

Project ChildSafe

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Project ChildSafe is donating gunlocks in Wake County during February

Distribution overlaps with the shooting of two Halifax children by 12-year-old relative

WASHINGTON—Project ChildSafe is giving away gunlocks in Wake County and 48 other distribution points throughout North Carolina in February to promote firearm safety and responsible gun ownership. The locks are free and fit most commonly owned gun types.

The distribution comes during the same month when a 12-year-old boy shot his brother and his cousin while playing with a shotgun the boy had been given as a present. They boys were home alone on a cancelled school day because of inclement weather. The incident occurred as gun locks were being handed out nearby.

“We hope that this horrible incident will open a lot of North Carolinian’s eyes to the need of greater gun safety in our homes,” Phillip Brodsky, a spokesperson for Project ChildSafe, said.

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According to Get Unloaded, a gun safety awareness program on the internet, 40 percent of American households with children have guns, and of those households 30 percent of them do not properly store their guns.

“The threat is real and out there, we need to protect our children and ourselves,” Brodsky said.

Law enforcement representatives from the N.C. Highway Patrol, Raleigh Police Department and Wake County Sheriff’s Department have the gunlocks available for residents. Project ChildSafe will also be distributing the locks at the sheriff’s department from 9 p.m. to 5p.m. on Feb. 20 and 21 and 26 to 28. Project ChildSafe will additionally be at the State Fairgrounds Saturday, Feb. 28 from 8 p.m. until 12 a.m.

The gunlocks are free and available to anyone.

The gunlocks are a simple armored steel cable lock that if properly installed can leave nearly any gun inoperable. Project ChildSafe recommends that the gunlocks be used in addition to a safe storage method.

Project ChildSafe is a national organization whose purpose is to promote gun safety through education and the distribution of free gunlocks. Project ChildSafe is funded by a U.S. Department of Justice grant and was developed by the National Shooting Sports Foundation. Project ChildSafe partners with government officials and law enforcement to provide gun safety kits in all states.

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