

2026 Bluestem Shooting Sports Team Spring Season

Our shotgun team has grown to 23 student athletes and 6 coaches this year, with many parents and family members stepping up to volunteer when needed! On Sunday afternoons this spring and early summer, student athletes 7th through 12th grade, male and female, competed side by side in Novice (-15 average), Junior Varsity (15-18.99 average), and Varsity (19+ average) levels, in one or more of the 4 disciplines of trap, skeet, sporting clays and 5-stand. We are in the 1A division of the Kansas USA High School Clay Target League, which you can follow at <https://ks.usaclaytarget.com>. It was a challenging spring season due to repeatedly high winds and rainy weather, however, each student gained some mental toughness and improved their average scores over the 5 weeks of conference competition. Jayla Wakefield had a stand out rookie season, earning two conference medals: 1st place female skeet and 3rd place female in sporting clays! 17 of our 23 students went on to compete in the State Tournaments, bringing home 9 total individual medals and 3 team trophies! Please read and recognize all these fantastic accomplishments below. We had one individual, Braydon Kilgore, who was invited to compete at Nationals Trap in Mason, Michigan. We were also able to take a team of our 5 top scoring trap shooters for Bluestem's first ever trip to Nationals! Our team will have our end of year BBQ and fun shoot at Kyle Willhite's field on August 1st. Parents and students, please check the TeamReach from time to time for info on important dates for the 26-27 school year. If you'd like to practice in the off season, we would love to meet up with you, so reach out!

For the **regular conference spring season**, Jayla Wakefield took 1st place female in skeet and 3rd place female in sporting clays in our conference. Great first season!!

At the **State Sporting Clays Tournament** on 5-31-26 at Murphy's and Sons, Jayla Wakefield took 2nd place female in JV, and in the novice class we swept the podium for the female division with Terrin Fewin in 1st, Karly Peak in 2nd, and Keylin Ahlers in 3rd! The team ended up in 5th place overall. Other top ten finishers include Koa Willhite in 6th place JV male, and Tyler Topper in 7th place JV male.

At the **State Skeet Tournament** on 6-18-26 at Ark Valley Gun Club, Jayla Wakefield took 2nd place Varsity female shooter, and Jonathon Peak took 2nd place Novice male. Our skeet team brought home the 3rd place team trophy! Other top ten finishers include Koa Willhite tied for 5th place Varsity male, Kooper Noll in 5th place Novice male, Gus Kastner in 7th place JV male, and Braydon Kilgore tied for 9th place JV male.

At the **State Trap Tournament** on 6-20-26 at Kansas Trap Association fields, Jayla Wakefield took 2nd place JV female, and Karly Peak took 2nd place Novice female. Our JV trap team brought home the 1st place team trophy, and the Novice team finished in 4th place! Tyler Topper, Braydon Kilgore, and Jayla Wakefield all earned a 25 straight patch.

At the **State Five-Stand Tournament** (new discipline this year) on 6-21-2026 at Sportsman's Training Center, Gus Kastner took 2nd place JV male. Our 5 athlete five-stand team brought home the 3rd place trophy! Other top ten finishers include Tyler Topper 5th place JV male.

The team competed very well at each of the four State Tournaments, against 85 schools and over 840 shooters, bringing home 9 medals and 3 team trophies! They showed amazing improvement with some brand-new shooters and new disciplines.

For the first time ever, we sent our top 5 regular season trap shooters as a team (Braydon Kilgore, Koa Willhite, Bryson Kilgore, Gus Kastner, and Jayla Wakefield) to compete at the USA High School Clay Target League **National Trap Tournament** in Mason, Michigan from July 8-12. Only the top athletes out of over 40,000 league participants were invited to Nationals. Over 1800 student athletes and 457 high schools were in attendance! Braydon Kilgore was the only Bluestem athlete who was invited to compete as an individual from our team, based on his season average and State Trap score. He earned a straight 25 Nationals Patch!

