



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Century 7th-grader taking her shot at Junior Olympics

FOREST LAKE, MINN. – Participation in a national competition can be a lot of pressure for competitors in any sport, but 13-year old Carmen Fry is a seasoned veteran in her sport.

Fry began shooting competitively at the age of nine. Now, four years later, she is among the best in her age bracket in the country. Her work has earned her a trip to the National Junior Olympic Shooting Championship in Colorado Springs, where she will be competing in the smallbore .22 event on April 11 and 12.

A 7th grader at Century Jr. High School, Fry will be leaving for Colorado on April 7 and will be spending nearly a week at the Olympic Training Center dorms, staying at the same facilities as other Olympic athletes.

"I am excited and nervous all at the same time," Fry said. "I would love to win a medal; who wouldn't? But I just hope to do my best and have fun."

Fry is a member of the Junior Shooter Club, a youth organization jointly sponsored by the Gopher Rifle and Revolver Club, which is a hunting organization based in Harris, Minn., and the Forest Lake American Legion. The mission of the club is to promote youth gun safety and skill development. Most of the club's members shoot competitively in the Sporter Class.

(MORE)

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Fry to compete in Junior Olympics

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She joined the club in November of 2006 at the age of 9. By the following summer, she had shown enough interest in the sport that the organizers of The National Matches – an event sponsored by the National Rifle Association-sponsored and held each year near Port Clinton, Ohio – gave Fry special permission to attend their training camp and compete.

The National Matches, considered America's "World Series of the Shooting Sports", have been a tradition at Camp Perry, Ohio, since 1907. Each summer, the nation's finest civilian and military marksmen and women square off for five weeks of rifle and handgun competition in a variety of formats and events. The minimum age to participate is normally 12, but Camp Perry organizers allowed Carmen to attend in 2007 even though she was only 10.

Fry has attended the event every summer since 2007.

In the fall of 2008, Carmen and three of her club mates moved from the Sporter Class to the Precision Shooter class with the hope of eventually participating in the Junior Olympics. At the 2010 Junior Olympic qualifying events for Minnesota, held in January at St. Thomas Academy, Fry's score in the smallbore .22 event earned her the trip to Colorado.

She followed up that achievement by earning "top gun" honors at the state Junior Olympic team qualifying event in March, scoring the highest among all of the participants, girls and boys ages 10 – 18. The event was held at the Anoka Armory, and Fry's performance helped her team earn a gold medal and receive an invitation to the National Junior Olympic Team Three-Position (3P) Air Rifle competition, which will be held in July in Aniston, Ala. Fry's teammates are: fellow Century student Shelby Sandstrom, who is an 8th grader; Curtis Haglin, a 10th grader at Forest Lake Area High School; and Danielle Groshans, a junior at Chisago Lakes High School.

Over the past three years, Fry has consistently earned top scores for her age group in both air rifle and small bore .22 standing (off- hand) and 3P matches. Her weekly practices at the Forest Lake Legion earned her the status of Distinguished Expert in February 2009. Her medal count currently stands at 10 gold, 7 silver and 1 bronze. Fry says she hopes to add an Olympic medal to her collection some day.