

# NRA CERTIFIED INSTRUCTORS COURSE

## Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the NRA Instructor Training Program which is sanctioned by the NRA and conducted by certified NRA Training Counselor Jimmy Couture. The goal of this program is to develop instructor candidates with the practical knowledge and skills needed to properly instruct beginning students in the specific disciplines they are certified in according to the lesson plans and training standards of the National Rifle Association. Instructor candidates completing these courses will achieve a solid foundation for instructing the particular firearm training disciplines they are certified in. When certified for teaching the Basic Pistol, Rifle or Shotgun disciplines, certified instructors can also teach the *First Steps* courses for those disciplines as well.

This program is not designed to improve your shooting skills, prepare you to teach other firearm training courses (such as law enforcement, security, or hunter safety courses), nor to prepare you to develop firearm training courses of your own. Possession of basic firearm safety and shooting skills is mandatory for certification as an NRA Instructor. You may be asked to demonstrate your firearm background through participation in pre-course assessment exercises (depending on your experience/background).

All NRA Instructor training courses consists of two parts. The first is the Basic Instructor Training (BIT) which consists of 4 hours of instruction and covers the common firearms instruction techniques, policy & procedure, and other information needed for all instructors to successfully teach firearms training courses. The second part is discipline-specific instructor training, which consists of an additional 6 hours of instruction for that discipline.

## Becoming an NRA Instructor

Becoming an NRA firearms instructor is a three-step process.

1. Take the NRA Basic Instructor Training course, which is valid for a period of one year no matter how many discipline specific courses you follow with.
2. Complete one or more NRA Discipline Specific training courses, such as Pistol, Rifle, or Shotgun.
3. Submit the NRA instructor application (done during the class) with applicable certification and processing fees to the NRA (candidates responsible for these fees which are payable by personal check or credit card)

## What You Take Home

Upon registration to the NRA Instructor Training Course, you will receive:

- NRA Instructor's Guide in a three-ring binder
- Discipline specific Course Outlines and Lesson Plans
- Discipline specific *First Steps* Lesson Plans (if applicable)
- PowerPoint CD and assorted Handouts used to Aid New Instructors in NRA basic courses (given on the day of the class via flash drive)

The NRA Training Counselor who conducts your course will make a recommendation to NRA concerning your certification based on an evaluation of your knowledge, skill, and attitude. You will be asked to demonstrate your organizational and teaching skills through participation in several practical exercises during the course of your training. You will also be asked to complete an instructor certification examination. A minimum score of 90 percent is required for certified instructor applicants (85 percent for assistant and apprentice instructor applicants). Attendance at the course, or a passing grade on the examination, does not guarantee that you will receive the recommendation of the NRA Training Counselor.

## Key Course Benefits

NRA Instructor Training Courses teach you the knowledge, skills, and attitude that are needed to successfully instruct Basic NRA training courses. In addition:

- NRA Certified Instructors qualify to take the NRA Basic Range Safety Officer Course as a validation course through the Home Study Program.
- Once you receive your certificate (suitable for framing) from NRA, you will receive your identification card. You will also receive a free subscription of the *NRA Shooting Education Update*, an electronic newsletter published periodically for all NRA Trainers.
- Program information, training schedules, book reviews, material updates and more are provided. Additionally, the Update provides an open forum for the exchange of information and ideas on firearm safety and marksmanship education.
- You become an even more valuable resource for your community. NRA Certified Instructors are leaders who provide a very important service. Because of your dedication to the shooting sports, you are providing a chance for others to enjoy the same benefits of firearm ownership that you have enjoyed in the past.

Instructor certification involves a commitment to conduct NRA Basic Firearm Training Courses on an annual basis in each discipline group (rifle, pistol, shotgun) in which you hold instructor ratings. NRA instructor ratings are valid for one year. Renewal of your certification will be contingent upon your annual activity in conducting courses.

Successful completion of all lessons, course objectives and required minimum examination score, will earn instructor candidate an NRA authorized completion certificate specific to each training discipline certification training has earned.

## My Instructor Training Philosophy

I believe it is important for an instructor to be a 'respectable' shot - with the critical instructor skill being that leading students to understand the *expertise curve* on developing improved shooting skills. The basis of that concept is your understanding of the fundamentals and the amount of time you practice your craft.