



**2024 MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION
Cover Letter**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

1. Annual memberships will transition from end of purchase month expiration to end of calendar year expiration (December 31) throughout 2024. Beginning in 2025, all annual memberships will expire at the end of the current calendar year. Applications for membership may be accepted at any time. New and renewing members will receive yearly membership cards with updated access to the MCSSA range.
2. All persons interested in becoming members must complete an application form, sign a “Waiver of Liability, Agreement to Hold Harmless, and Assumption of Risk” form, and agree to abide by all rules and regulations at the MCSSA range and facilities or enacted for special events of the association.
3. Members will receive membership cards granting access to the MCSSA range and events and should be prepared to provide proof of membership upon request.

Membership definition and fees:

Individual - Any individual 18 years of age or older.
Annual Fee = \$60.00 / year

Family - Primary household member, spouse, and minor children under the age of 18 who reside in the same household with a parent or legal guardian.
Annual Fee = \$90.00 / year

Lifetime - One-time fee for any individual 18 years of age or older.
One-time fee = \$750.00

Non-members may access and use range facilities provided they are accompanied by an MCSSA member in good standing.
Non-member fees per day = \$5.00.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE MCSSA

SAFETY BRIEFS

Noise Exposure

NIOSH evaluated the noise exposure of a SWAT team in Fort Collins, CO, during training exercises. Hearing was tested before and immediately after training sessions. Noise measurements were made of firearms and of the protection offered by customized hearing protectors. Most officers did not show any change in hearing after shooting, but the oldest group did show mild hearing loss at higher frequencies. Firearm noise was between 159 and 169 dB, which was greater than the 140 dB peak limit for impulsive noise. Peak noise reductions from the ear plugs, earmuffs, and customized protectors were in the 30 dB range. Double hearing protection (plugs plus muffs) added 15-20 dB of additional protection (NIOSH, 2003).

NIOSH Recommendations

Health Effects: Exposure to high noise levels can cause hearing loss, tinnitus (ringing in the ear), stress, high blood pressure, fatigue, and gastro-intestinal problems.

Use personal protective equipment (PPE):

- Wear double hearing protection (earplugs and earmuffs) and eye protection when shooting.
- Wear a brimmed cap and tight-fitting clothes for protection against hot shells and ejected casings if the range's shooting stations are in very close proximity.

Lead Exposure

According to NIOSH documents, lead exposure occurs mainly through inhalation of lead dust, skin contact with lead from bullets, or ingestion (e.g., eating or drinking with contaminated hands) (NIOSH 2009). Workers and shooters involved in shooting, cleaning operations, collecting casings, and handling spent bullets may also be exposed to lead.

Indoor Versus Outdoor Ranges

The NIOSH documents estimate that 9,000 non-military outdoor ranges exist in the United States, with millions of pounds of lead from bullets shot annually. Because outdoor ranges are typically built in an open area, lead and noise are more widely dispersed. Outdoor ranges need less cleaning and maintenance than indoor ranges.

NIOSH Recommendations

Health Effects: Common health effects of lead poisoning in adults include reproductive effects, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, poor appetite, weight loss, anemia, fatigue, hyperactivity, headaches, stomach pain, and kidney problems. If you suspect you have had high lead exposure, even if you show no symptoms, get your blood lead levels tested.

Practice good hygiene:

- Wash hands and face with soap and water or clean them with lead decontamination wipes after shooting, handling spent cartridge cases, or cleaning weapons, especially before eating, drinking, or smoking. Wipes for cleaning skin without water are commercially available and should be used if access to soap and water is limited (NIOSH 2009).
- Wear properly fitted respirators and full protective outer clothing for maintenance activities that involve close contact with lead dust or spent bullets.
- Change clothes before leaving the range and wash clothes separately from other family clothing.
- Wear gloves and eye protection when using chemicals to clean firearms.

References:

NIOSH, 2003. "Health Hazard Evaluation report: Fort Collins Police Services-Colorado.", NIOSH HETA No. 2002-0131-2898.

NIOSH, 2009. "Preventing occupational exposures to lead and noise at indoor firing ranges.", Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Publication No. 2009-136.

NIOSH, 2012. "Reducing Exposure to Lead and Noise at Outdoor Firing Ranges.", Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Publication No. 2013-104.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

MEMBER NAME: _____

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: Individual Family* Lifetime

PAYMENT: Cash Check Credit/Debit Card

AMOUNT: \$ _____

RECEIVED BY: _____

(MCSSA MEMBER)

DATE: _____

*NOTE: Please include family members' names on the form above.

(All Adult members (18 or older) must complete the "Waiver of Liability, Agreement to Hold Harmless, and Assumption of Risk" form on reverse. Membership will not be active until receipt of application, waiver form, and payment.)

