

Southern New Mexico Youth Clay Target Challenge 2017

The 5th Annual Southern New Mexico Youth Clay Target Challenge was held on March 4, 2017, at the Butterfield Shooting Range in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The sponsors provide all the ammunition, targets, awards, and lunch for each participant, so the participation is completely free to all. A total of 87 boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 18 participated in the event. There were 67 boys and 20 girls that made up the total. The three age group brackets that were used in the competition were 10 to 12, 13 to 15, and 16 to 18. First through fifth place medals were awarded to the the top 5 boys and the top 5 girls in each age group for the high scores shot in skeet and for the high scores shot in trap. Plaques were awarded to the overall girls high skeet, high trap, and high combined skeet and trap scores. Similarly, plaques were awarded to the overall boys high scores.

Participants in the event came from all over the state of New Mexico and El Paso, Texas. The longest distance traveled to participate in the Youth Clay Target Challenge were three girls from Farmington, NM. Incidentally, two of those girls took home the three plaques awarded in the girls division.

To accomplish an event of this nature and magnitude, 37 volunteers put in 350 hours of uncompensated time. Most of the volunteers were members of the Mesilla Valley Shotgun Sports organization that organizes this event. In addition, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, New Mexico Youth Conservation Foundation, Sunrise Lions Club, and Desert Valley 4-H had volunteers helping with the event.

Most importantly, this event would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors:

- Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife New Mexico and Turner Ranch Properties
- Dickie Salopek, 4-MP Farms
- New Mexico Quail, Inc
- White Flyer
- New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
- City of Las Cruces
- Mesilla Valley Shotgun Sports