

Hello fellow IBPF members, I sincerely hope everyone had a memorable & blessed Thanksgiving, Christmas & New Year Holiday Season.

I'm writing to you this month specifically about the IBPF scholarship program. 2012 will be our second year for this membership benefit. In the first year we were honored to have three remarkable young adults meet all the eligibility requirements & each received scholarships. Remember, the minimum amount is \$250 each but that can grow based on the number of participants & the success of our raffle which is what funds the program.

Here is a brief review of the programs main features. Eligibility includes that the participant or their guardian be an IBPF member, that an essay be completed and that said essay be turned in to the board of directors by March 1st. The essay is based on the participant's interpretation of the Preamble to the Constitution of the IBPF. Scholarship winners will be selected at the spring IBPF meeting. And the scholarship winners will receive a minimum of \$250. Complete details about the program & last year's winners can be found on our website www.iowablackpowderfederation.net by clicking on the scholarship sub-title.

Now I'd like to share a few thoughts about the essay. I've talked to a few high school Guidance Counselors and they all say the same thing. That students often don't know how to begin writing essays and they are intimidated by the competition. They figure that they can't possibly write well enough to win anyway, so why bother? Well it's up to us to remind them that \$250 (possibly more) is worth the bother and to help eliminate the feelings of intimidation. I think a good confidence builder would be to tell the person writing the essay something like this, "While the writer needs to be familiar with the IBPF'S Preamble to the Constitution, the essay is more about the person writing it. We want to know about the author, their thoughts, their beliefs and their ideas. Think of the essay as writing about yourself, something you know more about than anyone else". That message should help build confidence. We should further encourage the person to go online as there are many sites available to help with scholarship essays. How to start the essay, how to transform your thoughts into written words,

how to arrange segments of the essay in the correct order, ECT. There are essay tips, examples, sample outlines and everything needed to direct the completion of the document.

Regarding the possibility of not submitting a winning essay I can only reference last year's results. Three people participated and the IBPF raffle supported rewarding each with \$400. Please do not perceive this as a guarantee of winning, I just want all potential candidates to know that the likelihood of being awarded a scholarship is higher than you may think.

As board members of the IBPF our intent for this program was to do something for the youth of our organization, for those seeking higher education and for our members. We want to provide a way to give something back that is both meaningful and useful. We are proud of what we've accomplished, excited about our future and eager to give a "hand up" to anyone interested.

A final thought about the program. As members we are the ones funding this program and as such share a fundamental responsibility to promote participation. The program's success or failure depends on us. If you know someone that qualifies please initiate contact with them. In the end they will be grateful that you took the time, that you demonstrated an interest in them, that you cared about them.

Thanks, good luck and I hope you enjoy the next few months as we prepare for another season of shooting comradely.

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Preamble to the Constitution of the "IOWA BLACK POWDER FEDERATION"

We, a group of people with a deep abiding interest in black powder firearms do, band together to form the IOWA BLACK POWDER FEDERATION to promote the safe use of black powder firearms for hunting and target shooting; to encourage the collection and display of black powder firearms as a means of passing on to the emerging generations a sense of their history and importance in the building of our nation; to promote and encourage the high level of craftsmanship required in the building of safe, dependable black powder firearms for modern use; and to establish an organization that will provide opportunities for black powder shooters to engage in shooting on a state wide basis.

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MESSAGE FROM NORMA:

If you are checking the IBPF website you will see the **2012 IBPF POSTAL TARGET**. Just after the first of the year we will be sending you a copy of this target to you. Remember if you don't shoot it and don't send the target back to Pevine "you can't win". We hear reports "mine was not good enough to send back". It doesn't need to be a 50 score to win. Just have fun with your fellow members and support the IBPF too.

The other item being sent will be raffle tickets. We send a book of tickets to each IBPF member, along with an addressed envelope back to

me. The proceeds from the raffle helps support the scholarship program.

The dates for our "BIG FIVE IBPF EVENTS" are:

Flyers will be mailed out Mid-March. Event dates will appear each month with the IBPF article and in the "where to go" portion of the PHN

2012 CHUNK GUN - June 2nd

Beaver Creek Plainsmen Range, Collins

2012 RIFLE AND PISTOL - Aug 10-11-12

Birmingham (Shipley's)

2012 BP CARTRIDGE - Aug 17-18-19

Steamboat Rock at the County Park

Camping adjacent to the range.

2012 HAWK & KNIFE THROW - Sep 2 - 1:00 p.m.

Smokey Ridge Labor Day Rendezvous, Steamboat Rock

2012 SHOT GUN SHOOT - Sep 21-22-23,
Marshalltown Shot Gun Range, Near the airport

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