



# Project Appleseed in Minnesota

☆ Liberty ☆ Heritage ☆ Marksmanship ☆

November, 2011 Newsletter

Find more information at [appleseedusa.org](http://appleseedusa.org).

## Last Chance to Attend an Appleseed Event in Minnesota in 2011!

Thanksgiving weekend, November 26-27, at Hinckley will be our last chance to attend an Appleseed weekend in Minnesota in 2011. Come and join us for a fun weekend of heritage and marksmanship! If we have snowy winter weather you will also have an opportunity to earn the coveted Winterseed Rifleman Patch. Don't wait until March, come on over to Hinckley this Thanksgiving and hone your marksmanship skills with us. Honor the sacrifices made by our ancestors at Valley Forge by attending a Winterseed event this year.!



Image Source: Wikipedia Commons  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Washington-at-ValleyForge.jpg>

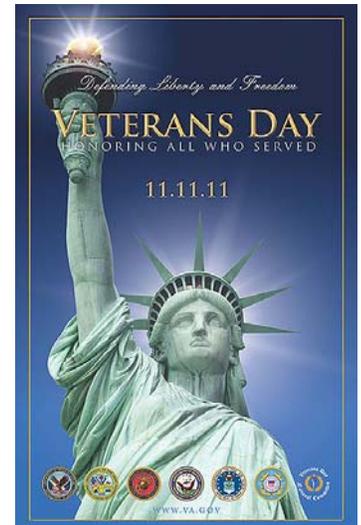
## Upcoming Appleseeds in Minnesota

- Hinckley, MN - November 26-27, 2011  
[Information](#) or [Register](#)

The complete, national schedule is available at <http://www.appleseedusa.org/search-states.html>. Check there often since new events are added throughout the year.

## Veteran's Day: 11/11/11

On Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> we honor all American veterans, both living and dead. We have a large number of living veterans from World War II all the way through the current conflicts still going on. This is the day we express our deep gratitude to them for their service and the sacrifices they have made in their lives to protect our freedom.



Veterans Day Poster for 2011  
Image source: Dept. of Veterans Affairs  
<http://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/gallery.asp>

The Veteran's Day tradition started after World War I, on November 11, 1918, when the war officially ended. It became known as Armistice Day and was celebrated with parades and other events to honor veterans. After World War II Armistice Day was renamed Veteran's Day to honor all Americans who had served in all wars.

Many Americans commemorate the day by sending cards to, or visiting, hospitalized veterans or those living in veterans' homes. Both the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars have information on how we can acknowledge and help our veterans in honor of Veteran's Day this year:

<http://www.legion.org/news/159909/helping-america-honor-veterans>

<http://www.vfw.org/News-and-Events/Articles/Resources-for-Veterans-Day-11-11-11/>

**After Action Report:  
Rochester, October 1-2, 2011**

*[Our Shoot Boss for this event came all the way from the Desert Southwest to the Upper Midwest to help us out. Thank you CSHR!]*

Thought I'd fallen asleep in an icebox I was so cold... 0630 hrs driving to the range and I see this older, skinny guy, road paint white stripe colored skin wearing a bright orange hunting hat with ear flaps, mittens, blue shorts and running shoes...doing what I can only imagine is "jogging" along the shaded roadway...ohhhh yeah, this is gonna be an interesting shoot.

No Shoot Boss was listed so, overcome by lack of sleep, I'd volunteered just 5 days before to do it, provided they'd supply everything needed since I'm 'in country' with only an Appleseed hat and shirt. I'd also requested someone with formal translating abilities be present in case I wasn't totally conversant with their native language.



Turns out the Appleseed crew was great to work with and the shooters, 27 Saturday and 18 Sunday, were attentive, involved, and friendly family shooters. Couldn't have been better. I feel privileged to have participated.

We had 6 "Luther Blanchard" awards presented [youth patches] and 4 new "Rifleman" patches earned... heck of an accomplishment.

The weather warmed up both days making for pleasant shooting. Great mix of families showed up...three generations in one group, lots of kids and a few moms. Didn't have people sitting out from being tired, either.

Thank you all for your allowing us to instruct you in rifle skills and for the interest in our history and heritage.

Our four Riflemen:  
Skysensor---226/222  
Wipeout---215  
Dave---220  
Nick---224

Five.56 was advanced to Instructor In Training 3 (IIT3)...keep up the good work!!



Skysensor shot Rifleman and then volunteered to accept an Instructor-In-Training/Orange Hat, Congrats and welcome aboard!

Jim put on his Orange Hat to assist us with all the people who showed up. Thank you.

