

## Youth Clay Target Program Startup and Participation Cost Estimates

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Clay target shooting is not the cheapest sport available to kids today; however it is not the most expensive either. The cost of clay target shooting today is similar to the cost of golf. Only the most basic equipment is needed to get started and target fees (much like green fees) are paid along the way. If your child becomes more interested in clay target shooting, it is likely that he or she will soon desire more specialized equipment. Below are some very basic estimates about the costs associated with getting started in the clay target sports with a youth/SCTP program. Some programs have subsidies and/or club equipment to help offset many or all program costs. Actual costs may vary depending on the actual equipment you select, how much you practice and the target fees at your home shooting facility. For more information on how to select specific guns and equipment for your specific discipline, please consult [www.AAshooting.com/sctp.asp](http://www.AAshooting.com/sctp.asp) or contact your program's coach.

### Startup

#### **The Shotgun:**

By far the most expensive startup cost in clay shooting is a shotgun. A good example of the most basic type of shotgun is a Remington 870 pump. The Remington 870 Express models retail for about \$250. On the higher end, introductory over/under shotguns or gas-operated semi-automatics run close to \$1000. **Average shotgun cost = \$650**

#### **Ammunition Carrier**

You will need some type of container to hold your ammunition while you shoot. Shell pouches or vests are acceptable. Basic shell pouches sell for around \$25 while vests can run between \$50 and \$150. **Shell pouch cost = \$25**

#### **Eye and Ear Protection**

Eye and ear protection are mandatory for participants at all clay target ranges and are highly encouraged for spectators. The most basic equipment will work for starters. You should be able to find a pair of glasses for under \$10 and enough earplugs to last the season for a buck or two. **Eye and ear protection cost = \$10**

#### **Shooting Bag**

Shooting bags must be capable of holding at least 5 boxes of 12 gauge ammunition, your shooting glasses, ear protection, bottled water, sunscreen, etc. Shooting bags do not have to be fancy and you may already have something lying around the house you can use. If not, simply purchase any bag capable of holding the materials listed above. Specific shooting bags are usually built a little 'tougher' to handle the weight of ammunition and pockets are designed for shooters. **Cost of a simple bag = \$10**

#### **Shooting Journal**

In my program I require all participants to keep a shooting journal to set goals, track progress and solve problems. There are some good commercial systems available to shooters, however a small day planner will work for starters. **Cost for 'day planner' style journal = \$10**

**Total Average Startup Costs = \$705**

### **Practice Costs**

Practice costs will vary depending on the requirements of your particular program. My program requires students to participate in a minimum of 8 practice sessions in order to compete in the state SCTP shoot. I require students to shoot a minimum of 50 targets per practice session. Based on these requirements I will outline approximate practice costs.

### **Ammunition**

The cost of factory ammunition varies depending on the quality of components, whether of not the hull is re-loadable, etc. I encourage use of factory ammunition in my program since I cannot closely monitor the quality of my student's reloads. On the low end, factory ammunition can run about \$3.50 per box of 25 and up to \$5.50 for higher-end brands. Let's take an average of \$4.50 per box. Shooting two boxes per practice session would be \$9.00/practice \* 8 practices = \$72.00. **Cost for practice ammunition = \$72.00**

### **Targets**

Target costs will vary depending on your host club. I have seen as low as \$3.00/round of 25 targets and as much as \$7.00. Average cost would then be \$5.00 per round of 25 \* 2 rounds per practice session = \$10/practice session \* 8 practice sessions = \$80. **Cost for practice targets = \$80.00**

**Total average practice costs = \$152**

### **Competition Costs**

The cost of competition depends on the type of shoot (trap, skeet or sporting clays), the host club's fees and whether or not the targets are registered with a national governing body. The average cost for a typical trap or skeet 100-target SCTP shoot will be around \$20. Sporting clays may cost about 20% more due the higher target, equipment and labor costs associated with sporting. Shooters in my program wishing to make the All-State team must shoot 500 competition targets.

5, 100 target events \* \$20/event = **\$100, total competition target cost**

Shooters will need 20 boxes of ammunition to shoot 500 targets. 20 \* \$4.50 = **\$90, total competition ammunition cost**

**Total average competition costs = \$190**

**Grand total average startup, practice and competition cost = \$1047**