

GIFT CARDS FOR GUNS – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Do gun buybacks work?

A: It depends on what the goals and objectives of the program are. On the individual level, the program provides a reduction in the likelihood of gun violence (either accidental or intentional) occurring in a participant's home.

At the community level, it reduces the total number of guns in circulation and available to steal or get in the hands of dangerous or vulnerable individuals.

Historically, gun buybacks in the U.S. have occurred infrequently and on a relatively small scale. As a result, they have not demonstrated an impact on gun violence statistics. This is only because of the limited reach of individual programs.

Q: How do buybacks prevent criminals from obtaining guns?

A: Any gun that is not properly stored can easily fall into the hands of criminals or vulnerable individuals. Experts estimate that roughly 50% of guns used in crimes are stolen from law-abiding citizens or otherwise illegally obtained.

Q: Don't people just turn in old and non-working guns?

A: In the Dane County Gift Cards for Guns program, we will have range officers who are firearms experts inspect each weapon and ensure it's operable. If the gun obviously doesn't work, we will accept it for disposal, but the participant will not receive a gift card.

Q: Why are you giving out Gift cards and not cash?

A: In some programs across the county where cash has been given out, participants have told the organizers they were using the money to buy new guns. By giving out gift cards for necessities, we avoid having this occur. Our gift cards will be for gas or groceries. Many individuals who participate in gun buybacks need gas and groceries more than they need a firearm. We know that the majority of individuals who participate in buybacks in other areas are motivated by safety, and don't intend to buy another gun. However, we felt the Gift Cards were more appropriate for this event.

The value of the gift card will vary depending on the firearm surrendered.

Gift card funding:

- Revolvers - \$50
- Semi Auto Handguns \$100
- Rifles/shotguns - \$100
- Ghost Guns- \$200 (Limit one per person)
- Assault Rifles - \$250

*We will accept BB guns, pellet guns or facsimile firearms for disposal as well:

\$10-\$25 cards available

Q: What happens to the guns that are turned in?

A: The majority of the guns turned will be destroyed by the Wisconsin State Crime Lab. Each firearm will be checked for stolen status prior to destruction. Any weapon determined to be stolen, will be returned to the investigating agency.

Q: How is Dane County's Program funded?

A: The Dane County Executive Joe Parisi and the Dane County Board of Supervisors authorized the use of county ARP funds to pay for overtime for deputies and officers as well as to purchase gift cards and pay for other expenses. We are also accepting community donations toward the program.

Q: What is a "ghost gun"?

A: Ghost Guns: are do-it-yourself, homemade guns made from easy-to get building blocks that can be purchased with no background check and no questions asked. A federally licensed manufacturer or importer does not make them. They have no serial numbers and are difficult to trace. Learn more here: <https://www.everytown.org/issues/ghost-guns/>

Q: If I shave or file off the serial number on a gun, is that then a ghost gun?

A: No. Shaving off the serial number on a gun just makes it an illegal gun. We will still accept it for surrender

Q: I have a 3D printer and I plan to print a bunch of guns to trade in. Can I do that?

A: We have a limited supply of \$200 gift cards and we are limiting ghost guns to one per person until the cards run out.

The intent of this program is to remove guns from circulation and provide a safe means to destroy unwanted firearms. Although we cannot prevent people from making ghost guns just to get the gift cards, we are limiting the amount of funds available for this type of firearm.

All ghost guns (and all firearms surrender at the event) must be fully functional and not missing parts to qualify for the gift card amounts advertised. The weapons inspection personnel on site make the final determination on whether the weapon is in working condition.

Q: What do you consider a firearm in working condition?

A: We will have range officers staffing the event who will inspect the guns to determine if they are functional. They should have the trigger, firing pin, slides should cycle, not obviously broken or rusted shut, etc.

Q: Can it be without a magazine?

A: Yes, but it will need to meet the functional requirements.

Q: Can I bring in random ammunition? I have no other method to dispose of it.

A: Yes, we will accept ammunition as well. There is no compensation for the ammunition.

Q: What if I disagree with the gift card amount offered for my firearm?

A: Once you turn over the firearm to us, we cannot give it back to you without verifying that the weapon that it is not stolen and that you are legally allowed to possess it. **Please be sure you truly wish to relinquish the weapon before coming to the event.**

If you change your mind after learning that the weapon does not qualify for the amount you were hoping for, we will need to retain it until the required checks can be completed and you will need to provide your ID. We will not return firearms on the day of the event.

We do not require ID for you to surrender your firearm, but it is necessary if change your mind and you want it back.

Also, we will not be tracking who surrendered each firearm. All surrenders are final when you accept the gift card and leave the facility.

Q: Can I get a receipt for the firearm I turned in?

A: We do have firearm surrender forms available on site, which can be provided upon request.

Q: What if I have an assault-style rifle that is also a ghost gun. Do I qualify for two gift cards?

A. No, just one. We will provide the higher amount for qualifying firearms, if funds are available and you have not reached the individual limit.

Q: Can I purchase the guns from those looking to turn-in guns at the event?

A: No. There is a County ordinance prohibiting solicitation, selling, bartering or trading in any commodity of monetary value on or about the Alliant Energy Center property without permission from the Center's executive director or designee. See Chapter 54.02 (22) for the complete language.

You are not allowed to impede traffic on the street.

Q: How do you define "Assault Style Rifles?"

A: An Assault Style Rifle is a rapid-fire, magazine-fed rifle. It is usually a shoulder-fired weapon that allows the shooter to select between semi-automatic (requiring you pull the trigger for each shot) and fully automatic (hold the trigger and the gun continuously fires) or three-shot bursts. For the purpose of the program, AR-15 style rifles will also qualify in this category. The weapons inspector makes final determination.

In order to qualify for the \$250 gift card, the weapon must be complete and functional. (No obvious missing or broken parts). AR-15 lowers alone will not be eligible for the \$250 gift card.

*As stated in all of our advertising, we reserve the right to limit the number of cards distributed per person. Gift cards are limited.