

Refuse To Be A Victim.®

Quarterly Newsletter Summer 2024



Call for Assistance!

Help Us Improve the Refuse To Be A Victim Program!

Dear Instructors, Regional Counselors, and former Attendees,

We are excited to announce that we are undertaking a comprehensive revision of the Refuse To Be A Victim (RTBAV) student handbook, PowerPoint presentations, and other related instructional materials. As part of this project, we are seeking your valuable input and suggestions to ensure that our resources remain current, engaging, and effective in promoting personal safety.

Your firsthand experience and expertise are crucial in helping us enhance the quality and relevance of our materials. Whether you have ideas for new topics, improvements to existing content, or innovative ways to present information, we want to hear from you!

Please send your suggestions and insights to Ed O'Carroll at eocarroll@nrahq.org. Your contributions will play a vital role in shaping the future of the RTBAV program and ensuring that we continue to provide the best possible training and resources to our communities.

Thank you for your dedication and support. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those we serve.



Get To Know The Instructors Steven Donahoo, New York

Steven Donahoo has been dedicated to personal safety and firearm education since 2013. It was then that he started teaching NRA Basic Classes, initially focusing on pistol training and later expanding to include most other disciplines. Within six years his resume of NRA credentials had expanded to include certifying NRA Instructors as a Training Counselor, Practical Pistol Coach, Range Technical Team Advisor (RTTA) and an RTTA Supervisor.

One of Steven's contributions has been his involvement with the Refuse To Be A Victim® (RTBAV®) program. He has been teaching RTBAV® Seminars and certifying RTBAV® Instructors as an NRA RTBAV® Regional Counselor for almost ten years. Steven first discovered the RTBAV® Program through the NRA Instructor Portal and was impressed by its comprehensive approach to personal safety.



"The RTBAV® program is comprehensive, meets the needs for personal safety of everyone, and provides a platform for people to utilize their most important self-defense tool, their brain," Steven explains. One of Steven's favorite aspects is the interaction with his students. He has taught a diverse range of individuals, from families learning together to victims of domestic violence, healthcare workers in high-risk environments, shopkeepers in challenging neighborhoods, nighttime taxi drivers, and the elderly. He finds it challenging to pick a favorite program subject as each group presents unique challenges and concerns. Steven finds it immensely rewarding to tailor his instruction to meet their specific needs.

"Families learning together are my favorite," Steven shares. "Having the ability to address their individual concerns while expanding their knowledge with the depth of expert materials is very rewarding."

Steven offers this valuable advice to new instructors: "Know and follow your lesson plans. Be knowledgeable about local and regional crime trends. Be personable and interact with your students in a professional manner where you learn what concerns/issues they are most interested in and work within the curriculum and with local information to meet their needs."

Each instructor's story is a testament to the impact one individual can have on personal safety and firearm education. The dedication, expertise, and ability to connect with students continue to make a difference in the lives of many, helping to create safer communities and more confident individuals.

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/)



RFID Credit Card Protections

Credit card technology has advanced by leaps and bounds over the last couple of decades. Gone are the days of carbon transfers at the store. We don't even have to swipe or enter our card into the scanner anymore. We just hold it against the screen and the RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) does the rest. While this amazing technology makes shopping faster and more convenient, it has its share of risks as well. Criminals use devices called skimmers to steal credit card information without ever having our credit card in their hands. They simply intercept the special radio frequency that makes tap-to-pay technology possible. Luckily, there are some simple things we can all do to protect ourselves and our information.

The options are simple, often absolutely free and you may already have things in your home that you can use. Then there are always items that may be purchased. First and foremost, always be aware of your surroundings. Be wary of people who may be standing too close to you. They may be trying to scan your card's information.

The simplest and completely free option is to stack your credit cards in your wallet together. Doing this makes it harder for a criminal to get your information since they will only get a scrambled mix of information from all the cards that are stacked together. This minimizes the chances that they can compile enough valid information to use successfully.

Simple items from home, such as aluminum foil, cardboard, or duct tape can also be used to stop thieves. You can make a sleeve for your credit cards using duct tape and cardboard cut into the size and shape of your card. You may also simply wrap your credit card in a piece of heavy-duty aluminum foil. These block the scanners that criminals use to intercept the radio waves of information.

Many retailers offer inexpensive options to protect RFID credit cards. There are RFID-blocking sleeves where you place each credit card to prevent skimmers from collecting your information. They come in many colors, designs and fun patterns so you can color code your cards for easy identification when you need them. Another option is an RFID-blocking wallet. These are more expensive than the sleeves, but you can keep all your cards safe in one item. They come in various designs, colors, and materials. So, you are still able to have something personal for you and your tastes.

Lastly, take advantage of the services offered by your bank and credit card company. Sign up for notifications that alert you to new transactions on your card. The sooner you know about a fraudulent charge the faster you can block more of them. Always check your credit card and bank statements. Verify that each transaction is valid and accurate. Most banks and credit card companies have fraud coverage for their customers if their card or account information is stolen. As you can see, advanced technology's risks can still be minimized by some very basic steps toward prevention.

Keep in mind that a content update of this scale takes time.

We are expecting a release date no earlier than next year.

Continue to order the current materials
until notified that updated materials are available.

Order your seminar materials three to four weeks ahead of
your event to ensure they arrive in time!

[NRA Program Materials Center](#)



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

refuse@nrahq.org