

FAQs

What is Lock Arms for Life about?

Suicide is often an impulsive act, and when guns are used, more successful than any other means of suicide combined. Studies have shown that a gun in the home increases the risk of suicide.

Why are there so many accidents with guns?

Too many gun owners do not prioritize safety practices, which leads to tens of thousands of accidental gun deaths and injuries every year. Guns that are not stored safely, especially in homes, can result in accidental deaths as well as suicides. Practicing safe storage by using cable gun locks, locked cabinet gun safes, and following all gun safety procedures will save lives.

Isn't it more important to prepare for active shooters?

Though the fear of mass shootings is real and we have lost far too many Americans this way, suicide by firearm is actually much more prevalent than mass shootings. Practicing safe storage and speaking up about it to others can make an even bigger impact than preparing for active shooters.

What does Lock Arms for Life advocate for?

- A** Always secure guns in your homes and vehicles
- C** Cultivate responsible behavior
- T** Think about the risks of suicide
- I** Inquire about unsecured guns in others' homes
- V** Voice your concern about gun safety
- E** Educate your peers in being ACTIVE

Firearm Safety Rules:

- Always keep your gun pointed in a safe direction.
- Treat every single firearm as if it's loaded.
- Be sure of what your target is and what is beyond it — keeping your finger off the trigger until it's ready to fire.
- Don't rely on your gun's safety.

Firearm Safety Questions for College:

- What are the campus policies related to firearms? Is there a list?
- Is there campus wide storage?
- If you are 21 or over, have an LTC and live in dorm, are firearms permitted?
- Who's liable if there is a gun-related accident or is lost or stolen?

We Promote Firearm Safety:

- Responsible owners take a firearms safety course before firing a gun.
- Treat every single firearm as if it's loaded.
- Always know what your target is and what is beyond it — keeping your finger off the trigger until it's ready to fire.
- Don't rely on your gun's safety.

How is storage going to make a difference?

Unsecured guns put everyone at risk. When guns are left unsecured in the home, they are accessible to children and people at risk of suicide. They are often stolen from homes. LAFL promotes best practices for safe storage:

- The safest place to store a firearm is a gun safe
- Ensure you store the firearm and ammunition separately
- If a safe is not an option, use a gun lock
- Never store an unlocked gun in a car, even if the car is locked. Cars are not gun safes.
- ALWAYS assume a gun is loaded if you see one. If it's not yours, do not touch it.

How can I be an advocate for gun safety?

- If you're a student, sign a safety pledge and promise to follow the ACTIVE steps.
- If you have experienced a gun tragedy, speak up and tell your story to educate others.
- If your school will allow it, we can send speakers to talk to youth about gun safety. We can send resources and materials to teachers for classroom modules.
- Start conversations with children and young adults early. Don't stop at texting and driving and safe sex; add firearm safety to the dialogue, even when your child is going off to college. Our brains don't fully form until we are 25 years old, and we know youth often make impulsive and risky decisions.

How else can I support your safety work?

Your donation to Lock Arms for Life will help us purchase gun locks for distribution, and fund educational resources to distribute in the community to promote safe storage and keep more people safe.