

# How to Prepare for a 25m Rifle Event



This is a general guide to prepare for a Project Appleseed™ 25-meter rifle event. Each range can be a little different. If something is significantly different from the advice in this guide, the Shoot Boss will reach out in advance and let you know.

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## **Finding & Signing Up for an Event**

### *Finding an Event*

We recommend beginning with a traditional 25m Rifle event or an Appleseed Pistol Clinic.

To find all events near you, check out this link: <https://appleseedinfo.org/schedulemap/>

For other events:

Rimfire Known Distance: <https://appleseedinfo.org/schedule/?eventtype=rkd>  
Known Distance Rifle: <https://appleseedinfo.org/schedule/?eventtype=kd>  
Appleseed Pistol Clinics: <https://appleseedinfo.org/schedule/?eventtype=pistol>  
Ladies Only events: <https://appleseedinfo.org/schedule/?eventtype=ladies>

### *Pricing*

Our current pricing can be found here: <https://appleseedinfo.org/pricing-information/>.

## What to Bring

This list was compiled from the experiences of past Appleseed attendees. It includes those things that did or would have made their experience more enjoyable. Keep in mind that not all items are essential.

### *Personal Items*

- \*A Teachable Attitude (A desire to learn and improve and a mind open to new things are the most important things you can bring to the event.)
- \*Ear protection ( earmuffs and/or earplugs. Electronic ear muffs are helpful, but not essential.)
- \*Eye protection (clear shooting glasses are recommended. Impact resistant prescription glasses may be okay.)
- Shooting mat (a thick blanket or rug remnant can be used as a substitute)
- Tarp (for under the shooting mat to catch spent casings – this makes cleanup much easier)
- Elbow pads or elbow-padded shooting jacket (if you don't have elbow pads, take an old pair of socks and cut out the toes)
- Dress for the weather. We always shoot unless the weather is hazardous. (It rarely is.) Long sleeves and long pants are recommended. Low-cut shirts can collect hot brass; we recommend a crew-neck shirt.
- Closed-toe shoes are a necessity. Boots are recommended (no open-toe footwear)
- Weather-appropriate hat (360° brim for sun or with ear coverage for cold)
- Sufficient water - you must stay hydrated (1 gallon per person recommended)
- Trail mix or high-protein snacks (Protein is fuel. Sugary carbohydrates may make you sleepy.)
- Light, high-protein lunch (lunches at Project Appleseed are working lunches)
- Folding chair
- Wet wipes
- Sunscreen and bug spray
- Small notebook & pencil. A Sharpie is helpful as well to mark your targets.

### *Rifle-specific Items*

- \*Rifle. Maximum caliber of 8mm, but some ranges may have other restrictions. (Recommended: Semi-auto rifle with detachable magazines; rifle zeroed for 25 meters if possible)
- Iron/peep sights are not required at Project Appleseed. We are scope friendly!
- \*Ammunition: 400 (2-day event) or 200 (1-day event) rounds of the same type and brand of ammo unless the Shoot Boss contacts you and recommends you bring more.
- \*2 magazines that hold at least 10 rounds, but bringing spares is recommended. (20-round mags OK if state law allows.)
- \*USGI style cotton web sling, 1 ¼"-wide
- Sight adjustment tool
- Rifle cleaning supplies (Boresnake and oil are encouraged)
- Trash bag and light-colored towel (to protect your rifle from sand, snow, rain, or intense sun)
- Large pushpins (preferred) or a staple gun & staples
- Rifle operator's manual & sight/scope manual, if you have them
- Rifle case

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\* Critical item.

## **Equipment Preparation**

### *Ready your Equipment*

- Depending on the range facility, you may shoot on a concrete firing line. If we do, it's good to remember that concrete is HARD. Bring your shooting mat/blanket and some extra padding. An old towel will help save your elbows.
- Be prepared for seasonal and range conditions. Blowing sand and dust, rain, snow, and intense sun are all conditions you may encounter. In event of blowing sand and dust, you'll need to totally degrease your rifle in favor of a dry lubricant like graphite. Be ready to protect your rifle with a plastic bag or a simple waterproof wrap for the action.
- Protect ammo and mags from the same conditions. Ziplock bags are great for this.
- Have your rifle oiled appropriately (light oil) and ensure all fasteners are appropriately snug.
- Function-test your rifle. If possible, have it zeroed for 25m or 100y so that you will be properly prepared for the class.
- Read the owner's manual for your rifle on how to operate your rifle. Do the same for your sights/scope if they have a separate manual.

