

Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) History;

Beginning in 2004 the SCTP began in Arizona with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AG&F) serving as the state coordinating body for the 10-12 programs throughout the state. The state SCTP is part of a larger national SCTP with groups in 38+ states. The entire SCTP was developed under an even larger National Shooting Sports Foundation.

Each state has a Coordinator, which in Arizona is the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Only two or three states have a state department coordinating the state activities. Other states may have an individual or clubs coordinate the programs.

The AG&F started the SCTP by training coaches, providing 10 youth friendly shotguns a small stipend/athlete. This was barely enough funding for 100 practice rounds/month per athletes. Parents were required to pay for travel, state shoot fee and other related cost when participating at state and national shoots. Most clubs pursued other supplemental funding.

The White Mountain Clay Busters is now funded with AG&F funding, A Midway Foundation endowment and a Rocky Mountain Elk grant. These additional funds have helped assist with the cost of state and national shoots. The Clay Busters athletes are permitted to shoot up to 200 practice rounds/month.

Tom Johnson was the Lead Coach from 2004-2016, Mike Thrasher was the Lead Coach from 2016-2020 with the current Lead Coach, Chris Lewis starting in 2020-present. Other coaches including parents and club members are necessary for the program to function. The program must have certified coaches to assist in the program. Coach Training can be taken on-line followed by a hands-on training by a game & Fish approved Trainer. Coaches must be present whenever any shoot practice occurs.

The White Mountain Clay Busters usually has 20-30 athletes in the program. The athletes have won many state shoots over the years and several national titles.