This season was made possible by the incredible community support of our ¼ beef raffle donated by Fewin Farms, 3 gun raffle, team hat sales, and major donations from the Tim Underwood Memorial Golf Tournament, HF Sinclair and United Way Fun Shoot, Butler County Youth Fun Shoot C/O Rocky Casper, as well as jersey & banner sponsorships by Wheat State Rental, Kansas Mobile Throne, Walnut Valley Meats, Fleming Feed and Grain, Chemtreat, APX, Southwestern Electrical Company, Myers Automatic Fire Protection, Noll Construction, Kastner Family Farms, Auger Family & Chase Auger Memorial, Vickie Tredway Memorial, HF Sinclair Machine Shop, Assured Testing, Topper Home Daycare, Jim's Propane, T and D Tire, MCS Services LLC, Invena Corporation, United Steel Workers Local #241, LaClef Construction, Sundgren Realty, Austin Industrial, HF Sinclair Capital Group, Patten Automotive, Plumbers and Pipefitters Union, Don Nelson, El Bowl, Ace Automotive, Bomgars, Sutherlands, Ace Hardware, and Speedtrap Distillery. We appreciate everyone at Michael Murphy and Sons, our home range for skeet, trap, and sporting clays, for the use of their facilities and for the discounted pricing in shells and range fees. We also appreciate STC, our home range for 5 Stand and sometimes sporting clays practice, who provide our team with a fantastic facility that helps challenge shooters to improve as well as giving us a discounted rate on shells and range fees. We greatly thank the families who drove their students to practices, helped score, provided food and snacks, supported the coaches and all team members, took pictures, and consistently cheered the team on! Last but not least, we thank the coaches who donated their time, talents, weekends and some weeknights from March through July, to make sure shotgun sports were fun, safe, and open to anyone who wanted to learn how to break clays! Jeramie Batson, Matt Topper, Kyle Willhite, Larry Haney, Paul Luck and Scottie Garrison, it has been a privilege coaching Bluestem Shooting Sports with you this year! We are all so proud of our team's student athletes and the great improvements their increasing commitment to practice is yielding! Keep in touch over Team Reach and follow the Friends of Bluestem Shooting Sports Facebook page for post season information.

Thank you to all our supporters!

2026 Nationals Trap Team-Bluestem's Top 5 average trap scorers: Coach Kyle Willhite, Bryson Kilgore, Braydon Kilgore, Koa Willhite, Jayla Wakefield, Gus Kastner, Coach Larry Haney



2026 Team State Awards: State 5-Stand Team 3rd place, JV State Trap Team 1st place, State Skeet Team 3rd place



2026 State 5-Stand Team: Jonathon Peak, Tyler Topper, Braydon Kilgore, Koa Willhite, Gus Kastner



State 5-Stand



2026 State Trap straight 25/25 awards: Braydon Kilgore, Jayla Willhite, Tyler Topper



2026 State Trap Team: Coach Jeramie Batson, Gus Kastner, Coach Matt Topper, Jackson Atherton, Wyatt



2026 State Skeet individual awards Jonathon Peak and Jayla Wakefield



Tyler Topper takes his turn shooting skeet at State on station 8



Walking to station 8 at State Skeet



Bryson Kilgore shooting skeet at State



2026 State Skeet Team



2026 State Sporting Clays 3 of Bluestem's 4 female medalists



Keylin Ahlers shooting sporting clays at State-Keylin won 3rd place Novice female on this day



Shooting sporting clays at State 2026



Shooting sporting clays at State 2026 Koa Willhite



Griffin Long shooting sporting clays with his squad at State



Team picture (missing a few kids)



Braydon Kilgore, Koa Willhite, Jonathon Peak, and Gus Kastner (NP) won 3rd place at the HF Sinclair Fun Shoot 5-2-26



Skeet practice



Trap practice



A few of our 1st year rookie trap team members



Hunter Thompson and Terrin Fewin practicing trap before the rain starts at team practice.



2026 Bluestem Shooting Sports Seniors: Tyler Topper, Gus Kastner, Wyatt Brewer, Hunter Thompson at team practice at Murphy's and Sons

