

Allegan Area Trap Team

Fall 2025

Safety • Fun • Marksmanship

Students: We know you want to be confident in your ability to be accurate with a variety of firearms. While it's fun to go plinking at the range, shooting at Grandpa's house, or earn merit badges at Scout Camp, you really need something more. You need an organized experience with shotguns and moving targets.

It's time to **experience the thrill and skill of trap shooting.**

The Allegan Area Trap Team is a member of the [Michigan State High School Clay Target League](#). Our 7-week fall league is open to *all students* in 6th–12th grade and offers competitive and recreational options.

Improving your marksmanship is easy:

1. **Sign Up:** [Register for the Fall 2025 Session](#)
2. **Learn & Compete:** Get weekly experience and real competition
3. **Improve Your Skills:** Watch as your reaction times and shooting skills get better

Whether you want to improve as a hunter, experience a new type of shooting, or just have fun with your shotgun, you should register for the fall league. Trap is a safe, fun, outdoor sport that you can participate in for the rest of your life. [Register today!](#)



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Safety

Safety is our number one priority. This means that all parents are considered range safety officers. If you see something unsafe, say something. We want the athletes to have a fun and positive experience with the sport but safety will always be the top priority. Trap is America's safest high school sport, with 0 reported injuries since 2008.

Eligibility

- Athletes must be in grade 6 through 12
- All genders are welcome
- Must live in Allegan County
- You do **not** have to attend Allegan schools. Athletes from any school, including homeschool, may participate.
- Must have completed **one** of these trainings before you can shoot with the team (you do *not* have to complete them before you register):

1. [Michigan's Hunter Safety Certificate](#) (course + Field Day) \$10
Certification from a state other than Michigan is also valid.
 2. [Student Athlete Firearm Education \(SAFE\)](#) training. \$25
- You do not have to have prior experience shooting trap.
 - If your school has its own official Trap Team, you are *not* eligible for the Competition Group; you must register for the **Recreational Group**.

Team Types

The Allegan Area Trap Team consists of two groups: Competition and Recreational. Both groups participate in all practices and weekly competition. Athletes from both groups are mixed together, and their weekly experience is the same.

Competition Group

The competition team is for athletes who would like to participate in the [Michigan State High School Clay Target League](#) (MSHSCTL). These athletes will be able to represent the team or compete individually at the [Michigan Trap Shooting State Tournament](#) in June. Being a member includes insurance coverage. The cost to join this group is \$40, payable online, when you register.

Recreational Group

The recreational group will not be part of the MSHSCTL but will still participate in all competition weeks. They will *not* be allowed to participate in the state tournament in June 2026. There is no insurance. Registration is FREE.

Coaching

Experienced members of the [Allegan County Conservation League](#) and Troy Garland, Hamilton's Trap Team Coach, will be instructing and guiding students each week. We're very grateful to these volunteers.

Volunteers

This team is run by volunteers, and we are always looking for more assistance. If you are curious about helping, please speak with:

- Sam Martin: 616.378.0356, samuel.a.martin@gmail.com
- Rebecca Martin: 485.3535, mail@cottagedesign.com

How to Register

Competition Group

- **Returning Athletes:** Log into your existing “Athlete Management Account” at www.claytargetgo.com.
- **New Athletes:** Create an “Athlete Management Account” at www.claytargetgo.com. Our team code is **aln793**.
 - Registration *for new athletes* happens in two stages.
 - You’ll fill out your online application to join the team, but you won’t be able to finish registering until we approve your application. Please text Rebecca at 616.485.3535 to let us know you’ve started the process. We’ll advance your application in the system.
 - Once your application is advanced, you’ll be able to complete the process online.
- Cost: \$40, payable to MSHSCTL through the online registration interface
- Your athlete ***must*** be signed up by **1 p.m. Eastern, Monday, September 9, 2025**. There is **NO** opportunity for late registrations.

Recreational Group

- Email mail@cottagedesign.com. Please include:
 - the athlete’s name, email, phone number (if they have one), grade, and school district or homeschool status
 - a parent’s name, email, and phone number
 - proof of completion of either safety training option
- Cost: Free registration
- Your athlete must be registered, via email, by 1 p.m. Eastern, Monday, September 9, 2025.

