the number of annual accidental firearm injuries has decreased 80%. Tripoli's Triggers would like to offer handgun safety courses for self-protection and protection against these accidental firearm injuries.

Women enrollment in handgun classes has increased to an all-time high. 73 percent of women in these classes enrolled because "learning about self-protection was a prime

concern for them”, according to an article in the National Sporting Sports Foundation’s on line newsletter.

**Goals.** Tripoli’s Triggers would like to offer these handgun safety courses to satisfy the public need. According to the National Rifle Association, “the firearm accident death rate is at an all-time annual low, 0.2 per 100,000 population.” One of the best ways to keep this rate low is to offer safety courses. Education of the proper way to handle a handgun, responsibilities that come with carrying a handgun, gun laws and regulations, and self-protection will decrease firearm related accidents.

**Objectives.** The following are objectives of Tripoli’s Triggers Firearms Safety and Personal Protection/Self-Defense Training Programs:

1. Public education of handgun safety including proper handling techniques, laws and regulations, safe storage of both the gun and ammunition, as well as shooting techniques.
2. Promote the responsibilities and ethical behavior that comes with owning or using a handgun.
3. Teach self-protection through the use of a firearm in a safe, but effective manner.

## **Approach**

Tripoli's Triggers Firearms Training and Educational Center was awarded the prestigious "Indoor Range of the Year 2007" in competition with all of the Indoor Ranges in the USA at the Shot Show, the nation’s largest convention in the Shooting Sports Industry held in Orlando, FL in January 2007. The facility is the only National Shooting Sports Foundation Five Star Accredited Indoor Range (s) located within the state of Pennsylvania, one of only 17 nationally.

There will be three different courses taught: Firearms Training Program, Ladies 5 week Program, and Tripoli’s Triggers 5-4-3 League. Participants must be age 21 or older, have a valid state photo ID, have a valid State Carry Permit, or be eligible, along with pre-registration and pre-payment.

*The Firearms Training Program* will be taught in three levels. The first level will cover firearms safety and basic pistol shooting skills. The second level will cover methods and techniques for moving from the threat, weapons retention, and rapid fire. The third level will explain techniques using a barricade and decision making course of fire.

*Tripoli’s Triggers Ladies Program* will be broken down into 5 weeks with each week getting more hands on. The first week will contain mostly classroom training and education with a range safety test at the end of the session. Weeks two through four will cover basic marksmanship, rapid fire, moving away from the threat, and weapons retention. Week five will conclude with a self-defense training shoot which is a decision course on whether to use your weapon or not.

*Tripoli's Triggers 5-4-3 Competition/League* will be a competitive shooting league consisting of up to four person teams. It is designed to promote a competitive environment with all different level shooters. In order to compete in the league, participants will be screened for qualification, tested on a written range test, and will have signed a waiver. This is to ensure the safety of all participants and observers.

**Project Time Schedule:**

The Educational category part of the project will train 495 participants. Approximately 320 participants will be female with 160 of those participants participating in the five week Ladies Program.

Based on the seasonality of the shooting range, the following training milestones are expected:

End of Month	September	October	November	December	January
Total Trained	99	215	299	412	495

The Competition category will have 120 participants involved in a competitive shooting league; split evenly between men's and women's teams.

These teams will compete over a 5 week period grouped by shooting levels. It is anticipated that 10 four (4) person men and 10 four (4) person women teams will compete during the grant period. The 4-person teams will be broken down into four 5 week periods.

The Competition aspect will also include 10 two (2) person teams and 20 individual teams during the grant period. These teams will compete over a 5 week period as well.

The competitions are expected to start mid-September and run through mid-January. Every 5 weeks a new league will be started: 4 person men's team, 4 person women's team, 2 person male and female teams and individual participation.

In addition to the ongoing marketing efforts of Tripoli's Triggers, additional efforts will be focused on the discounted training and competitive leagues being offered as a result of the grant project. These efforts will be increased during the formation of the leagues every period.

