

# CONGRATULATIONS

## Norton County Rotary BB Gun Team, on Your Eighteenth Place in the National Championships!!

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This year's Norton County Rotary BB Gun Team continued the longtime tradition of Norton marksmanship teams shooting well when they finished 18th out of 51 teams from all over the United States in the 49th annual Daisy BB Gun Championship Match held July 5 and 6 in Rogers, Ark., the home of Daisy Outdoor Products.

The young Norton County girl and boy marksmen have qualified at the state level and competed 44 different years in the shoot, which was an international competition but is now a national match.

It is the largest junior marksmanship competition in the world!

Norton County shooters' accurate marksmanship is well known nationwide in BB gun shooting circles.

Norton County has won the international championship eight times, more than any other team in the world. Despite the fact that every year's team consists of different shooters due to the rule that no shooter can compete in consecutive years, Norton County is almost always in the hunt for the title and a top ten finish.

In this year's national shoot, Norton recorded a total score of 2271-53 in the shooting positions of prone, standing, sitting and kneeling and written test of hunter safety.

The championship team was the Pierre Junior Shooters from Pierre, South Dakota with a score of 2375-73, followed by Spink County Shooting Sports, 2363-81; Lake Houston 4-H Outdoor Explorer, 2326-81; Johnson County Ks. 4-H Rifle Club, 2326-66; Harrisburg Hunters & Anglers, 2323-57; Humboldt Sharpshooters, 2321-73; Penns Valley BB Gun Team, 2316-55; Walton County 4-H BB Team, 2314-81; Coffee County Center Shots, 2305-66; Gallatin Valley Sharpshooters, 2304-54 in the top ten.

Other Kansas teams and their scores and placing were: Sedgwick County 4-H BB Gun, 2290-60, 13th; Wyandotte County 4-H Shooting Sports, 14th; 2277-66; Phillips/Rooks 4-H Shooting Sports, 2277-62, 15th; Jefferson County, 2240, 23rd; Flint Hills Jr. Shooters, 2210, 31st; Riley/Potawatomie Straight Shooters, 32nd, 2202; Bullmasters Jackson/Nemaha, 41st, 2120; Reno County, 44th, 2100.

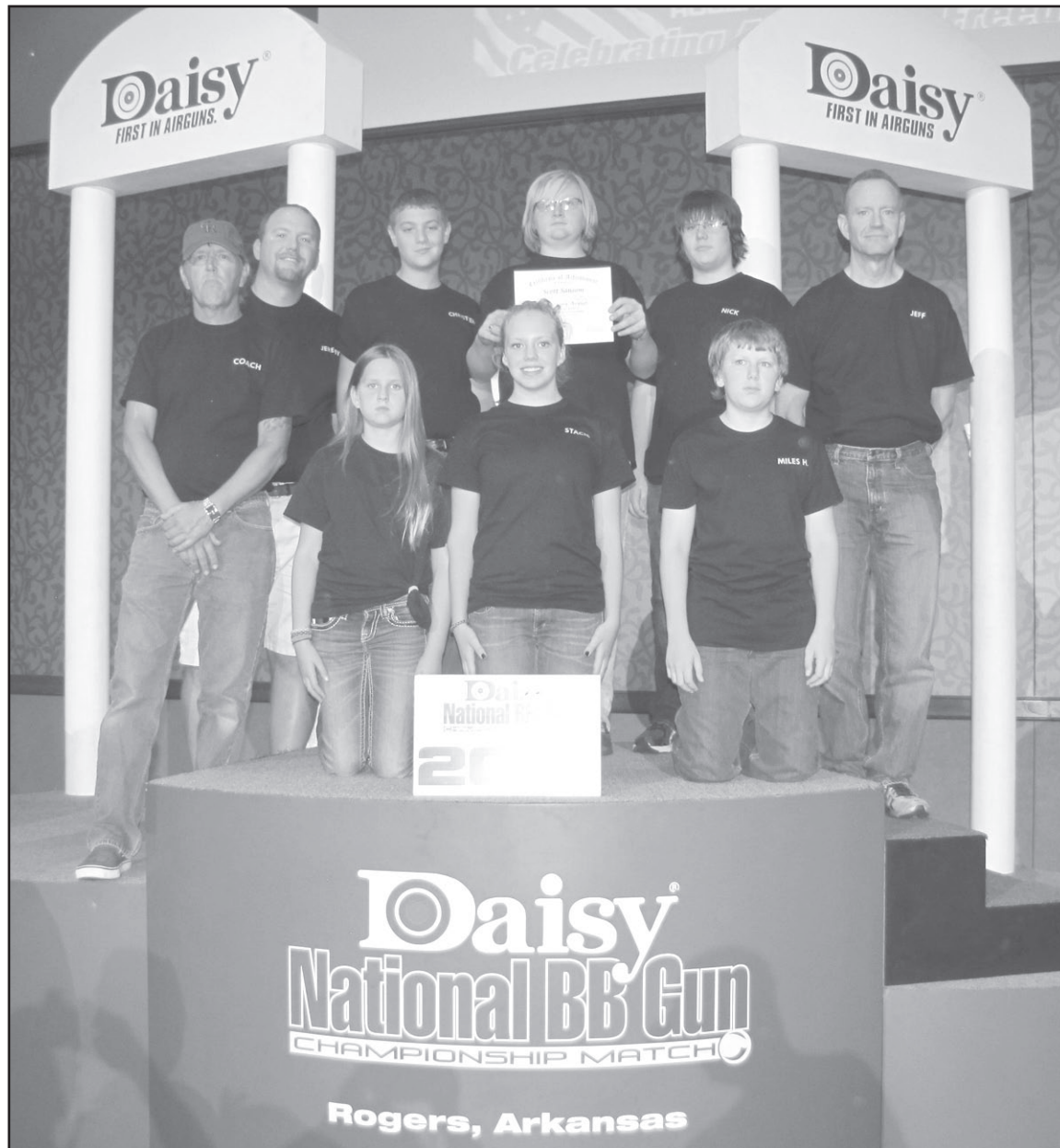
The young marksmen must be between 8 and 15 years of age. Each of the four shooting positions counts for a maximum of 20 percent of a shooter's possible score and the written test on marksmanship and gun safety counts for the other 20 percent. The written test contained questions on information from the Daisy 10-Lesson Curriculum Guide and the National Rifle Association 5 Meter BB Gun Rule Book.

