

CRITICAL EDGE



Class Descriptions 2026

About Critical Edge Classes

Fundamental to Critical Edge's approach to personal security is the concept that the best tools for self-defense are not a firearm or a knife, a club or a secret technique learned in some misty monastery on Mount Koya in Japan. Rather, they are your brain and your training. The goals are to help people acquire the knowledge, skills and experience to avoid becoming the victim of criminal conduct and to help them prepare to protect themselves and their family if facing a violent confrontation. Critical Edge offers firearms training and self-defense training covering the entire spectrum of personal security, beginning with the development of situational awareness skills, acquiring insights into criminal psychology, unarmed and armed self-defense, basic through advanced handling of firearms and including the aftermath of having to defend oneself or one's family. There's no concern with Critical Edge firearms and self-defense classes that you will be lost in a sea of faces. Classes are reasonably priced and have limitations on class sizes in order to ensure each student will receive close personal attention. Not everyone or every group has the same security needs. Below is a list of courses frequently offered by Critical Edge. Additional NRA and Critical Edge classes are available upon request. Critical Edge strives to provide you with quality training targeted to your specific requirements at affordable rates.

NRA Refuse To Be A Victim

The Refuse to Be A Victim program teaches the techniques and tips needed to be alerted to dangerous situations and to avoid criminal confrontation. It is not a physical self-defense or firearms class. Rather, it helps people improve their personal safety practices and provides insights into the tactics, techniques and procedures commonly utilized by perpetrators of crime. It covers valuable information about the psychology of criminal predators, mental preparedness, physical security, home security, automobile security, security during travel, and personal protection devices. Such awareness is frequently the single most important factor in avoiding becoming a criminal's victim.

PHYSICAL SELF-DEFENSE

Critical Edge does not teach self-defense as a martial art, sport or point match. We focus on the application of basic principles in practical training aimed to help you develop the mindset and skills to survive a violent confrontation. The development of self-defense skills should be a

component of everyone's personal security plan. Most people do not have the time, inclination, or personal situation allowing them to devote the years of diligent study necessary to become competent in a martial art. Critical Edge self-defense training covers basic strategies and principles that are both effective and applicable to a wide variety of attacks. It is not a matter of learning thousands of techniques for, "if he does this, you do that." The training teaches the application of basic strategies and principles and helps develop a mindset of survival.

NRA Basic Pistol

The topics presented in the NRA Basic Pistol class form the core knowledge and skills used in all pistol shooting activities, including informal recreational shooting through hunting, competition and self-defense. Safety is foundational to the entire course. Included are segments on gun handling, shooting positions, pistol shooting activities, pistol types, ammunition, and selection of pistols, ammunition and accessories. I really like the NRA Basic Pistol curriculum. It's a comprehensive approach to the basics of firearms training and is great for brand new shooters and for experienced shooters who wish to build a stronger foundation of knowledge and skills.

NRA Basic Rifle

The NRA Basic Rifle course teaches the basic knowledge, skills and attitude to safely own and operate a rifle. Instruction will include both classroom and range time addressing safe rifle handling, rifle parts and operation, ammunition, shooting fundamentals, range rules, shooting from the bench rest position, cleaning the rifle and continued opportunities for skill development. This class is a comprehensive presentation of the basics and is a great way for new shooters to get started and for experienced shooters to build a stronger foundation of knowledge and skills.

NRA Basic Shotgun

The focus of the NRA Basics of Shotgun shooting course is for the student to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitude to safely and effectively handle a shotgun and to fire at a moving target. This course works well for somebody who wants to try shotgunning without having to invest in a gun and for those who have discovered the enjoyment of shotguns but have not yet purchased their own gun and are looking for help in making a selection. The class provides a solid foundation for new shooters as well as an opportunity for experienced shooters to learn new skills, and gain awareness of any "bad habits" that may have gone unnoticed for years. Included are sections on shotgun types, accessories, ammunition selection, gun handling and live fire. Safety is emphasized throughout the course. The material presented in this course forms the core knowledge and skills used in all shotgun activities from hunting through home defense and formal competition.

Critical Edge Tactical Pistol

The Critical Edge Tactical Pistol class is for students at skill levels from new pistol owners to those who grew up with firearms and want to improve their defensive firearms capabilities. It is a class designed to bridge the gap between marksmanship on a conventional range and the defensive application of a pistol. This is an ideal class for someone that has taken a basic pistol class who doesn't feel they're quite ready for a home defense or concealed carry course. It is equally good for an experienced shooter that is new to defensive shooting. This class is practical pistol training intended to assist participants in achieving much higher levels of proficiency. Regardless of previous experience it will help to build on the fundamentals of shooting, foster safety in the handling of firearms and help participants avoid bad habits. The class goes beyond basic operation and introduces students to the use of a firearm in defensive situations. This class will reinforce skills learned in Basic Pistol like proper grip, stance, sight alignment, and trigger press, as well as address common handgun malfunctions, reloads, the use of cover and concealment and close quarters application of a defensive firearm. This is a class intended to be taken multiple times in order to polish basic defensive pistol skills.