### *Special Equipment Considerations*

1. Due to a firearms safety bulletin, .17HMR semi-automatic rifles are not recommended.
2. Owners of the Smith & Wesson M&P 15-22 rifles must comply with the Smith & Wesson Safety Alert. We will make every effort to have a S&W Bolt Inspection Gauge on-hand for owners to check their bolts for compliance. You are encouraged to review the following links to the Smith & Wesson websites for information about the issues and how to check the M&P 15-22 bolt to determine that it is within specification:
  - <https://www.smith-wesson.com/mp15-22-consumer-safety-alert>
  - [https://www.smith-wesson.com/sites/default/files/MP1522\\_Alert\\_030619.pdf](https://www.smith-wesson.com/sites/default/files/MP1522_Alert_030619.pdf)
  - See this video on how to check your S&W rifle. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJO0gJRmc\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJO0gJRmc_c)
3. An additional Liability Waiver will also need to be signed by any student at a Project Appleseed clinic who chooses to use a semi-automatic .17HMR rifle or a Smith & Wesson M&P 15-22 firearm.
4. Legal short-barreled rifles are permitted at our events. Select-fire rifles must stay on the "semi" setting. Pistol caliber carbines up to .45 caliber are permitted.
5. Legal suppressors are welcome at our events.
6. AR-type pistols (with or without stabilizing brace) are not permitted at Project Appleseed rifle events.

## **Safety**

Safety is paramount at Project Appleseed. We will cover the below information at the beginning of our class, but it's provided here for those who would like to read up on it.

### *Project Appleseed's Four Safety Rules*

Project Appleseed has four event-specific safety rules. They are:

1. **Always Keep the Muzzle in a Safe Direction.** The muzzle is the pointy end of the rifle. It must always be kept in a safe direction, which is usually up or downrange. Host range rules may be more restrictive.
2. **Do Not Load Until Given the "Load" Command.** A student may insert a prepared magazine into the rifle only after he receives the "Load" command.
3. **Keep Your Finger Off the Trigger Until the Sights are On the Target.** A student should keep his finger straight alongside the stock until his sights are on the target (or target backer). At that point, he may place his finger on the trigger.
4. **Make Sure Those Around You Follow the Safety Rules.** We all share the responsibility that we all go home without any extra holes. If you see anything you remotely think might be a safety issue, immediately take corrective action!

Every Appleseed instructor and attendee is expected to abide by these rules.

### *"Safe Rifle"*

Throughout the day, you will be asked to make your rifle safe. We do this to ensure it is safe for us to go downrange and check targets.

In order, the steps to making a rifle safe are:

1. **Magazine Out.** Remove the magazine from the rifle.
2. **Bolt Back.** Lock the bolt to the rear.
3. **Safety On.** Engage the mechanical safety.
4. **Chamber Flag In.** Take the (provided) chamber flag and insert the stem through the ejection port and all the way into the chamber.
5. **Rifle Grounded.** Place the rifle on the ground with the ejection port up and the muzzle forward of the firing line.
6. **No One Touching the Rifle.** Neither the shooter nor any instructor will touch a rifle once the line is clear. Students will be clearly advised when it's time to handle rifles again.

If you do not know how to perform each of these steps with your rifle, that's OK! We're happy to teach you when you arrive.

### *Other Safety Points:*

1. *We do not transition (change position) with loaded rifles.*
2. *"Hot reloads" (shoot one & change the mag) are not permitted in any Project Appleseed rifle class.*

## **What to Expect**

### *Class Times*

Project Appleseed 25m Clinics are normally scheduled to begin at 8:00 AM and will end no later than 5:30 PM. However, if times for the clinic you sign up for are different, the event leader (Shoot Boss) will contact you in advance. We'll try to get you out earlier if we can, but there is a lot of content and activities in this class. Please arrive at least 30 minutes early to fill out the paperwork and get set up.

### *Arriving*

When you arrive at your Project Appleseed event, we will attempt to meet you in the parking lot. We'll let you know where to park. Also, we'll ask you to leave all firearms (including concealed carry) in your car and give you directions to the check-in table.

### *Check-in*

Once you get to the check-in table, we'll have you take care of some boring paperwork. (It'll be short.) If range fees are required, they will be collected (cash only please) and remitted to the host range. We'll give you a chamber flag and a t-shirt. Then, we'll share directions to get to the firing line.

### *At the Firing Line*

You'll likely return to your car and retrieve your gear, EXCEPT for firearms. Someone will be at the firing line to help you pick out a spot. You'll place your shooting mat on the firing line and all your other gear behind the equipment line. After the safety briefing, you will be directed on when to retrieve your rifle.

### *Lunch*

Lunch at Project Appleseed is a "working lunch." There will not be time for you to leave the range to buy food. The host may provide lunch at a reasonable cost, but this is the exception rather than the norm.

### *Instruction*

At a Project Appleseed 25m rifle event, we will help you develop rock-solid fundamentals for rifle shooting. During lunches and breaks, we'll tell you the true story of the earliest days of our nation, including the events of April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1775.

The fundamentals you learn at 25m work at distances out to 500 yards. On day two of a 25m event, you'll learn about the Three Challenges of a Rifleman: Target Detection, Range Estimation, and Making the Shot.

## Assembling a Liberty Training Rifle

You're signed up for an event and want to make sure your rifle is ready for the job. Aside from making sure it's cleaned and oiled, there are some options for your rifle you should consider to be best prepared.

Participating in a Project Appleseed event does not require an expensive rifle or ammo. A .22 rimfire rifle is a great place to begin your journey to becoming a Rifleman. It's an inexpensive solution to learn skills that will benefit you when graduating to a centerfire rifle.



