**Operation Blazing Sword** was founded in Florida on June 12, 2016 as a response to the Pulse Nightclub Massacre. It is a grass-roots organization dedicated to helping everyone, but especially queer people, become responsible firearm owners. If you think you may need a firearm for armed self-defense but don't feel comfortable going to a shooting range or a gun store by yourself, seek out any of our 1500 queer-friendly volunteer educators across the United States and at our website (www.blazingsword.org/instructor-list-page). They will teach you the basics of firearm safety, operation and ownership for no cost and without judgement for your race, faith, gender, politics, biology, sexuality, or manner of dress.

Because Operation Blazing Sword is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, our volunteers are able to claim the expenses incurred in taking a student to the range (range fees, targets, equipment rental, and ammunition expended) as a charitable donation. However, as ammunition can be expensive, it is good manners to offer some compensation, although most of our volunteers will decline.

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**Why Say Queer?**

Both Operation Blazing Sword and Pink Pistols like the word *queer* and give everyone permission to use it, even non-queer people, because LGBTQ is an awkward mouthful of consonants that’s difficult to say without practice. Conversely, *queer* is a word that’s already known and easy to say, which encourages its use.

To be welcomed, accepted, included, represented, and heard, we need to make it easier for people to talk about us and with us, because the moment they stop, our voices are no longer heard and silence equals death.

Queer is also an umbrella term. The Q already in LGBTQ stands for “an inclusionary category of the many identities and variations that make up the LGBTQ community.” Why would we need anything more?

People of a certain generation may have a problem saying *queer* because in their time it was an insult, a word of hate. Operation Blazing Sword and Pink Pistols sympathize with that sentiment and will never force people to use it. However, our organizations strongly believe that it is the duty of certain minorities to reclaim hurtful words and make them words of power.

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**Donations**

Operation Blazing Sword is a 501(c)(3) tax-deductible charity (our EIN is 81-4230880) founded to teach firearms safety to the queer community and others who support them. Operation Blazing Sword and the Pink Pistols provide the two most important phases of self-defense training: education and confidence. A donation of any amount helps us in our mission to teach firearms safety to the queer community.

- PayPal: www.paypal.me/OpBlazingSword
- CashApp: $OpBlazingSword
- Venmo: @OperationBlazingSword
- Zelle: 3864010386
- Mail a check payable to: Operation Blazing Sword 800 Belle Terre Parkway, Suite 200-302 Palm Coast, FL 32164

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**Together, Operation Blazing Sword and Pink Pistols Provide Full-Circle Support**

Operation Blazing Sword provides the environment and support for educators who wish to provide services and products to members of the queer community, while Pink Pistols provides the environment and support for those same persons. Between them, the queer community is well served in both directions: from the queer person outward, and from self-defense education inward.
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