

**AMATEUR TRAPSHOOTING ASSOCIATION
SPONSORED**

**GUNSMITHING
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**



Applications must be postmarked by July 1st, 2026

INTRODUCTION

The Amateur Trapshooting Association celebrates the pursuit of excellence in protecting, administering, and promoting clay target shooting worldwide. Our sport is enjoyed by both genders, diverse ethnicity, the physically challenged and the physically fit, diverse shooting abilities and an age span that includes the very young to very senior marksmen and women.

The tools of our sport include firearms and specifically shotguns. For most ATA shooters their proficiency and enjoyment of our sport is tied to how well the shotgun performs for them – from shotgun selection, to how it fits, how well it performs mechanically, and how modifications can enhance performance and enjoyment. A great gunsmith need not be necessarily a great shooter. However, a great gunsmith may help others to become great shooters.

A great “gunsmith” can be one of the ATA shooter’s most trusted and valued friend. While the expectation of the ATA is that most applicants be young people looking for a challenging and rewarding career in gunsmithing, mature applicants seeking to change careers, for instance, are also welcome.

The ATA recognizes the integral role that gunsmiths play in our sport and we wish to encourage development of a career in gunsmithing by offering a one-time scholarship for a prospective gunsmith entering an accredited gunsmithing course at an accredited educational institution.

INSTRUCTIONS

To qualify for this scholarship, applicants must meet all criteria set forth in the required qualifications section

AWARDS

The winner of this award will receive a \$2,500 USD Scholarship. Applicants must provide letter of acceptance or provide ATA with proof of matriculation at an accredited college or university. The applicant may attend any accredited gunsmithing course he/she wishes as long as gunsmithing in relation to shotguns is part of the course. He/she will be provided with the scholarship funding only after he/she has provided proof of enrollment fee 100% or, alternatively, 100% less the \$2,500 he/she receives from the ATA. The Applicant must enroll in gunsmithing school within the year the scholarship is advanced, or the immediately ensuing year. If the successful applicant fails to enroll and meet the enrollment criteria including financial fulfillment within the allocated time period, the ATA will rescind the scholarship unless an extension is requested for exceptional circumstances which the ATA may consider in its absolute and unfettered discretion.

CONTACT

If you have any questions, please contact the ATA: 618-449-2224/info@shootata.com

Complete applications and supporting documents must be POSTMARKED by JULY 1, 2026 and sent to:

Amateur Trapshooting Association

Attn: Gunsmith Scholarship

PO Box 519

Sparta, IL 62286

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE

1. Must be a member in good standing of the ATA
Member Number _____
2. Must have shot over the current and preceding two ATA target years:
 - At least 1,500 registered 16 yard targets (cumulative)
 - At least 1,000 registered handicap targets (cumulative)
 - At least 500 registered doubles targets (cumulative)***Attach list of dates and locations.***
3. Minimal academic achievement not less than completion of high school or equivalent.
Attach copy of certification of completion or obtain statement and signature of Instructor.
4. Must have attended courses related to gunsmithing from either a trade school or college.
Attach copy of certification of completion or obtain statement and signature of Instructor.
5. Must have hands-on experience working on firearms, especially shotguns.
Attach copy completion of experience or obtain statement and signature of Instructor.
Attach any additional resources and knowledge garnered.
6. ***Attach a minimum of 500 words essay addressing the following interests:***
 - Why do you want to be a gunsmith?
 - Why do you believe that you would be a good gunsmith?
 - How you envision your career as a gunsmith unfolding?

The ATA Gunsmithing Scholarship will be awarded at the closing ceremonies of the 2026 Grand American.

Do you plan to attend the 2026 Grand American? ____ Yes ____ No



I _____ certify that the above and attached information is accurate, correct and valid. Further, I certify that the requirements for the ATA sponsored Gunsmithing Scholarship were completed in accordance with the rules and instructions provided on this application.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Please retain a copy of your application and supporting documents for your own records.

All scholarship funds will expire three (3) years from date being awarded, unless proof of enrollment is received.