Practice & Competition: 5:30 p.m., Thursdays

Allegan County Conservation League, 2157 41st St, Allegan, MI 49010

We will score two rounds of 25 targets each. The combined scores will be used for the required 50 target competition.

The time it takes to shoot depends on the number of shooters. If the team has:

- 5 or fewer shooters: about an hour
- 6–10 shooters: about 90 minutes
- 11+ shooters: We may stagger arrival times to minimize waiting in the clubhouse, with the goal of keeping everyone's time commitment close to 90 minutes.

Equipment Needed Each Week

- **Shotgun:** 12 or 20 gauge (loaner guns are available if needed)
- **Ammunition:** 2 boxes (50 shots) each week. A total of 20 boxes for the season
 - 12 Gauge / 1 oz. or 1-1/8 oz. Shot / #7.5 or #8 Shot Size
 - 20 Gauge / 7/8 oz. Shot / #8 Shot Size
 - [Schanz Supply in Otsego](#) often has good prices on ammunition
- **Cash for Targets:** up to \$4 each week paid to the Conservation League for 2 rounds of targets (50 targets). The cost may be less based on donations the team receives. Please *do not* purchase targets elsewhere.
- **Eye AND Ear Protection** (over-the-ear headphones or earplugs are acceptable)
- **Shooting [Pouch](#) or [Vest](#)** (these links are just examples; purchase from the retailer of your choice)

Firearms

Athletes can use a variety of shotguns, including:

- single shot break open
- double barrel over/under break open
- pump action
- semi-auto

You can be successful with a gun designed for trap shooting or field shooting.

A gun with an adjustable choke is preferred but is not required.

The length of the barrel depends on what each athlete feels comfortable with.

If the athlete is using a semi-auto, it must be equipped with a brass catcher. These are available online and at many local shops.

Weather Policies

 **Rain/Drizzle/Snow:** We still shoot. Dress for the weather.

 **Thunder OR Lightning:** We cancel if either of these are present between 5 and 7:30pm. I will send a cancellation email at 4:30pm based on current conditions or based on our best interpretation of the forecast and radar. (No email = we shoot.)

You choose whether to participate. If you don't shoot during our regular Thursday slot, you have 2 options:

1. Shoot for fun and practice on Sunday, when the ACCL is open between 9am and 2pm. You'll join a group of adult league members when there's an opening in a 16-yard group. **Competitive Group: Sunday scores *cannot* be used for the Thursday you miss.** Scores must be submitted each week by Saturday; Sunday scores will be too late for that week. **Recreational players:** We will not log your Sunday scores, either.
2. Leave that week's scores blank. This will lower your rankings for the Team (Recreational & Competitive Groups) and State (Competitive Group).



Allegan Area Trap Team Fall 2025 Schedule

Allegan County Conservation League, 2157 41st St, Allegan, MI 49010

Monday	Sept. 8, 2025	1pm	Team and student athlete registration closes at 1 p.m. Eastern . Last day for athletes to withdraw for Competition Registration refund. No exceptions!
Thursday	Sept. 11	5:30pm	Practice Week 1
Wednesday	Sept. 17		Conferences announced
Thursday	Sept. 18	5:30pm	Reserve Week Each team shoots in a simulated competition. The athletes' scores will be used as a "reserve" score in case of an absence during a competition week.
Thursday	Sept. 25	5:30pm	Competition Week 1
Thursday	Oct. 2	5:30pm	Competition Week 2
Thursday	Oct. 9	5:30pm	Competition Week 3
Thursday	Oct. 16	5:30pm	Competition Week 4
Thursday	Oct. 23	5:30pm	Competition Week 5
Monday	Oct. 27		Season final results posted

"Fair Share" Volunteer Hours

In order to support the Allegan County Conservation League, we ask each athlete to volunteer at a League event during the season. League events typically occur on Sundays and Fridays. Dates will be shared as soon as the League identifies specific opportunities this fall.