

PROJECT APPLESEED FLORIDA NEWSLETTER

April 3, 2018



The weekend Appleseed experience: not what you expect.

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- April 19th 1775: A day all Americans should remember

In today's world of 24-hour news cycles, changing technologies, and push-button gratification, it's a challenge to stay connected to the values that our great country was built on. Ideals like integrity, commitment, and personal responsibility are what our founding fathers relied on to win our independence and to then make America a great nation. At Project Appleseed, we're dedicated to keeping these timeless values alive. We promote civic responsibility through the teaching of colonial history and the American tradition of rifle marksmanship. Even after all of these years, there is much to be learned from our forefathers' examples of perseverance, commitment, and civic virtue. With a full calendar of shooting clinics and events, Project Appleseed is here to make sure these timeless principles live on for generations to come.

What Appleseed is all about:

You can't write the story of America without including several chapters about the skill and bravery of our forefathers'. On April 19, 1775, at Lexington and Concord, American colonists stood with muskets in hand and faced down the British forces that were trying to seize their arms. The colonists did it with grit, determination, and superior marksmanship. They were real marksmen: nobly and ably putting their skills on the line in pursuit of liberty. We are the descendants of those fearless men and women who earned our freedom on the battlefield. We honor their pursuit of liberty by passing along the skills and knowledge that aided them in securing it. Today's Rifleman understands that owning and mastering a rifle is part of his/her American heritage. Whether you're a new shooter or a seasoned marksman, Project Appleseed can help transform you from a person with a rifle into a principled and skilled Rifleman.



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"GIVE ME LIBERTY, OR GIVE ME DEATH!"

PATRICK HENRY delivering his great speech on the Rights of the Colonies, before the Virginia Assembly, convened at Richmond March 23rd 1775. Concluding with the above sentiment, which became the war cry of the Revolution.

Apr-18			
Pensacola	FL	April 07, 2018 - April 08, 2018	Appleseed
Bunnell	FL	April 14, 2018 - April 15, 2018	Appleseed
Clearwater	FL	April 21, 2018 - April 22, 2018	Appleseed
Hernando	FL	April 21, 2018 - April 22, 2018	Appleseed
Palm Bay	FL	April 21, 2018 - April 22, 2018	Appleseed
St. Augustine	FL	April 21, 2018 - April 22, 2018	Appleseed
Tallahassee	FL	April 21, 2018 - April 22, 2018	Appleseed
Myakka City	FL	April 22, 2018 (One Day Event)	Appleseed - 1 Day
Hurlburt Field	FL	April 28, 2018 - April 29, 2018	Appleseed
May-18			
Palm Bay	FL	May 19, 2018 - May 20, 2018	Appleseed
Tallahassee	FL	May 19, 2018 - May 20, 2018	Appleseed
St. Augustine	FL	May 26, 2018 - May 27, 2018	Appleseed
Jun-18			
St. Augustine	FL	June 09, 2018 - June 10, 2018	Appleseed
Myakka City	FL	June 16, 2018 - June 17, 2018	Appleseed
Palm Bay	FL	June 16, 2018 - June 17, 2018	Appleseed
Hernando	FL	June 23, 2018 - June 24, 2018	Appleseed
Tallahassee	FL	June 23, 2018 (One Day Event)	Appleseed - 1 Day
Gainesville	FL	June 30, 2018 - July 01, 2018	Appleseed
Jul-18			
Palm Bay	FL	July 14, 2018 - July 15, 2018	Instructor Boot Camp
Tallahassee	FL	July 21, 2018 (One Day Event)	Appleseed - 1 Day
Aug-18			
Tallahassee	FL	August 18, 2018 (One Day Event)	Appleseed - 1 Day
Sep-18			
Myakka City	FL	September 15, 2018 - September 16, 2018	Appleseed
Tallahassee	FL	September 22, 2018 - September 23, 2018	Appleseed
Gainesville	FL	September 29, 2018 - September 30, 2018	Appleseed
Hernando	FL	September 29, 2018 - September 30, 2018	Appleseed
Palm Bay	FL	September 29, 2018 - September 30, 2018	Appleseed
Oct-18			
Pensacola	FL	October 06, 2018 - October 07, 2018	Appleseed
Clearwater	FL	October 20, 2018 - October 21, 2018	Appleseed
Palm Bay	FL	October 20, 2018 - October 21, 2018	Appleseed
Tallahassee	FL	October 20, 2018 - October 21, 2018	Appleseed
Nov-18			
Bunnell	FL	November 03, 2018 - November 04, 2018	Appleseed
Hurlburt Field	FL	November 03, 2018 - November 04, 2018	Appleseed
Tallahassee	FL	November 10, 2018 - November 11, 2018	Appleseed
Clearwater	FL	November 17, 2018 - November 18, 2018	Appleseed
Palm Bay	FL	November 17, 2018 - November 18, 2018	Appleseed
Dec-18			
Hernando	FL	December 01, 2018 - December 02, 2018	Appleseed
Hurlburt Field	FL	December 01, 2018 - December 02, 2018	Appleseed
Pensacola	FL	December 01, 2018 - December 02, 2018	Appleseed
Tallahassee	FL	December 08, 2018 - December 09, 2018	Appleseed
Myakka City	FL	December 15, 2018 - December 16, 2018	Appleseed
Palm Bay	FL	December 15, 2018 - December 16, 2018	Appleseed
Gainesville	FL	December 29, 2018 - December 30, 2018	Appleseed



