

NRA Firearm Training Archive Entry - 9/4
Anna Leman

On the evening of September 4th, fifteen WHIP students loaded into a bus bound for the National Rifle Association Firing Range in Fairfax, Virginia. Henry Sheard, range manager and longtime friend of the college, met the group in the parking lot. After a brief sessions of safety instructions, paperwork, and Henry's sarcasm, the group geared up and was ready to let bullets fly (in a safe direction, of course; that's rule number one).

The range had three of their fifteen firing lanes open. Under the instruction of range officers Jeff, McKin, and Henry, each student did a warmup round with a 22mm handgun. This gun was selected for its small bullets and minimum recoil, allowing rusty shooters and newbies to get a feel for guns before moving on to heavier firearms. It is also a lot of fun to shot. After this entry level gun, the students were allowed to explore various firearms, including a Colt 45 and a Glock 19. A Remington 210 and a Henry Lever Action 22 rifle were also fired, and the boys and a couple of the girls really enjoyed unloading the 22-bullet magazine of an AR-15. With each firearm, the range officers explained the loading, aiming, and firing process.

After two hours of shooting, the group loaded back into the bus, heading for home. But not before Henry took a group photo in front of the NRA banner outside the range.