



TAP TO READ

MIDWEST SHOOTING CENTER'S NEW LIBERTY TOWNSHIP LOCATION IS RIGHT ON TARGET

By Matt Beardmore



John Drake never imagined the recently-opened Midwest Shooting Center (MSC) in Liberty Township is where he would be following his 28-year law enforcement career, but the retired police chief is glad that it is.

"My idea of retirement was maybe working part time somewhere or at a golf course," Drake said. "I didn't think about working at a shooting center job until the Midwest Shooting Center job opened in Cridersville (MSC's Lima, Ohio, location). The opportunity presented itself and I jumped on board. This is the best job I've had in my career."

Since transferring from the Lima location, where he quickly moved from part-timer to assistant floor manager, Drake, as general manager, helped MSC open its Dayton location in Spring 2023 and then the Liberty Township location on August 1. Founded in 2016 by U.S. Marine Corps veterans David Sabo and Jeff Swinford, MSC now has nine locations: five in Ohio, two in Indiana, and one in Michigan and Pennsylvania.

The 32,000-square-foot North Cincinnati location, on the site of the former Kroger store, has 20, 25-yard lanes "rated for up to .308 caliber" and a rental fleet for guests to choose a firearm. There is also ammunition, targets, eye protection, and ear protection for purchase.

As of October 2023, Drake said there were already 940 members at the North Cincinnati location.

The new facility offers classes, such as the Ohio CCW (carrying a concealed weapon) and a cleaning and maintenance course, as well as a "great training program on how to be safe with firearms and enjoy the shooting sports," Drake said.

MSC North Cincinnati can host private events and offers three tiers of event packages, which all include access to the lounge, firearm rentals, targets, ammunition credit, and lane time. Food and drink, as well as a dedicated MSC Range Safety Officer, are included in the upper two tiers (premium and elite). Custom event packages can also be created.

"Business is going well – it's just been absolutely fabulous," Drake said. "You always have those people who are not as welcoming with a business like this, but we bring a clean, friendly and safe entertainment-type business."

MSC North Cincinnati employs 16 workers, half of whom are full time and all, except for Drake, are local to Cincinnati.

"We like to hire local," said Drake, an Ohio native. "It's important to bring jobs back to the community."

For more detail on MSC's North Cincinnati location, please visit <https://midwestshootingcenter.com/locations/north-cincinnati-oh>.