Send completed application materials to: MCSSA, P.O. Box 1011, Superior, MT 59872

MINERAL COUNTY SHOOTING SPORTS ASSOCIATION

WAIVER OF LIABILITY, AGREEMENT TO HOLD HARMLESS, AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

In consideration of the opportunity to use the Mineral County Shooting Sports Association (MCSSA) range and facilities for reasonable fees, and in recognition of the volunteer efforts of all officers, directors, officials, and sponsors of the MCSSA to maintain reasonably safe operations, conditions, and rules, we, the undersigned, agree to assume, on behalf of ourselves and our guests, any and all personal risk involved in using the MCSSA property or participating in any MCSSA events, and we agree to hold the MCSSA and its officers, directors, officials, and sponsors harmless for any injury or damage which we might incur during the course of range or facility use or MCSSA events. We also agree and understand that we waive all current and future rights to sue or collect damages from the above organization and/or individuals as a result of any injury which we might incur at the MCSSA range, facility, or event. We acknowledge that shooting involves inherent risks including but not limited to firearm-related, archery-related, or shooting-related misadventures such as negligent discharges, ricochets, and any others. We acknowledge that we have read and understand this WAIVER OF LIABILITY, AGREEMENT TO HOLD HARMLESS, and ASSUMPTION OF RISK, and that we have also read and understand, and will comply with all MCSSA safety and range use rules and procedures governing the use of MCSSA property and MCSSA events. Finally, as per 27-1-753 MCA: **By signing this document you may be waiving your legal right to a jury trial to hold the provider legally responsible for any injuries or damages resulting from risks inherent in the sport or recreational opportunity or for any injuries or damages you may suffer due to the provider's ordinary negligence that are the result of the provider's failure to exercise reasonable care.**

SIGNED: _____ / _____
(Primary Member) (Spouse: Family Membership Only)

PRINTED NAME: _____ / _____
(Primary Member) (Spouse: Family Membership Only)

ADDRESS: _____

DATE: _____

Mineral County Shooting Sports Association (MCSSA)
P O Box 1011 / 475 Cougar Creek Way
Superior, MT 59872

**MINERAL COUNTY
SHOOTING SPORTS ASSOCIATION
PISTOL/RIFLE RANGE SAFETY RULES**

Revised January 9, 2024

1. Everyone must wear eye and ear protection at all times when on the shooting range.
2. You may not operate a firearm or enter the range if you have consumed any alcohol or are under the influence. **NEVER USE ALCOHOL OR DRUGS WHILE SHOOTING.**
3. All range users are required to sign in. Shooters under the age of 18 must be signed in by a supervising adult. When you sign in, you are acknowledging that you know, understand, and will follow all Range Rules as well as the direction of the Range Officer(s).
4. See the acting Range Officer for use of black powder firearms.
5. All firearms brought onto the range that are not in a case must be unloaded and have their actions locked open. Rifles may be slung and must be pointed straight up and high. Handguns must be pointed straight up or straight down.
6. Firearms may **ONLY** be cased and uncased on the shooting bench and must be pointed straight downrange while on the firing line.
7. Always keep your firearm pointed in the safe direction defined above. There are **NO** exceptions, even if the firearm is unloaded and the action is open.
8. Long guns must be unloaded and racked with actions open or cased when not in use. Before racking a break action or levered firearm with the action closed, a Range Officer must verify that the firearm is unloaded.
9. Any firearm not in use or under direct control (in the hands) of a shooter, must be unloaded and have the action or loading gate locked open. The only exception to this is for handguns lawfully carried and holstered on one's person.
10. Holstered firearms may only be removed from the holster on the firing line when the range is hot. The firearm must be pointed down range at all times when removing the firearm. Drawing from the holster, hip shooting, or any other form of un-aimed shooting is prohibited.
11. As a firearms owner/user **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR ACTIONS AND THE OPERATION OF YOUR FIREARM.** All shooters must be capable of independent, proper, and safe operation of their firearm. Tutoring by direct supervision is permitted. The decision of the Range Officer is final.

12. If using paper targets, mount only one target per frame.
13. You can only use ONE shooting station/lane at a time - rifle or pistol. If there is a waiting list, you may be limited to one hour of shooting time.
14. All shots must impact the target. Consistent missing may necessitate moving the target closer, slowing the rate of fire, or getting instruction. The Range Officer will exercise their discretion in such matters.
15. Any damage caused by carelessness, negligence, or deliberateness will result in immediate expulsion from the range and being billed for damages.
16. ALWAYS KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER UNTIL YOU HAVE ACQUIRED THE TARGET.
17. A CEASE FIRE will be initiated by a bell, horn or an announcement by the Range Officer. PLEASE REMAIN QUIET DURING THE ANNOUNCEMENT. The Range Officer will then check the firing line for safety. Only after doing so will they give permission to proceed down range to check and change targets.
18. During a CEASE FIRE, you MAY NOT handle any firearm, ammunition, or magazines, and must not cross the shooting stand lines with any part of your body nor approach the bench from either the front or back.
19. Firearms that cannot be cleared and made safe should, with the owner's consent, remain at the range until made safe, even if necessitating outside help.
20. The use of any tobacco, including e-cigarettes, marijuana, or vaping products on the range is prohibited.

REMEMBER:

- **Always* keep your firearm pointed in a safe direction*
- **Always* keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot*
- **Always* keep the gun unloaded until ready to use*
- **Always* know your target and what is behind it*

Thank you for your cooperation!

Mineral County Shooting Sports Association