

## Acknowledgments

Scouting America greatly appreciates the National Range and Target Activities Subcommittee members for their expertise and recommendations in the development of the *National Range and Target Activities Manual*.

We would also like to acknowledge the longstanding relationship with the National Rifle Association (NRA) in the goal of training youth and adults in the safe use of firearms.

Scouting America would like to acknowledge the relationship with USA Archery for the relationship in developing and training youth and adults in safe archery experiences.

## SCOUTING AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO SAFETY

In Scouting, we will not compromise the safety of our youth, volunteers, and employees. Safety is a value that must be taught and reinforced at every opportunity. We are all responsible and must hold each other accountable to provide a safe environment for all participants.

We are committed to abuse prevention by utilizing:

- Mandatory youth protection training.
- Criminal background checks.
- Banning one-on-one adult and youth interactions.
- Mandatory reporting of suspected abuse to law enforcement.
- A volunteer screening database.

We are committed to injury and illness prevention by integrating safety measures in our handbooks, literature, and training materials including the *Guide to Safe Scouting*. We expect leaders to use the four points of **SAFE** when delivering the program. **SAFE** Scouting measures include:

- Youth are **Supervised** by qualified and trustworthy adults who set the example for safety.
- Activities are **Assessed** for risks.
- Pre-requisite **Fitness** and **skill** levels are confirmed before participation.
- Appropriate **Equipment** is utilized and **Environmental** conditions are monitored.

When incidents do occur, we expect a timely, clear, and complete incident report. We are committed to learning from the data and modifying program guidance for the prevention of future occurrence.



## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of Scouting America's range and target activities is first and foremost centered around teaching firearm safety. Scouting America's range and target activities are developed and implemented through age-appropriate training and experiences. Scouting America adheres to its longstanding policy of teaching its youth and adult members the safe, responsible, and intelligent handling, care, and use of firearms, archery, and hand-held throwing sports in planned, carefully managed, and supervised programs for each youth who chooses to participate.

In addition, participating in range and target activities provides Scouts the opportunity to learn responsibility, self-discipline, problem solving, concentration, sportsmanship and acquire lifelong skills and hobby interest.

Scouting America follows the SAFE practices and requires all ranges to have Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) that are approved for that range. Range supervision and instruction are overseen by qualified staff with a key focus of Scout safety.

The Scouting America's National Range and Target Activities Subcommittee understands the need for clarification in the terminology and delivery of range and target activities. The Guide to Safe Scouting and this manual contains information for all the range and target activities and provides guidance for their implementation in Scouting. **No other range and target activities are authorized at this time.** Information on approved firearms, ranges, qualified supervision, training requirements, targets, and ammunition is included.



## Scouting is SAFE – Range and Target Activities

Scouting America adheres to its longstanding policy of teaching its youth and adult members the safe, responsible, and intelligent handling, care, and use of firearms, archery and hand-held throwing sports in planned, carefully managed, and supervised programs. Safety during range and target activities must remain top of mind.

### Supervision

Youth are supervised by qualified and trustworthy adults who set the example for safety. Supervision includes:

- Range Management - a range safety position(s) who oversee the shooting stations and participants. At a minimum, all Scouts BSA troops, Venturing crews, and Sea Scout ships who provide unit-level sponsored/planned range and target activities must have at least one registered unit leader 21+ years of age take the Range Activity SAFETy online training at my.Scouting. This individual must be present at the range during the activity.
- Instruction – participants with the right demeanor, skills, abilities and validated credentials to teach safety and develop the participant’s ability at that activity.
- During live fire, range safety positions and instructors may be supplemented by coaches, registered leaders, and even parents and partners to support a safe experience for participants.
- Cub Scout range and target activities are only conducted and supervised by local Councils. Cub Scout pack unit level sponsored range and target activities are prohibited.

