



NRA

ATLANTA • 2025 ANNUAL MEETINGS & EXHIBITS

Refuse To Be A Victim.

Spring 2025

Once again, Refuse To Be A Victim will be showcased at the NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits April 25, 26, and 27 in Atlanta, Georgia. Ed O'Carroll will be there with us to present seminars on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. He will also be providing an Instructor Development Workshop following the seminar on Sunday. Pre-registration is open. Please share the link with anyone who may be interested in attending. Hope to see you all in Atlanta!

Pre-Register for the Refuse To Be A Victim IDW on April 27th Now

NRA Headquarters is gearing up for the NRA Annual Meetings. That means staff, volunteers, and NRA members will be traveling to attend. It also means spending time in an unfamiliar city. This is when we should be preparing to be as secure as possible on our journeys.



One simple way to do this is with an anti-theft bag. These come in multiple styles and prices for women and for men. Styles include messenger bags, crossbody bags, backpacks, and purses. There are a number of features that help with your personal security.

- RFID protection built into the fabric and lining.
- Slash resistant fabrics protect against any sharp object penetrating the bag or strap.
- Hidden or lockable zippers make it harder for someone to gain access to your items.
- Reinforced straps to prevent someone cutting or tearing the bag from the strap.
- Secure attachment points. These are usually points on the bag that are reinforced with a clip that allows you to attach your bag to another object making it harder to snatch and run with it.

Remember, safety measures such as these bags are just one tool to use to protect yourself and your possessions, nothing protects as well as being attentive to your surroundings - especially when in unfamiliar territory.



Get To Know The Instructors

Melissa McCall



Melissa McCall is a single mother who raised her two children alone. She remembers every situation they encountered that could have ended in injury to herself or her children. She discovered the RTBAV program on the NRA website in 2021 and became certified through the online course. She has presented eight seminars since starting in 2022 and has another four scheduled for this year. She often partners with the Transylvania County Sheriff's Office in Brevard, North

Carolina. She loves all aspects of the program but finds it particularly rewarding to help each individual create their plan of action. In hindsight, she can see in her own life how important it has been to be aware of your surroundings and have a plan of action. She teaches that without a plan, we only have a wish to keep ourselves and our families safe from harm. RTBAV gives attendees the knowledge, skills, and mindset to be safer in the world that surrounds us. Each person can truly make it their own and tailor it to the real situations they encounter regularly. The feedback from students about how the things they learn in her seminars helps them feel safer and more secure in all areas of their lives is invaluable to Melissa.

Her suggestion to other instructors is to be passionate about the program and love sharing it with others. This will shine through in every class. She makes sure to research the crime statistics to the local seminar, versus nationwide. It's also important to have a clean and well-organized area for her class. She tries to choose a venue that not only fits the needs of the class but also keeps the cost down for attendees. She always serves food and beverages, sometimes getting community organizations to donate supplies which also helps with cost. The attendees especially love her display tables. She now has nine tables of information, samples, and equipment for people to see. Melissa finds these items at thrift stores, donations from friends, or she purchases them herself. She also includes a handout for each person to take home with information on the items.

We thank Melissa for her passion and the meticulous records she keeps for her seminars. Having instructors that love the program so much is invaluable to us here at NRA HQ.

Keep Your Presentation Up-To-Date and Relevant

As an instructor, it is always valuable to do your own research on crime statistics, examples, and tips. National, state, or local information will help solidify the information for your attendees.

[Federal Bureau of Investigation: Crime Data Explorer \(cjis.gov\)](https://www.cjis.gov)

[2023 Crime Rates in U.S. Cities Report | SafeHome.org](https://www.safehome.org)

[Crime | Bureau of Justice Statistics \(ojp.gov\)](https://www.ojp.gov)

[Home & Neighborhood Safety - National Crime Prevention Council \(ncpc.org\)](https://www.ncpc.org)



**We want to know what you want to see in this newsletter!
Please send us an email with your suggestions and ideas.**

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