

# GUILFORD SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION INC.



## **CLUB OVERVIEW**

The Club was formed on October 11, 1946 as the Guilford Sportsmen's Association Incorporated. (Herein will be referred to as GSA) At the present time the Club owns 330 acres of land that is nestled in the center of Cockaponsett State Forest in both Guilford and Madison, Connecticut.

### **PURPOSE**

- To bond together sportsmen who are interested in hunting, fishing, and allied sports from a recreational and ecological viewpoint.
- To assist in assuring more abundant fish for our streams and ponds, and game for our fields and forest.
- To secure and maintain, friendly relations between property owners, and sportsmen.
- To educate the young people, in the concerns of future ecological problems.
- To provide education for the younger generations in the areas of conservation, and ecology for the betterment of our total community.
- To assist on strict observance of laws designed for the protection and propagation of fish and game.
- To promote good fellowship among our members.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

The membership of the Guilford Sportsmen's Association is limited to two hundred seventy (270) regular members, and to one hundred twenty five (125) senior members.

A regular member must be 18 years of age or older.

A senior member must be over 55 years of age and a member of GSA for a minimum of five years.

A junior member must be between 12 and 18 years of age.

An application for membership must be signed by a sponsor and will be presented to the membership chairman along with the initiation payment and dues in advance. The membership chairman shall present the application at the next meeting of the Board of Directors for screening. The Board of Directors shall investigate the prospective member and make recommendation to the membership. Voting upon the application will take place at the next regular meeting thereafter. New members must be approved by a majority vote of the

members present. However any regular member in good standing can request that the vote be taken by ballot. Upon such request, three (3) adverse votes will reject the candidate. Candidates may not be present in the meeting hall when action is to be taken on his or her application.

All new members are placed on probation for one year.

Junior membership is available to children between the ages of 12 -18 years. Upon becoming 18 years old a junior member who is a child of a non-member may become a regular member of the association by paying the initiation fee required at the time he or she became a junior member. The junior member is allowed one year from the time of his 18th birthday for payment to be completed. Junior members have no voting privileges.

Any son or daughter of a regular member in good standing upon attaining his or her 18th birthday shall be eligible at any time thereafter, to become a member in good standing without payment of any initiation fee, or assessment other than the payment of dues. In the event of closed membership the closing figure will be adjusted.

### **MEMBER OBLIGATIONS**

<b>Members have the following financial obligations:</b>
New member initiation fee – One time fee – with flexible payment options
Annual Dues
Land Assessment
Environmental Fund
Legal Fund
Fundraising Raffle (Must sell or buy 15 tickets)
Work Hours (10 Hours Minimum)

\*\* For detailed information, please contact Membership Chairman, Lary Ahearn.

### **SAFETY**

Safety is of the utmost importance. Safe gun handling is essential to ensuring the safety of shooters and spectators. Unsafe gun handling will not be tolerated. If a member observes any inappropriate activity while firearms are present, he should instruct the offender to immediately stop what he is doing, and ask that person to pack up and leave. The offending person should be reported to the appropriate shooting range chairman, an officer or board member.

The consumption of alcoholic beverages on club property while firearms are in use is prohibited.

Eye and hearing protection must be worn at all times when on any of the shooting ranges. Observe All Posted Rules!

### **GUESTS**

Guests are welcome to shoot at the club when accompanied by a member. Guests must sign in to the guest register at each visit. Guests are required to pay the posted rates for the privilege of shooting at GSA. A guest is limited to shooting trap or skeet two times per year. The exception is that a guest shooting in a GSA league is allowed to shoot practice rounds (while accompanied by a member) throughout the duration of that league. GSA does not have any regularly scheduled trap or skeet shooting that is open to the general public.

There is however open shooting on Sunday morning at the 5-Stand Sporting Clays field. Guests should contact the sporting clays chairman for details and check the website calendar to confirm that there will be shooting on that day.

