



MARYLAND SHALL ISSUE  
SELF DEFENSE IS A CIVIL RIGHT

# VOLUNTEER GUIDE FOR EVENTS



# THANK YOU FOR STEPPING UP FOR MARYLAND SHALL ISSUE!

As one who will volunteer for the organization at events, it's important to know a few basic things:

## ***Our Mission Statement***

*"Maryland Shall Issue® (MSI) is an all-volunteer, non-partisan organization dedicated to the preservation and advancement of gun owners' rights in Maryland. It seeks to educate the community about the right of self-protection, the safe handling of firearms, and the responsibility that goes with carrying a firearm in public."*

As such, MSI is open to any volunteers willing to support the organization in the promotion and support of this mission. We participate in various events across the state to increase awareness of the organization, educate the public about happenings in the Maryland General Assembly, our legal efforts, and other things affecting gun owners' rights as appropriate.

## ***Conduct***

**MSI supports Marylanders' rights to keep and bear arms regardless of their political background and does not stray into other issues that do not involve the right of self-protection. We are an inclusive organization that does not discriminate based on race, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability. Any denigration of others on these factors has no place in MSI and is not welcomed or condoned. We are focused on forwarding gun owners' rights and gun owners are of all stripes.**



***Volunteers are expected to always treat visitors and other volunteers courteously and with respect. First impressions matter and our volunteers are really good at leaving positive ones.***

## ***What to Expect***

Many people come by our tables with questions about gun laws, situations they have, or about what MSI believes about certain topics. Some are members who stop by to say hello or renew their memberships. Some are children who want a coloring book or pencil. Others could be those who disagree with MSI for one reason or another. In all cases, handle everyone kindly.

We do not provide specific legal advice, but we can and do offer general information about laws or other topics through printed brochures and from what's available on our website ([www.marylandshallissue.org](http://www.marylandshallissue.org) or simply, [shallissue.org](http://shallissue.org)). It is wise to be as up as you can be on happenings affecting gun owners. Our website is a great resource, but following discussions elsewhere from reputable sources to stay in the know is also a great idea. If you're unsure of an answer, leave it to someone more knowledgeable or simply say you don't know and ask if you can get back to them.

Recognize that *officially*, the only person who speaks for the organization is the President of MSI. Our website and printed literature reflect official positions and statements and they can be referred to if you do not know the answer to something (you're not expected to know everything!).

Feeling nervous or intimidated is completely natural, but you'll find there's nothing to be worried about. Your fellow volunteers are there to help you. Feel free to ask their help or input. Everyone has a different approach to talking to people, but here are a few hints that will help break the ice:

- Hand out free stuff, like brochures, pens and pencils, stickers, empty chamber indicators, coloring books, and wristbands
- Ask questions like:
  - Are you familiar with Maryland Shall Issue?
  - Are you a Maryland resident? (When at an event outside of MD)
  - Are you happy with Maryland's gun laws?
  - Are you aware of the new laws the legislature is trying to pass?

When volunteering, It is important to "read the room" to make sure that your speech is appropriate to the venue and the audience likely to come by. Again and as always, treat everyone kindly.

### ***What to Wear and Bring***

Volunteers needn't spend money on new clothes or wear MSI-branded merchandise (though it does appear well!) to help us with events. That said, volunteers should dress neatly and appear presentable. Dress with consideration for whether the event is outdoors or in. If you do not have MSI-branded gear, but would like to match those who do, MSI's official colors are in shades of blue. Pay attention to the venue location, as some might be places where firearms or weapons may be prohibited (such as schools or other government property). It's also wise to bring something to drink and eat if you aren't planning to purchase food at the event.

### ***Venues***

MSI regularly attends gun shows and community events like festivals or other engagements across the region, both indoors and out. Our calendar of events is available at [www.marylandshallissue.org](http://www.marylandshallissue.org) under the Events tab. There, visitors can find out when and where we'll be, as well as how to reach out to the Events committee with questions or suggestions. That email address is [events@marylandshallissue.org](mailto:events@marylandshallissue.org).

Fees for entry to paid events are almost always waived for MSI volunteers who work our tables. Setup and takedown of our traveling kits is likely to be handled by one of our regular volunteers from the Events Committee, who will make others aware of any specific requirements of a place and provide any needed instructions to other volunteers.

### ***Your Time is Valuable!***

Those who volunteer for four "shifts" at gun shows or other events we've been invited to in a year get a free renewal of their membership. We may otherwise be generous to certain volunteers in recognition of their contributions to the organization and our mission, as nothing would be possible if not for our volunteers. Feel free to break and be sure to enjoy the event. At gun shows, some vendors may offer small discounts on goods to other show/event vendors, which as an MSI volunteer, you are. Some events offer really great food or other attractions, so be sure to treat yourself for your hard work.

### ***Wrapping Up***

Thanks again for supporting MSI and being generous with your time! If you have any questions about events or volunteering, reach out to the Events Committee by emailing [events@marylandshallissue.org](mailto:events@marylandshallissue.org).