What Should You Bring

** Very important things

Personal items

- A teachable attitude (most important thing) **
- Ear protection Muffs and plugs **
- Eye protection **
- Elbow pads or shooting Jacket
- Ground cover (Rug remnant will work)
- A hat
- Little notebook (those little 2.5 X 3.5 work well)
- Pen – Used for taking notes and also for marking your targets; a sharpie marker is handy as well
- Sun Screen
- Lots of water (Must stay hydrated)
- Light Lunch
- Snacks
- Folding Chair (not necessary but nice)
- Wet wipes
- Bug spray
- Necessary clothing for any kind of weather

Rifle specific preparations

- Rifle preferably zeroed for 25 meters
- At least 500 rounds of ammo for a two day event
- At least 250 rounds of ammo for a one day event
- At least 250 rounds of ammo for a Known Distance event
- Sight adjustment tools
- Two mags. 10 rds. each. Bring extra mags. if you have them. 20rds works well if State law allows
- Gun cleaning supplies and lube
- Instructions for your rifle (if you have them)
- Know your rifle
- GI Web Sling
- Something to cover your rifle to keep blowing sand or rain off it.
- Staple gun, or thumb tacks, or push-pins.
- Staples
- Know the laws of the State you are going to and only bring that which is within the law

Ready your equipment

- Be prepared for blowing sand and dust, rain, mud all those weather conditions a rifleman would have to generally put up with.
- In event of blowing sand and dust, you'll need to totally degrease your rifle. Any lube should be a dry lube, like graphite. Be ready to protect your rifle with a plastic rifle bag or a simple waterproof wrap for the action.
- Be ready to protect ammo and mags from the same weather. Ziploc bags are great for this.
- Again, be prepared. You should function-test your rifle and, if possible, have it zeroed for 25 meters. Doing so will leave you properly sighted for the 25m AQT.
- It's a good idea to get down into the prone position and dry-fire ten shots "by the numbers." If you will do this three times a week, you'll be way ahead of everyone else. Hey, while you're at it, put a GI web sling on your rifle, and get it adjusted so it supports the rifle in prone, too.
- Practice at home is a GREAT way to prep for arriving at the range. By doing so your range time will be FAR more productive.

**** Due to a gun industry safety bulletin, .17HMR semi-autos are not recommended.**

**** Effective immediately the use of Smith and Wesson M&P 15/22'S at and Appleseed are hereby temporarily prohibited due to recent safety issues.**