### **ARCHERY**

GSA is a member of the Connecticut Archers Association (CAA). The archery committee sponsors a number of 30 station 3-D shoots each year that are open to the public. In addition the club has a practice range with various types of targets at distances out to 50 yards. There is also a field archery course with 25 stations throughout the club grounds.

### **FISHING**

The club has a trout pond that is stocked throughout the spring for freshwater anglers. Each spring a fishing derby is held for the kids. Large trophy trout are stocked just to make things a little more interesting!

### **HUNTER EDUCATION**

GSA is an active club providing hunter education for both archery and firearms. The club has no less than five State of Connecticut certified instructors in both disciplines who hold classes each year. These classes are offered free of charge to members and also the general public.

### **HUNTING**

The club has the following hunting opportunities for the members:

- PHEASANTS – During the small game hunting season approximately 100 ringneck pheasants are stocked each week. Members must present their State of Connecticut hunting license to the game stocking chairman to obtain a free back tag to participate in the bird hunting program. GSA is exempt from the State of Connecticut pheasant tagging requirement.
- DEER – Deer hunting is allowed on club property. Archery permits are issued to any member who requests permission to hunt. Shotgun or muzzleloader is also available. Permits to hunt deer with firearms are awarded through a lottery process each year.
- TURKEY – Spring turkey permits are issued to members through a lottery process each year.
- YOUTH HUNTING – The State of Connecticut establishes certain dates for youth hunting. GSA participates in the turkey, deer and pheasant programs each year.

### **INDOOR SHOOTING RANGE**

In the basement of the clubhouse there is a 25 yard indoor shooting range. This range is limited to .22 short, long and long rifle cartridges only.

### **JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP**

The Junior Membership committee provides training programs in archery, shooting and fishing. The Junior Membership committee sponsors the annual fishing derby and fishermen's breakfast each spring.

### **RIFLE RANGE**

GSA has a 200 yard rifle range. The range has 7 covered shooting positions. The range has its own building which houses a limited number of metal lockers for storage of members' shooting accessories. Members must sign a logbook when arriving at the range. A siren and flashing light is installed and should be activated any time someone is forward of the firing line. No rapid fire is allowed. Observe all posted rules!

### **SCHOLARSHIP**

The Guilford Sportsmen's Association annually awards \$1000 in scholarship money to a student who has been accepted into an accredited program of higher education in the conservation sciences. The candidates must be either from Guilford Senior High School or any dependant of a member of Guilford Sportsmen's Association.

### **SPORTING CLAYS**

GSA offers sporting clays in two formats. The 5-Stand field has 15 stations including many challenging presentations. The field course has 10 stations and is set throughout the wooded area. Two shoots that are open to the public are held each year. Each spring a Saint Patrick's Day shoot is held and in the fall a 50 bird fun shoot is held towards the end of September. The sporting clays committee also sponsors leagues throughout the year.

### **TRAP & SKEET**

GSA has two combination trap & skeet fields. Members can use the fields any time between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Members must be instructed on the safe use of the machines prior to turning on or loading any of the target throwers.

All members are issued a key which will open the skeet shack and the skeet houses as well as most other locks to club facilities. A key for the trap house is hanging on the wall in the skeet shack. (Please remember to return the key to the wall after opening the trap houses) The fields are lighted. The lights can be turned on for evening shooting only when there are three or more shooters on the fields. During any trap or skeet shooting, only the shooters, target pullers and scorers are allowed beyond the fence. Shotgun shells are restricted to a maximum load of 3 ¼ dram equivalent and shot size not exceeding size 7 ½.

### **WEBSITE**

GSA has a website that is frequently updated with valuable information for both members and guests. The "Members Only" page requires a user id and password for access. This information is to be shared only with fellow members. The address of the website is:  
[www.guilfordsportsmen.org](http://www.guilfordsportsmen.org).

GSA utilizes an email broadcast system for quickly distributing information to the members about upcoming events, newsletters and other information that needs to be communicated to members.

