

Firearm safety program to distribute free gun locks

Port Orchard, Wash. -- With the endorsement of Governor Gary Locke, The National Shooting Sports Foundation has partnered with Lt. Governor Brad Owen and local law enforcement agencies throughout the state, to distribute 332,500 free gun locks in Washington as part of the national Project ChildSafe initiative.

Residents of Kitsap County will be able to obtain free gun locks on Wednesday, Sept. 24, from the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office & Port Orchard Police Department. A representative of Project ChildSafe will be available to demonstrate how to install the gun locks.

Project ChildSafe is designed to help make homes with firearms safe by raising awareness about responsible firearm ownership and storage.

An expansion of The National Shooting Sports Foundation's Project HomeSafe, Project ChildSafe is funded by a \$50 million dollar grant from the Department of Justice. The grant will provide nearly 20 million free gun locks and firearm safety educational materials to families in all 50 states, the five U. S. territories and the District of Columbia.

In 2002, Project HomeSafe succeeded in distributing 2.4 million safety kits to 44 states and has raised the awareness of firearms safety and responsibility. "We are proud to say that, since its grassroots beginning in 1999, Project HomeSafe became the largest, most comprehensive firearms safety education program in the nation, thanks to the enthusiastic support from government officials and local law enforcement agencies in communities across America," said Mr. Doug Painter, President, National Shooting Sports Foundation.

The general public will be able to pick-up their free gun locks from the Project ChildSafe representative at the following locations:

Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2003

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.:

Kitsap County Sheriff
Central Office
3951 Randall Way, NW
Silverdale
337-5642

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.:

Port Orchard Police Department
546 Bay Street
Port Orchard
876-1700

Additionally, Project ChildSafe will provide free gun locks to Bremerton, Poulsbo and Bainbridge Island Police Departments for distribution to the public. Residents of these jurisdictions should contact their respective law enforcement agencies for further information on obtaining the gun locks.

The Kitsap County Sheriff's Office and Port Orchard Police Department will have a limited number of the free gun locks available for distribution to the general public, even after the Project ChildSafe representative has left Kitsap County.

The public is asked **NOT** to bring personally owned firearms into any law enforcement agency when coming in to obtain the free gun locks. Instructions provided with the gun locks will explain the installation process thoroughly.

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