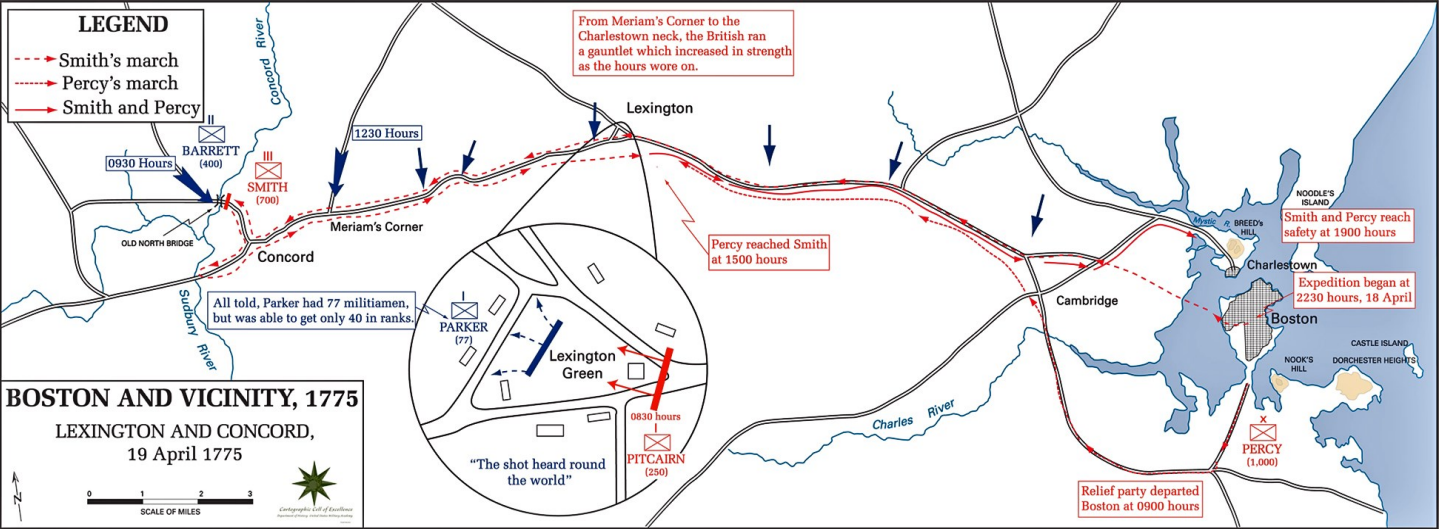


Isaac Davis Range Armory loaner rifles April 2018

At the Isaac Davis Memorial Range in early February 2018, there was wide-ranging discussion about the upcoming Immokalee FL shoot (30 loaner rifles) in S. Florida, and that a need existed in N. Florida for a similar loaner program – particularly for shooters from JROTC units and Scout groups in the Panhandle. If we were starting from scratch, which we were, how would such a capacity be structured? Here's how we did it, in sequence. People generally agreed the young people would not have Appleseed-type rifles or know how to set one up, i.e. a rifle that's easy to shoot well, and their parents probably would not either. The sudden political interest in raising the age to purchase might easily have a discouraging effect as well. Since we had a blank slate, we quickly agreed on the simplest Appleseed standard rifle – the preferred rifle – a rack-grade Ruger 10/22 with Tech Sights and a USGI sling. Then we agreed we needed an armory to hold the loaner rifles, and someone to hold the key/combination. We formed a gun trust – the Isaac Davis Memorial Gun Trust – as the owner of the loaner rifles and opened a bank account in the name of the trust. For a bunch of first-timers, it went unusually quickly.

One of the instructors volunteered to be Armorer for the loaner program. We made bylaws about how to request loaners, how to keep track of them, how we'll move them, who's responsible for them, and who cleans them and so on. They're short, less than two pages.

The gun trust was created solely for the loaner armory and can accept donated new or used .22 rifles or cash donations to purchase them new. If you have a 10/22 or other rifle you would like to donate, that would be a private transaction – not through an FFL holder – and you can be sure of two things: it will be shooting fine and providing the best marksmanship instruction there is, long after we are all gone; and you'll never have to clean it again! If you want to set up a loaner program for your area, it's a lot easier than you think. For further information, contact Richard McNelis at adobewallsfl@yahoo.com, and keep up with your dry fire – so much better than just cussing at the pretenders on TV!



Why do we hold April 19, 1775 so dear? Simply put, that is indeed the day we became Americans.

In the early morning hours of Wednesday, April 19, 1775, British troops crossed Boston Harbor with the intention of marching to Concord, Massachusetts to seize military supplies stored in the town by Patriot militiamen. Anticipating the British actions, an alarm was raised throughout the countryside by American silversmith Paul Revere and dozens of other riders who warned the colonial militia and minutemen that the regulars were on the road to Concord. By 5 am, the simmering tensions between the American colonists and the British government would reach their breaking point. The events of April 19 would change the world forever.

In Lexington, Paul Revere found that in his absence one of the two mounted scouts Captain Parker had dispatched had returned to announce that there was no army on the road. He had found nothing. The whole military maneuver was a feint of no consequence. Was it just another false alarm? But as Revere was entering the tavern to get Hancock's trunk, the other mounted scout came pounding up the roadway yelling that the regulars were right behind him, little more than a mile away and doing a ground-eating quick-march.

Captain Parker ordered the drummer to beat a call to arms. Then he assembled his militia unit-now seventy-seven strong-and lined it up in two ranks along the green. He was an experienced officer with combat experience who understood that the regulars would immediately take this posture as a challenge. That he meant to do battle was indicated in his instructions to the troops: 'Don't fire unless fired upon. But if they want a war let it begin here.

The militiamen stood in silence in the gathering light of dawn. The stirring birds called in the trees, and the odor of fresh-turned earth and apple blossoms hung in the air. Small knots of onlookers stood about on the common. Women and children peered from the windows of the houses around the green. Dorothy Quincy continued her vigil in the second-floor bedroom of the Clarke house.

All listened for the sound of British boot soles. It was five A.M.

At the first faint light at the tavern windows, Revere and Lowell stepped out of Buckman's and into the midst of the crowd of militia and onlookers, struggling with the immensely heavy trunk, its brass fittings and the nail studs on the leather covering glimmering.

