

Choosing A Firearms Instructor





Choosing an Instructor!

There is an abundant of firearm's instructors in the valley. The training you seek can be the line between life and death. So pick an instructor that will meet the training requirements that you seek.

Also make sure the class you pick meets your requirements, not just what the instructor wants to give you.

Here are some things to look into:

1. Instructor Background

Does the instructor have a Law Enforcement and/or Military background? Being LE or Military does NOT make a good instructor, it is what they get from that experiences and how they use them that makes them better. Example; Real life experiences from firearms tactics and court related experiences. Make sure the examples they use are current and relevant to the issues at hand.

I personally would avoid an instructor that has never testified in court or even given a deposition at all. These people speak from “theory standpoint” rather than factual life! I would also avoid an instructor that has no real dealings with what they teach. Example; defensive use of firearms, MILO training, court experience, current trends, ect....

2. Training Background

Training background is equally important issue. Avoid instructors that can NOT rattle off what classes they have taken to stay current.

True instructors train and train often, the best instructors NEVER stop learning at any time. Training can come in numerous ways.

Avoid instructors that train little or not at all!

3. Are they NRA certified?

Is the instructor NRA certified? In Arizona most are NRA certified instructors. At least you will have an instructor that has been taught proper safety and handling techniques.

Being certified does NOT automatically make a good instructor. Anyone can be an NRA certified instructor! The best go way beyond just being an instructor!

Ask questions, pick the instructors brain!

Remember, you are basically paying to hire them, wouldn't you hire the best????

4. Training Guarantee?

This is something of a topic I think most instructors will avoid!

Ask them if they stand behind what they teach? If they do a 100% money back guarantee should not be an issue!

If the instructor doesn't want to accept this, then go some where else! There are plenty of good places to go for training.

Again, you are placing lives on the training you get! Get the best you can!

5. Are they friendly?

This is important to a person picking an instructor. The instructor should be open minded and not hell bent on being militaristic.

Instructors should be avoided that are set in their ways, meaning instructors that come across like this; “this is the way you do it no exceptions”!

We do not live our lives all the same, each deadly force incident has it’s own circumstances. There is no “one way” to do things!

Look for an instructor that DOES NOT stoke his own ego. Instructors should be willing to learn from others, regardless who they are!

My motto is: “The day I stop learning is the day I stop instructing”!

6. Do they believe in safety?

Any and all firearms instructors should be safety minded from the beginning, PERIOD!

I have seen instructors do some stupid things on the range (standing down range, target back drop was a known usable road).

Any instructor that does not start with safety rules should be avoided at all cost!

7. Super Instructors..

Look for an instructor that is in touch with reality, not one that teaches tactics that the average person will NOT employ.

An instructor that insist that you to carry 24/7 and carry multiple items and wear a bullet proof vest is out of touch with reality and should be avoided. I call these “Just in case” instructors....

Look for instructors that present scenario's and/or training tactics that are in line with what “you” will encounter in a real world.

There are numerous instructors that make the world a lot scarier than it actually is...

8. Do they walk the walk?

Does the instructor believe in what they teach!

This should be an important issue to you, has the instructor done what he is teaching????

Example; If he teaches depositions, have they given one? Testimony, have they done it? Judgmental shooting, have they done it? Concealed carry, do they do it? The list can go on and on....

Instructors should be able to do what they teach, no exceptions here!

If the instructor can not do or has never done what he teaches, AVIOD them at all cost!

9. Can the instructor teach?

This point can be hard to achieve prior to taking a class, but can be gathered by using local firearms forums. Get on one and ask about the instructor you want to use. You will get a better opinion from other in this area. Don't go by the instructors website alone (Comments Section).

Remember' any idiot can achieve an instructor rating. Few can make it an exceptional experience. The instructor should be able to relay information in a way that it can be easily understood by all. They should also remember that the average student will not be involved in Law Enforcement/Military type incidents.

The instructor mind set should be that they are no better than the students in the class. They just stand in front of the class rather than being in the class!

Instructors/Classes....

Always keep in mind that any class or instructor you choose should always fit the following criteria (RCR):

1. Relevant
2. Realistic

If they do NOT fit the above 2 issues than choose another class/instructor.

To make a class relevant and realistic that class **MUST** include an element of stress!

(623) 694-0377

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