Pretend you're not able to read this section...but 'Mike' was there to shoot and had his arm twisted to wearing an Orange Hat for both days, I'm thankful for all of your assistance...and for leading us to a nice place I could eat at. Nice to see that the 'seeders in MN show up and help even though they didn't 'sign up'...and do a good job of it too!

Had FreedomV running around in circles...instructing, line boss, chasing errant dogs off our line, keeping his eye on his daughter who appears to know her way around an Appleseed, helping the shooters, setting up and tearing it all down...and all the time smiling...wonder what he's up to anyway???

Thanks to "K" for bringing all the 'stuff' that FreedomV didn't, and also all the interfacing with the Instructors In Training prior to the event.

CSHR

**After Action Report:  
Hinckley, October 8-9, 2011**

Thanks to all the shooters that came out and spent their weekend with us! The weather cooperated, and shooters were attentive and quick learners. We minted two new rifleman and had a clean Redcoat target on Sunday! It was a great weekend of learning and celebration of the American Revolution.

*BuzzG*

Thank you to all who made this yet another excellent Appleseed event!

Congratulations Jay and John L. on making Rifleman! Jay, you're well on your way to being a master expert or some sorta super shooter! The sound of the M1A on the right was therapeutic! John, now for the irons! (you can do it, I promise!)

Posterity showed up in force this weekend! If there are many more youths such as yourselves, the future of America is much brighter than my cynical mind can fathom.

Chad, remember, the third time's the charm! There are still slots left for the November shoot. (I've received word there may be a boarder-raid brewin'. Gotsta hold off those Cheeseheads!)



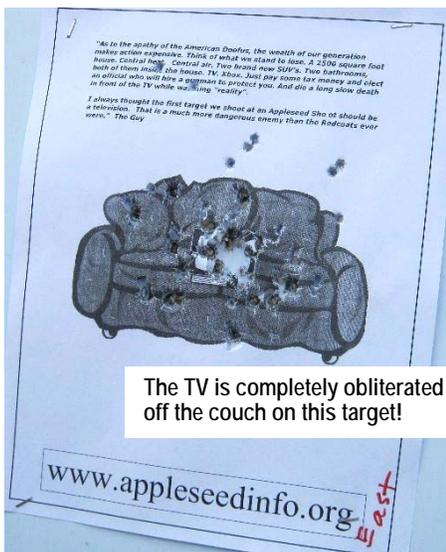
Chris, I wish you could have made it Sunday, but you know what you need to work on - Keep them kids off the couch and on the range! Don't forget to check in on the MN board.

Ed, you nailed that last redcoat! If we'd have had you for one more day, you'd be a Rifleman (certified) We'll see you on the Trail soon! And the kids!

The instructors (BuzzG, javaguy, GRYPHON, Squib) all did a great job! Fun and learning was had by all!

See you on the Trail!

*AFTERMATH / Alex*



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## **Heroes of Early America: The Continental Army at Valley Forge**



The March to Valley Forge

Image source: <http://ushistoryimages.com> (public domain image)

“Naked and Starving as they are, we cannot enough admire the incomparable patience and fidelity of the soldiery.” These were the words of George Washington in a letter dated February 16, 1778. The Continental Army was wintering over at Valley Forge, 25 miles northwest of British-occupied Philadelphia, during the winter of 1777-1778. After long marches and many battles, the Continental army was ragged, tattered and often without shoes or boots.

On December 18th, the day before the Continental Army arrived at Valley Forge, they observed a “Day of Thanksgiving” which had been declared by Congress to celebrate the American victory at Saratoga in October. The army was poorly supplied, and so their celebratory meal consisted of half a cup of rice and a tablespoon of vinegar.

Valley Forge is on a long, windy hillside overlooking a valley rather than a sheltered valley encampment. The location was chosen to provide a strong and defensible position that would discourage a British attack on the winter camp, but to be close enough to harass the British in their foraging attempts, and to engage them quickly in the spring.

Once they arrived at Valley Forge, the men began building log huts to shelter twelve men each, and then built the needed fortifications. The wet, melt-again, freeze-again conditions that winter were difficult on the men. Many died from disease. However, the survivors of that winter encampment came out with a new professionalism and confidence, prepared to soldier on and win the American Revolution.

Baron von Steuben came from Prussia and joined the effort. He wrote a manual of arms and trained the army to maneuver on the battlefield, reload and fire more quickly, use their bayonets, and post guards and sentries. France became an ally with the news reaching the Americans in April, along with French-made uniforms and military gear. Nathaniel Greene took over quartermaster duties which greatly improved access to needed supplies. On June 28, 1778, the army was already successfully engaging the British at Monmouth.

If you would like to learn more about the course of the American Revolution and conditions at Valley Forge, a 1957 Boys Life article is available here, starting on page 35: <http://books.google.com/books?id=sUZriXDP61sC>

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