Critical Edge Tactical Shotgun

Continuing to build on the foundation of safely handling a shotgun acquired in the NRA Basic Shotgun class, this class is orientated towards the defensive use of a shotgun and includes material on gun handling, reloads, malfunctions, engagement of multiple targets and use of cover and concealment. It is an ideal stepping-stone to a home defense with shotgun course and a great opportunity for students to polish the skills learned in the home defense class.

NRA Basic CCW

For many people, the term "personal protection" evokes movie images of Bruce Lee or characters such as John Wick with arsenals of weapons. In truth, the use of force is only one element of personal protection and is a last resort. Deterrence, de-escalation, escape, evasion or otherwise avoiding violence are all preferable resolutions. The NRA Concealed Carry course is basic training for concealed carry. It teaches the basic knowledge, skills and attitude necessary to carry a concealed pistol for personal defense. The NRA CCW Course is intended for all individuals regardless of previous shooting experience or NRA-affiliation. It focuses on the effective use of a concealed firearm for self-defense. Course topics include: firearm safety, pistol nomenclature and selecting a pistol for self-defense, basic defensive pistol skills, drawing from concealment, loading and stoppage remediation, mindset, carry modes and pistol concealment, firearm cleaning, and sport shooting and training activities. Additionally, students will complete live fire training and a shooting qualification while on the range with an NRA Certified Instructor.

NRA Instructor Basic Pistol

This 16 hour course teaches the knowledge, skills and attitude essential to organizing, promoting and teaching NRA's Basic Pistol shooting course.

Prerequisites:

1. Students must have successfully completed the NRA Basic Pistol Course and provide appropriate documentation;
2. Possession of basic firearm safety and shooting skills is a prerequisite for certification as an NRA instructor. Prior to the instructor training, candidates complete a pre-course questionnaire and demonstrate their firearm background in pre-course assessment exercise; additionally
3. By NRA policy, this course must have a minimum of four students. If we don't meet that requirement, we will have to reschedule the course.

Description: Course is presented in two parts: Basic Instructor Training, and discipline-specific instructor training. Students demonstrate organizational and teaching skills via participation in practical exercises during the course, and complete an instructor certification examination. Students will receive the NRA Trainer's Guide, NRA Pistol Shooting Instructor Candidate Packet and NRA Basic Pistol Shooting course student packet.

NRA pistol instructor certifications are available to individuals who are 21 years of age or older and are otherwise fully qualified to conduct NRA basic firearm training courses. NRA Assistant Instructor certifications are available for individuals 18 years of age or older who assist certified instructors to gain the knowledge and experience needed to become certified instructors. NRA Apprentice Instructor certifications are available for individuals 13 – 17 years of age who wish to understudy a certified instructor.

NRA Shotgun Instructor

This 17 hour course teaches the knowledge, skills and attitude essential to organizing, promoting and teaching NRA's Basic Shotgun Shooting Course.

Prerequisites:

1. Students must have successfully completed the NRA Basic Pistol Course and provide appropriate documentation;
2. Possession of basic firearm safety and shooting skills is a prerequisite for certification as an NRA instructor. Prior to the instructor training, candidates complete a pre-course questionnaire and demonstrate their firearm background in a pre-course assessment exercise; additionally
3. By NRA policy, this course must have a minimum of four students. If we don't meet that requirement, we will have to reschedule the course. .

Description: Course is presented in two parts: Basic Instructor Training (BIT), and discipline-specific instructor training. Students demonstrate organizational and teaching skills via participation in practical exercises during the course, and complete an instructor certification examination.

NRA Basic Rifle Instructor

This 16-hour course teaches the knowledge, skills and attitude essential to organizing, promoting and teaching NRA's Basic Rifle Shooting course.

Prerequisites:

1. Students must have successfully completed the NRA Basic Rifle Course and provide appropriate documentation;
2. Possession of basic firearm safety and shooting skills is a prerequisite for certification as an NRA instructor. Prior to the instructor training, candidates complete a pre-course questionnaire and demonstrate their firearm background in a pre-course assessment exercise; additionally
3. By NRA policy, this course must have a minimum of four students. If we don't meet that requirement, we will have to reschedule the course.

Description: Course is presented in two parts: Basic Instructor Training (BIT), and discipline-specific instructor training. Students demonstrate organizational and teaching skills via participation in practical exercises during the course, and complete an instructor certification examination.

Range Safety Officer

NRA Range Safety Officer Develops NRA Certified Range Safety Officers with the knowledge, skills, and attitude essential to organizing, conducting, and supervising safe shooting activities and range operations.

Attendees must be age 21 or above. This course is nine hours long and is conducted in a classroom and at a shooting facility. Range Safety Officer candidates will learn roles and responsibilities of an RSO; Range Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs); range inspection; range rules; range briefings; emergency procedures; and firearm stoppages and malfunctions.

INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION & CUSTOMIZED TRAINING

Not everyone or every group has the same security needs. Critical Edge strives to provide you with quality training targeted to your specific requirements at affordable rates. We can work with Individuals, couples, families, businesses, and groups. Individual instruction can cover the standard classes regularly scheduled, provide coaching in specific skills or address whatever

training challenges you may have. Customized training programs can be developed, from novice through expert level, in all areas of personal security including response to active killer/shooter situations, church and business security as well as individual and family security. Contact us for more information.