

Duties of Itasca Gun Club Sight In Volunteers

It can be surprisingly fun to work at Sight In Days. The hunters who show up are happy to be there and enjoy the shooting. We need one person per shift to stay inside the office and sell tickets for each rifle/handgun to be sighted, sell raffle tickets and club memberships. We need five to nine people each shift to work on the firing line, helping shooters spot their hits on targets, using a club spotting scope. If extra volunteers show up, we can use more of our bench rests (9), or switch off for more break time, coffee and donuts. Weekdays tend to be less busy. Weekends are the busiest, and the last three days before deer season are also busy. Friday afternoon before Opener can be very busy and fun.



There's a target by each bench where the spotter and shooter can both see them. The spotter uses push pins to help the shooter see where they're hitting the target. Sometimes shooters will need help adjusting their scopes or sights. If you don't know how, ask for help from other volunteers and learn how. Sight adjusting tools are available, and there's limited scope sighting services available in the office. Most scopes can be adjusted with fingers or a coin like a penny.



- Show up early for your shift, and help set up in the morning, or observe the shooting before your afternoon shift. It can take 15 or more minutes just to staple up new targets before shooting can begin.
- Targets need to be stapled up in the morning, and periodically during the day as they receive too many holes to keep track of. When targets are being placed, the whole range is shut down by a Safety Officer; all firearms must be off the benches, and in the racks behind the line. Volunteers move down range and staple up new targets. Have one person remain on the line, watching to make sure that no one touches a firearm.
- All shooters waiting MUST have their actions open. Be observant. If people are waiting in line, sometimes they don't know if they should uncase their rifle or not. There will be a Range Safety Officer present to physically check every gun brought to the line. RSO's have found loaded guns while doing this.
- As a spotter, when you're ready for a new shooter at your bench, have the next one come to your bench, and get their ticket(s) from them, one ticket per gun. Watch them for safety as they get ready. All firearms not being used MUST be in the racks behind the firing line either cased or if not, with actions open.

- Only one round is loaded at a time, regardless of magazine type or capacity. Safety first!
- Shooters must wear eye and ear protection, or sign a liability waiver form, found in the office.
- The spotter and shooter agree on which target to use. If the shooter is unsure about accuracy, have them begin with a 25 yard target. When it's clear they're hitting that OK, move to a more distant target as they feel comfortable.
- When the shooter is ready, the spotter watches the target through the scope, and spots where the shot went. The spotter puts a push pin in the target, using different colors for different shooters, or different colors with each scope/sight adjustment.
- Shooters are not limited to a set number of shots like some ranges; they can shoot until they're sighted in. But use reason if there's a line of shooters waiting.
- When each shooter is finished, watch them for safety as they move off the line, and make sure they case their rifle. Then pick the next shooter. Make sure no one leaves any equipment behind, including scope turret covers if they were removed for adjustments.
- There is a volunteer in the office who handles basic scope and sight adjustments. This service is for people with new scopes, problem scopes, or those experiencing an inability to hit a target.
- If there's a slow period, spotters are welcome to sight in their own firearms.
- Shooters can pick up their own brass or toss it into the "mailbox" brass container. Shooters may NOT retrieve brass in front of the firing line unless the range has been shut down by a Safety Officer.
- There's a lot of variability between shooters. You will find some who are unfamiliar with shooting and need to fire a number of shots, and you'll find some experts who fire two accurate shots at 200 yards and are satisfied.
- Coffee and cookies/donuts are available in the heated office. You can warm up there if you need to, and meet others during any slow periods. There's a wood stove in the range shack. There's a port-a-potty available.
- The two evenings before deer opener can be crowded as people hurry to get sighted in. Be ready for a rush, but enjoy that time.
- All shooting stops at 5 PM. We need to be a good neighbor, and give the local residents some peace.