Following the opening ceremonies in the John Q. Hammons Convention Center on Friday evening, shooting began Saturday morning on the range in the Center with firing from the prone position, followed by marksmanship from the standing position, the toughest.

On Saturday afternoon, the written test on gun safety was taken by all shooters.

The Barter Bar, during which marksmen, parents and coaches exchanged gifts from their respective states, followed on Saturday afternoon.

Firing from the sitting and kneeling positions took place on Sunday morning. The Awards Ceremony was held late



The Norton Rotary BB Gun team is seen here accepting their award for 18th place at this year's Daisy National BB Gun competition. Front row from left; Lily David, Stacie Elliott and Miles Harrington. Back row from left; Coach Marty Harrington, Coach Jeremy Hawks, Christien Hawks, Scott Sanson, Nick Davis and head coach Jeff Elliott.

- Courtesy photo

Sunday afternoon. The top three teams received special recognition. The champion team received the traveling trophy.

**Norton team members**

Shooting for Norton and their ages were: Stacie Elliott, 13; Nicholas Davis, 13; Scott Sanson, 13; Miles Harrington, 13 and Lily David, 11. The alternate shooter was Christien Hawks, age 11. Lily David is a first year shooter.

This was a young Norton team. All of these shooters will be able to compete again in the national shoot. Hawks will be eligible next year since he was an alternate this year and the others in 2016.

Individual scores of the Norton team members were: Scott Sanson, 95-4, prone; 88-2, standing; 94-4, sitting; 91-3, kneeling; 100, test; 468-13, total; Stacie Elliott, 87-2, prone; 86-1, standing; 90-1, sitting; 89-3, kneeling; 98, test; 450-7 total; Miles Harrington, 92-3, prone; 92-2, standing; 90-2, sitting; 87-1, kneeling; 80, test; 441-8, total; Lily David, 94-3, prone; 88-2, standing; 95-5, sitting; 87-2, kneeling; 92, test; 456-12, total; Nicholas Davis, 97-4, prone; 82-1, standing; 95-5, sitting; 86-3, kneeling; 96, test; 456-13, total.

Christien Hawks also shot well among alternates. He was 21st best out of 84 alternates. His scores were:

92-2, prone; 88-1, standing; 95-2, sitting; 90-3, kneeling; 88, test; 453-8, total.

Not only was Scott Sanson the top marksman for Norton, he was highest on the written test as well. Scott was one of just 13 shooters to complete a perfect written test! They were honored during the Awards Ceremony.

Stacie Elliott also missed just one question on the written test and Nicholas Davis missed just two questions on the test.

**Coach's comments**

"I was really proud of our shooters," said Norton head coach Jeff Elliott. "Some surprised me and shot better than they have. Our team score was better than in any of the shoots this year."

"We did really well on the written test. Our young people took their time and really looked hard at the questions on the test. After the written test scores were added to our shooting scores, our overall standing shot up to 14th at the time."

Norton's classroom instructor was Valerie Elliott.

Jeff's assistant coaches were Marty Harrington and Jeremy Hawks.

Coach Elliott also said they had no problems with the BB guns at the national shoot. "Throughout the whole year, Jerry Hawks and John Baker kept the guns in good condition," he said.

"Many thanks to everyone in the community for their tremendous support of the shooting education program and our marksmanship team."

"A lot of businesses have been very supportive of our fund-raisers to go to the national shoot. Three people who stand out in this regard are Robert Wyatt, Ed Braun and Chandra McKenna."

"A great big thank you to the Norton Rotary Club for sponsoring our team."

"Also, thanks to Sue Ann Stutheit for making breakfast burritos for us the day we left for Rogers, Ark."

**Coach's final season**

Coach Elliott also announced that this year, his second as head coach, would be his last.

"It has been very enjoyable but, like coaching in any sport, it had some challenges," he said.

"I appreciated the help of some really good folks and thank everyone for this opportunity."

"During my time with the team, I've noticed a big turnout of young people wanting to shoot BBs and I hope it continues."

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