

# Makayla's Field of Dreams



**Kansas City, KS (XXXX)** – Makayla Scott dreamed of traveling and doing amazing things. She didn't know how she would do it or that one day a love of shooting and *her* Field of Dreams would give kids like her hope and purpose in life!

"My dad encouraged me to try shotgun shooting. I was nervous. I didn't think I would be any good at it," Makayla recalled, "but it was like fireworks after that first shot and hit. Oh, I like this!" She practiced shooting with the local 4-H shooting team, started competing, and has never looked back.

Fast forward to a shooting event in Grand Island, Nebraska. There she met CZ's Dave Miller. He helped the left-handed shooter with her gun fit problem. As luck would have it, Dave had a CZ Southpaw Silver with a stock he designed especially for female shooters. It fit perfectly, and that day Makayla demonstrated her talent behind a shotgun. "I want you to have this gun," added Miller, seeing great potential in the young shooter.



"Nobody knew who Makayla was, yet Dave took the time to talk to her, to believe in her," noted Tellford Scott, Makayla's father. It was the confidence boost Makayla needed. "David took a big chance on me," said Makayla, "now it's what I want to do for others like me."

Makayla became a CZ, MidwayUSA Foundation, and MEC Outdoors sponsored shooter and practiced often. At the same time, her local range closed, and folks in West Virginia lost their only facility. The closest range was two hours away, a major blow to her and the other shooters who relied on the range.

"Why don't we build our own field?" Makayla asked her dad. He didn't want to say no but felt they couldn't finance such a project. But Makayla's optimism prevailed. "I want to build a skeet field," she told Laura Billington of MEC Outdoors later. "I knew she was going to make this happen! And we wanted to help." Makayla talked to her other shooting sponsors too. Dani Farris from MidwayUSA Foundation recalled, "Her energy was out of this world! It was infectious. We wanted to share her story, attitude, and outlook on life."

With MidwayUSA Foundation's Range Development Grant funding, Makayla's Field of Dreams in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, was about to become a reality. Work started in February 2020. "It went from a couple of traps out here in the mud to the beautiful shooting facility that we have now—pavilions at each venue, concrete walkways, and green grass, and it's all handicap accessible," revealed Tellford.

"When role models like Makayla, and companies such as CZ, MidwayUSA Foundation, and MEC Outdoors come together, we can truly change the future of youth shooting sports," said Farris. "The Field of Dreams gives kids different avenues to explore who they are," Miller added.

Many kids have benefited from the help of these generous sponsors, kids who wouldn't be able to shoot because they wouldn't have the guns, the shells, or the place to shoot.

"My wish is that the Field of Dreams facility lets kids reach their goals. That kids like me that felt they had no hope in life can gain hope through shooting." – Makayla Scott



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