In Woburn, Hancock had just tucked up his napkin to feast on a salmon when a messenger rushed in to say that the regulars were on their way. Hancock and Adams, in a panic, ordered that the highly visible Hancock coach be put in some trees while they concealed themselves in the woods. The salmon was left on the table, uneaten. They waited, but no regulars appeared. Tentatively, they emerged from hiding and decided to move farther away to yet another 'modest' house-that of Amos Wyman.

In Lexington, with shocking suddenness, the advance army unit under command of Marine Major John Pitcairn abruptly arrived into sight on the roadway, quick-marching directly toward the green and the militia assembled there.

With Pitcairn at the head of the column were three other officers, including Major Edward Mitchell, who must have been saddle-sore in the extreme, having been mounted, and without any sleep, for nearly twenty-four hours. On foot were Lieutenant Barker and Lieutenant Gould, who would have prominent roles in the action that followed that day.

From his horse, Major Pitcairn cried out to the militia: "Throw down your arms! Ye villains, ye rebels. Colonel Parker ordered his men to disperse, and they started to obey. None had thrown down their arms, but many of those who had heard Parker's command turned away and showed their departing backs to the British.

Then a shot was fired.

Long months of pent-up resentment in the British troops exploded. Apparently without orders from any of their officers, the regulars fired a volley at the militiamen, and then charged with their bayonets. Their officers were unable to control them.

At the height of this action, Colonel Francis Smith arrived with the main contingent of troops and saw British regulars running amok, firing their guns, preparing to assault private houses, and moving menacingly toward Buckman's Tavern. Smith turned to a drummer and ordered him to play 'Down Arms' over and over. Finally, reluctantly, the troops came to a heel. When the officers restored the angry troops to their ranks, the town green revealed a shocking scene.

Militia Captain Parker's kinsman, Jonas Parker had been wounded, and while lying on the ground attempting to load his gun, he had then been bayoneted fatally. Townsman Jonathan Harrington fell, blood flowing from his breast. With his wife watching from a window in their house, he stood up and stretched out his hands toward her, then fell again. On his hands and knees, he crawled across the road. She ran to the front door, opened it, and looked down. There, on their doorstep, he died. Two others running from the common were shot, presumably in the back.

In all, eight militiamen lay dead and nine others were wounded. If Colonel Smith's arrival had been delayed a few more minutes, the carnage might have been much greater.

Only a few of the militia had managed to return fire. Jonas Parker, John Monroe, Ebenezer Monroe, Jr., and others got off shots before leaving the line. Solomon Brown and Jonas Brown fired from behind a stone wall; one other person fired from the back door of Buckman's house; Nathan Monroe, Lieutenant Benjamin Tidd, and others retreated a short distance, turned, and fired.

Major Pitcairn's horse had received two minor injuries, and one regular, Private Johnson on the 10th Foot, was slightly wounded in the thigh. Johnson's luck didn't hold for long; he was later wounded mortally at Bunker Hill.

There were many eyewitnesses to the action at Lexington: militia; British regulars, officers and troops; and bystanders; as well as the women and children looking out from the windows of the houses around the common. Many kept diaries, and still more testified in affidavits collected later by the Committee of Safety.

Even today the question persists: Who fired the first shot? Historians may not know but riflemen do!

The British continued on to nearby Concord, where that same day they encountered armed resistance from a group of patriots at the town's North Bridge. Gunfire was exchanged, leaving two colonists and three redcoats dead. Afterward, the British retreated back to Boston, skirmishing with colonial militiamen along the way and suffering a number of casualties; the Revolutionary War had begun. The incident at the North Bridge later was memorialized by Ralph Waldo Emerson in his 1837 poem Concord Hymn.

Concord Hymn

By Ralph Waldo Emerson

**By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here once the embattled farmers stood,
And fired the shot heard round the world.**

**The foe long since in silence slept;
Alike the conqueror silent sleeps;
And Time the ruined bridge has swept
Down the dark stream which seaward creeps.**

**On this green bank, by this soft stream,
We set to-day a votive stone;
That memory may their deed redeem,
When, like our sires, our sons are gone.**

**Spirit, that made those heroes dare,
To die, and leave their children free,
Bid Time and Nature gently spare
The shaft we raise to them and thee.**





**THINK YOU'RE A GOOD
SHOT WITH A RIFLE?
COME ON OUT AND
PROVE IT.
PROJECT APPLESEED
NOT WHAT YOU
EXPECT**

<https://appleseedinfo.org/>

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Contact your local State Coordinator Chris Heffron with any needs or questions at:
mecreos@gmail.com or 407.601.9549

