



Yankton ~ Where to go for Archery

archery competitors.

The 22,000 square-foot facility is built on 39 acres of land donated to the NFAA by Yankton and Yankton County. The site is located at 800 Archery Lane, just off of Highway 50 behind Super 8 and the Best Western Kelly Inn.

More than a dozen countries and almost all 50 states were represented at tournaments held at the site in the summer of 2009. Hundreds of archers and their families, as well as Yankton residents, gathered at the Center for Archery Excellence in June 2009 for the dedication ceremony.

"What a dream it's been for me and a lot of people in this room," NFAA president and Yankton native Bruce Cull said of the facility during the event. "The effort has been indescribable, and it's really hard to even put a fingerprint on what it took to get this done."

James Easton, chairman and CEO of the ESDF, was the keynote speaker for the dedication.

He said the goal of the foundation is to create a "long-lasting legacy of (archery) facilities and programs in the United States. We want to offer the pleasure and the passion we all have here to others. We're focusing as much as we can on the

young people. We hope that someday they will be members of the Olympic or World Championship teams for America."

The facility boasts a 25-meter indoor range that is open to the public year-round. Outside the Center for Archery Excellence is a 560-foot shooting range on open ground just to the south of the building. Additionally, four 28-target ranges are already scattered around in the trees and brush near the site.

Yankton officials hope the facility will attract archery-related manufacturers to the community, as well as more tournaments and other tourism-boosting activities. The NFAA has already set aside office space in the building to incubate entrepreneurial efforts.

"We're glad when a company moves into our state and brings economic development, helps our businesses thrive and provides jobs for our citizens," South Dakota Lt. Gov. Dennis Daugaard said during last summer's dedication ceremony. "We're also glad because, between the NFAA and the Easton Sports Development Foundation Center for Archery Excellence, it's going to attract all kinds of visitors, competitors and tourists just like you here in the room."

Five years ago, people would likely have laughed at the prospect of Yankton being one of the nation's archery hot spots.

But through the vision of local business and government officials, the community now has international recognition in the archery world.

In 2009, the National Field Archery Association (NFAA) opened its headquarters on Yankton's eastern edge, along with the adjoining Easton Sports Development Foundation (ESDF) Center for Archery Excellence.

The Center for Archery Excellence is the first of 12 archery training centers the ESDF plans to build across the country in order to promote the sport and encourage Americans to become Olympic-level

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