

PRESS Release

To: ALL MEDIA

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Montrose Rod & Gun Club to Host Handgun Seminar

'First Shots' Event Offers Safe, Educational Introduction to Shooting

Montrose, CO- When it comes to learning about shooting and firearms ownership, not knowing how or where to start can be an intimidating hurdle for newcomers.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) is partnering with **Montrose Rod & Gun Club** to offer Montrose area residents a welcoming introduction to the safe, recreational use of handguns. Through a program called First Shots, first-time shooters can attend a free half-day session composed of classroom and range time.

First Shots will be held **Nov. 21 at Montrose Rod & Gun Club's Indoor Range** located at **1211 6450 Rd.** Pre-registration is required by contacting **Larry @ 249-2771 or Candy @ 208-4583**

"First Shots is a great opportunity for the public to learn from professionals exactly what gun ownership & the shooting sports are all about. It's also a chance to give shooting a try".

First Shots events provide the public with a chance to learn the rules and requirements of handgun ownership along with comprehensive information on safety, shooting sports opportunities, individual and group training and range access. It also answers new shooters' questions regarding firearms and firearm ownership and provides an opportunity to give shooting a try.

"For many individuals, especially in states with more restrictive handgun laws, an aura of mystery surrounds handgun ownership," said Cyndi Dalena of NSSF, which developed the First Shots program. In partnership with local retailers, First Shots provides the public with a chance to try shooting in a safe environment with qualified instructors. "First Shots" is one of many NSSF programs working to increase awareness of and participation in the shooting sports. For more information on first Shots, visit www.firstshots.org

FACTS: HANDGUNS IN THE U.S

- Of the estimated 192 million gun owners, 65 million are handgun owners.
- One in every four households has one or more handguns.
- Handgun types owned: revolvers-31 million; semi-automatic-26 million; other-8 million.
- Handgun sales rose 3 percent in 2005.
- Firearm crimes, suicides and accidents are trending downward.
- There are 2.7 million active female handgun target shooters.
- Handgun target shooter demographics: 81 percent male, 19 percent female; average income-\$68,800; average age-39; percent with education beyond high school-56 percent.
- 48 states allow concealed-carry handguns for personal protection.
- Handguns are legal for hunting in 48 states.

NSSF, founded in 1961, is the trade association for the firearms and recreational shooting sports industry and promotes the safe ownership and responsible use of products its members make and sell. For more information, visit www.nssf.org