The Ruger 10/22 rifle is a good choice because of its low price, accuracy and many available aftermarket parts. However, other rifles such as the Marlin 795 will work fine. In fact, the Ruger 10/22 rifles out of the box are more accurate than the

skills of most shooters. Many Appleseeders have earned their Rifleman patch with a standard factory Ruger 10/22 or Marlin.

The essentials of creating a Liberty Training Rifle comprise adding the following components:

- sling swivels
- USGI style sling
- adjustable sights (iron sights or scope)

### *Sling Swivels*

Much of what you're going to learn at Project Appleseed centers using a USGI-style sling for support. A sling is normally attached to a rifle using swivels. We recommend 1- $\frac{1}{4}$ " swivels.



If your rifle stock doesn't have sling studs, Amazon sells them as part of a swivel kit. Installation is relatively simple on a wood rifle stock. This video details how to do it:

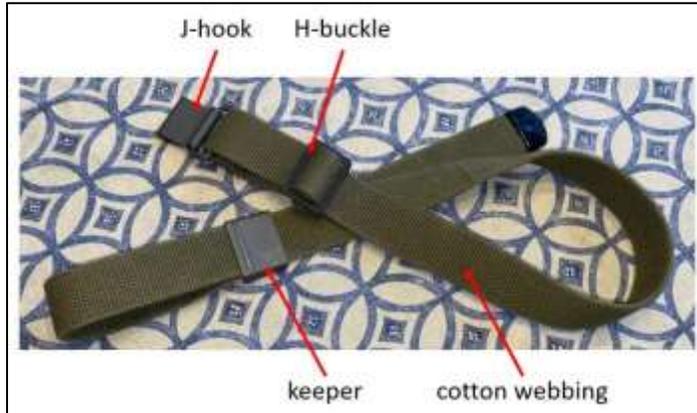
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4FyAfQHi\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4FyAfQHi_U)

Swivels: <https://store.rwvaappleseed.com/page13.html>

Swivel kit with studs: <https://www.amazon.com/Uncle-Mikes-Detachable-Carbines-Swivels/dp/B000LDY2MS>

### *USGI Style Sling*

We recommend the USGI sling because it's lightweight, easy to use, and very low cost.



The USGI sling is easily adjustable. It significantly increases the accuracy of any shooter. Many shooters are amazed at the difference it makes.

You can find slings in the Project Appleseed store: <https://store.rwvaappleseed.com/page13.html>

## **Project Appleseed is iron sight and scope friendly! See options for both below!**

### *Adjustable Sights: Tech-Sights*

A set of Tech Sights (<http://www.tech-sights.com/>) will make shooting your .22 rifle much more enjoyable. They are durable, relatively inexpensive, and easy to use.



These sights will provide easy windage (side to side) and elevation (up and down) adjustments. The sight picture is similar to M1 Garand, Springfield M1A and the AR-15 rifles. We recommend getting a sight adjusting tool to match your sights for ease of use.

The Appleseed store offers Tech-Sights and adjusting tools: <https://store.rwvaappleseed.com/page13.html>

You can also get them direct from the manufacturer: <https://www.tech-sights.com/>

### *Adjustable Sights: Scopes*

Most shooters do not need a scope unless they have significant difficulty focusing on the front sight. In that case, shooting with a scope is advantageous. However, optics will be more expensive than a set of Tech-Sights.

There are three items to consider when mounting a scope on a .22 rifle:

1. Appropriate scope
2. Scope rings of proper height
3. Mounting hardware (a rail) that gets your scope far enough forward to prevent neck strain



The choice of a **scope** itself is often a matter of personal preference, but you don't need to spend a lot of money to be successful. At Project Appleseed, you don't need a scope that will zoom like the Hubble telescope. Vortex Optics offers a value-priced solution with their Crossfire II 2-7x32 BDC scope (pictured left). Vortex offers a lifetime warranty, making this ideal for any Appleseed shooter.



Parts called **rings** hold your scope firmly in place. The rings should be the same diameter as your scope tube. Vortex Optics offers a set of medium 1" rings (part number RING-M, pictured left) that will fit on the rail described above. Please follow manufacturers installation instructions regarding torque and thread locker.



Rings mount to your rifle using a part called a **rail**. The factory-rail is usually not suitable for the type of shooting we do in Appleseed. We recommend a *cantilevered* rail, which allows you to mount the scope forward enough to prevent neck strain while shooting.

We recommend a rail with additional elevation designed-in (+20 MOA), so you can use the same rifle for a Rimfire Known Distance class as well!

Evolution Gun Works (EGW) offers a well-made and reasonably-priced rail (pictured above) in versions that will fit most popular rifles. Many Appleseed instructors recommend and use this product.

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There are many options for scopes. We sell complete scope packages in our online store which are competitively priced and easy to assemble at home. Our packages are complete solutions with scope, rings, and rail. Check out the options we offer: <https://store.rwvaappleseed.com/scopes.html>

Of course, Appleseed shooters have been successful using other optics options. For more information about setting up a rifle, visit the Project Appleseed forum at <https://www.appleseedinfo.org/smf/>.