**Evaluation component to measure effectiveness:**

The most important people within the scope of the project to involve in the strategic evaluation process would be the facility's management team and one member of each of the key stakeholder groups, such as community leaders, volunteers, participant representatives, and the hired staff/instructors of the programs delivered. If these people are all involved in the process from start to finish, then it would be much easier to ensure

that an accurate and appropriate set of strategic goals have been created, which will provide them with their definition of success. Success should be measured in terms of percentage increases in participants trained over a certain time period post implementation, perhaps at 6 week intervals; if training is taken advantage of by existing facility members, then training deliverables can also be measured; finally, stakeholder buy-in and feedback can also be measured to determine the change in moral regarding responsible gun ownership throughout the community.

Our measurement of effectiveness will use a combination of scoring systems, the SMART technique to ensure that the goals are Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistically high, and achievable within specific Target dates; and, the concept of a Balanced Scorecard (BSC) approach. It is one thing to declare a strategy, but quite another to track how well you're executing it. BSC is one way to help track it. Most strategies can be fleshed out with metrics across at least some of the four prescribed categories of metrics. If you attach goals -and accountability - to those metrics, then you begin to have a creditable strategy implementation engine.

**Outline budget needs, support, resources and staffing:**

Please refer to attached supporting documents for project budget.

Mr. Francis Tripoli has 43 years experience in the managerial accounting and administration sector, most of which has occurred in the healthcare industry. Frank will be responsible for the overall operation and execution of the grant programs, including volunteer recruitment, to adequately accommodate both active and reactivated shooters, as well as those new to the sport entirely. He will also drive ongoing programs by focusing on the customer's experience, ensuring that the center displays a professional, friendly, clean and safe environment at all times. Frank is ultimately responsible for the physical appearance of the facility, daily management, customer/member development, community relations and all necessary amenities. Additionally, Frank has been involved in shooting sports from a consumer standpoint for over 42 years, as a hunter, collector, competitor and now a business owner of an indoor shooting range.

**Outline involvement of stakeholders whenever possible:**

On May 1, 2006, after an intense 3 year investigation and feasibility analysis while working with the Williamsport Chamber of Commerce, The Small Business Development Center at Lock Haven University, the NRA, The National Shooting Sports Foundation, SEDA-COG and Woodlands Bank, it was determined that a venture such as Tripoli's Triggers Firearms Training and Educational Center was in fact a viable corporate venture for the greater Williamsport area. The aforementioned facility stakeholders are actively involved in assisting the owner in his pursuit of creating a regional shooting sports enthusiast mecca, and a community asset that everyone can be proud to boast.

Changed economic conditions in the area as a result of the impact that National Economic pressures have placed upon small rural communities such as Williamsport has led to the need for an appropriate strategic response in the business development activities of Tripoli's Triggers Firearms Training and Educational Center. Funds are sought from the NSSF to specifically carry out these strategic actions with this proposed programming. We believe that a proactive approach such as we have outlined will place Williamsport, PA in the forefront of cities taking positive approaches in dealing with crime as well as accomplishing all of the proposed goals of the Grant Program.

The overall impact of firearms safety promotion within the local and regional communities will be a value added benefit that is immeasurable from an accounting and bookkeeping standpoint, and yet priceless in conjunction with efforts to attain high levels of public safety while providing members and residents fundamental skills necessary to safely own, use, and handle a gun. In a society filled with firearms, both gun owners and non-gun owners alike will benefit from a basic knowledge of gun operation and safety.

In addition, programs related to public outreach in dealing with anxieties toward recent shooting related crimes in the Williamsport area will be offered in collaboration with non-profit entities to take advantage of the seasonal availability of shooting center amenities. Tripoli's Triggers Firearms Training and Educational Center will strive to establish partnerships and involvement with groups both inside and outside of the shooting industry, such as the National Rifle Association, National Wild Turkey Federation, the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce and other local civic organizations. Groups such as Junior Achievement, County Foster Care, Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, local Law Enforcement Agencies and many others will be actively solicited concerning educational programs, safety instruction and responsible shooting sports activities.