

# Testimonials from Across the Nation



Gayle, St. Paul's School Mobile, Alabama

Loved the course and the instructor! He was great-and so helpful. What a wonderful program for all!!

Barry, Physical Education Teacher, Lone Oak Middle School, Paducah, KY

The archery unit has been a very good addition to our physical education program at Lone Oak Middle School. Many students who have not had a lot of success in traditional physical education activities are excelling in archery. One example of this at our school involved a boy with Down Syndrome. He was in a regular eighth grade physical education class. He always did his best no matter what the activity. Archery was no exception. He had never shot a bow before, so this was a new experience for him. I was worried that he might even hurt himself, so I really kept a close eye on him. After a little practice he really started to get the hang of it. The second day that we were doing some shooting we had a class competition and this boy came in third place out of a class of about 25. Seeing his face with a great big smile on it and hearing him say yeah while pumping his fist in the air after hitting a bull's eye, well that was priceless.

Sarah - My NASP® Story, Asbury High School

My name is Sarah Peavey and growing up I did not have many hobbies because unlike most people I did not have a special talent; there was nothing I was exceptionally good at. In 2010, I moved to Asbury High School and got involved in the AG program taught by Casey Smith and within a few months I was introduced to the National Archery in Schools Program (NASP®). Archery was something I had never tried and never imagined participating in but I began practicing and eventually made the team with the help of Darryl Moore, a member of Marshall County Bow Hunters that volunteers his time towards helping the NASP® Team at Asbury High School. Archery has been a very important part of my life for three years now and I have competed in several competitions, but I can't take the credit for my accomplishments because none of this would have been possible without the help of Darryl. Many times I would become discouraged and get angry with myself for not doing good enough but Darryl would always be there encouraging me and he would say "Make It up next time." Those words follow me in everything I do, not just archery. Today, I am now helping coach students at Asbury and I now understand why Darryl, willingly, helps us even though he receives nothing, he gets the most important thing of all, the satisfaction of helping others. My first day helping coach I walked students through the steps I had heard over and over from Darryl and to my amazement they actually listened and began shooting well. That day I was told that I was a wonderful teacher and a miracle worker and hearing those words made my heart soar, but again the credit can't go to me because without the help of Darryl I would still be the shy girl that wasn't good at anything. He has influenced my life in so many ways. With the help of Darryl. I became a great archer and, in his words, "I completed my circle, from student to teacher." I hope to continue my archery journey long after I graduate because archery has made a major difference in my life and has shown me that I can be good at something. I would like to thank Casey Smith for keeping our archery team together, Darryl Moore for spending his time and money to help each and every member of the team be the best that they can be, and I would also like to thank the Marshall County Bow Hunters for giving me the opportunity to be here today and to tell my story.

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Joyce, Billings NASP® Coach, Billings R-IV Schools in Billings, MO

I wanted to take a moment of your time to express my gratitude and appreciation for NASP® as it relates to my school and to my children. I am the NASP® coach at Billings R-IV Schools in Billings, MO. Greg Collier is our conservation rep. for our area and he does a wonderful job. I have talked with Mr. Edwards at many of the state events and I met Mr. Floyd at the coaches conferences a couple summers ago.

Billings is a small school, less than 400 students. Most kids are either involved in one of three areas: athletics, fine arts, or academics. Sometimes they cross over, but not many. At least that is how it was until NASP® came into our school. As with any program, it started off small, but that is not the case now. We have up to 85 kids that shoot archery with us in our afterschool practices. We teach archery in the elementary PE curriculum and also in Jr. High and at the High School level. Every student at Billings has shot archery.

Our archery program at Billings is pretty special. We have 3 complete teams, elementary, middle school, and high school. I am so proud of these archers. In the past year, our teams have won many local events. We have several individual shooters that shine on their own like Skyler Metscher who won 4th at the World Tournament in Florida this past summer. However, as proud as I am of our scores, it is the kids and the community I wanted to tell you about.

Our school host 4 events a season. We host 2 state qualifying tournaments on our own, we co-host the state qualifying Southwest Regional Tournament. At these events, it is all hands-on deck. Our school has a support system that is above and beyond. My parents make sure all is taken care of. They are dedicated to making the tournaments something special. They help in the set-up, the logistics, and the take down. At each tournament we run 2 events, bulls-eye and 3D. They are exhausting, but I am never alone in getting it all done. With our support from our school and parents, we run some of the best tournaments I have seen. Our 4th event is a benefit tournament for fun. We invite the community to participate with us. This is not a qualifying event, but a chance to help someone in need. Last year we raised \$4,000 for an archery family whose mom had brain cancer. She was always the announcer at our tournaments, their whole family was involved. Unfortunately, we lost Mrs. Huffman in the summer. This was not our first loss to cancer, our beloved principal Mrs. Abromovitz, who was our archery sponsor. She traveled with us to State, Nationals, and Worlds all decked out in Wildcat Archery Wear. She passed last spring from cancer. For this and others, our team shirts have the cancer ribbon on the sleeve.

The point behind this is that our archers are more than shooting for a score, they shoot for each other. They come up with the ideas on how to help, honor, and remember each other. This year, we are raising money for the cancer society and for the red shoe Shriners (one of my shooters is alive due to the generosity of this organization). They are an amazing group of kids that are thinking of others more than themselves. But it is not just one type of kid. I have shooters that are the best athletes, the top of the academic scale, and the most popular. But I also have the shy kids, the kids who may not fit in, the kids who are struggling. I have a couple of special needs kids who have nothing else. But they shoot like everyone else. I can't express my gratitude enough to a program that offers self-confidence, self-reliance, and team building.

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My teams work and trains hard. If they win a tournament or get high scores, I am so proud of that accomplishment. But it is the accomplishments that they make each day that I am most proud of. This program gives an opportunity for each child to do something amazing. I have seen it work and I am grateful. Don't misunderstand though, when my kids complete, they compete to win, but they already have in my book.

I am sorry this is so long and I could make it longer with stories of how this program has worked in our school, but I hope you get the idea. Thank you for all you do in the program.