

SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Every day across America, eight children and teens are unintentionally injured or killed due to an unlocked or unsupervised gun. These tragedies increase as more children are on summer vacation and spending more time at home or the homes of others. According to an [analysis](#) by [Brady](#), the nation's oldest gun violence prevention organization, half of the weeks in the year with the most unintentional shootings by children occurred during the summer. With June marking the beginning of summer, now is the time when Americans must take action to protect our kids.

[Brady](#), reminds Americans that June 21 is "Asking Saves Kids Day (ASK Day)". By commemorating ASK Day, we prioritize our children's lives and safety by urging all parents and caretakers to ask if there are unlocked guns where children play or hang out. Parents ask all sorts of questions before their children visit other homes, including about pets and allergies. ASK Day encourages parents to add one more question: "Is there an unlocked gun in your home?"

All of us — gun owners and non-gun owners alike — have a role in preventing [family fire](#). Family fire refers to a shooting caused by someone having access to a gun when they shouldn't have it. This included children as well as those who display behavior that indicates they could harm themselves or others. Unintentional shootings, suicide, and intentional shootings are all forms of family fire. If safe storage practices are deployed in just 20% more households with children, we could reduce firearm suicide and unintentional firearm fatalities among youth by [up to 32%](#). For some ASKing could be the first step that encourages life-saving change.

Here in **[Community name]** we can all take the simple step of ASKing. Together, we'll make ASKing part of our routine before sending our kids off to be with friends. Raising awareness about the risks of unsecured firearms in our community will help us reshape our culture and bring ourselves closer to a future free from gun violence.

ASK
ASKINGSAVESKIDS 