### Assessment

Activities are assessed for risks during planning. Leaders have reviewed applicable program guidance or standards and have verified the activity is not prohibited. Risk avoidance or mitigation is incorporated into the activity. Assessment includes:

- Validating the range and target activities are age-appropriate for the participants being served. Please review the Guide to Safe Scouting Age-Appropriate Guidelines Chart prior to beginning the activity.
- When utilizing council’s nationally authorized camp property’s range(s) or commercial ranges, standard operating procedures for each venue are available, fitting the discipline, equipment and ammunition being used.
- Verification of state and local laws regarding range and target activities are followed.

### Fitness and Skill

Participants’ Annual Health and Medical Records are reviewed, and leaders have confirmed that prerequisite fitness and skill levels exist for participants to take part safely. This includes:

- An instructor reviewing participant’s ability (with or without accommodations) to safely operate the device, firearm, or bow, or throwing object.
- Participants have received the appropriate on-site safety briefing before participation including the three rules of firearm safety.

### Equipment and Environment

Safe and appropriately sized equipment, courses, camps, campsites, trails, or playing fields are used correctly. Leaders periodically check gear use and the environment for changing conditions that could affect safety. This includes:

- Before any use, and periodically, all equipment (shooting devices, firearms, bows, slingshots, hawks, knives, target frames or targets, etc.) should be inspected by a range supervision and instruction and qualified gunsmiths or archery retailer.
- Safe and secure storage and transportation for firearms, ammunition, bows, etc.
- Personal Protective Equipment for all participants and observers is available and used as required. Including:
  - Eye protection
  - Hearing protection
  - Armguards
  - Finger Tabs or finger savers
  - Appropriate attire

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# CHAPTER 1: QUALIFIED SUPERVISION—ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

## Introduction to Range and Target Activities and the Positive Aspects

Throughout Scouting America from Cub Scouting to Venturing and Sea Scouting, all programs use responsible outdoor activities to promote character development and values-based leadership training. Range and target activities have the ability to attract and retain youth in the movement. Millions of young people participate in one or more of the sports annually—archery, rifle and shotgun activities, etc.—guided by adults who have the certification, skills and knowledge to provide quality programs in a safe and effective way.

Key to safe and effective unit activities is informed, trained, and conscientious unit leadership. Various activities can present some degree of risk; those risks can be mitigated by training and commitment of Scouting volunteer leaders. When activities are properly conducted under the appropriate guidelines, they can be safe, fun filled, exciting, and rewarding.

The registered adult leader(s) in charge are always responsible for ensuring that all activities adhere to the age appropriate guidelines and follow the program design of Scouting America. However, Scouting America policy does not specify that the unit leader must be the one to satisfy all the criteria for supervision of specific program activities. All Scouts BSA troops, Venturing crews, and Sea Scout ships who provide unit-level sponsored/planned range and target activities must have at least one registered unit leader 21+ years of age take the Range Activity SAFETY online training available on my.Scouting.org. This individual must be present at the range during the range and target activity(s). Participating in this training will help ensure a unit understands Scouting America's range and target activities policies.

For range and target activities, the unit leader may or may not hold specified certification(s) for the supervision of the range and in the case of Cub Scouting, range and target activities are not approved for a unit activity.

There are two main aspects of range supervision:

1. **Range Management** – Those individuals who are in charge of range safety and overseeing the shooting stations and participants. These people are responsible for following the approved Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the range and overall range supervision. This person is the safety officer.
2. **Range Instruction** – Those individuals whose primary concern is instruction in the type of shooting, referred to as a shooting discipline. This person is responsible to train in the proper use of and care for the equipment being used. This person may instruct advancement or recognition pieces. Their main responsibility is to instruct and foster competency in the participant.

This publication provides guidance on how to ensure proper safeguards are in place for a range and target activity, whether those safeguards are implemented by the facility operator or the unit. Skills and certifications are reviewed, as well as requirements for a proper facility. After reviewing this material, the leader should be confident in their ability to judge when a range and target activity is safe, when the risk is unacceptable, or when their background is insufficient to make that determination. Experienced, informed leaders develop a sense or intuition regarding an action. When an activity exceeds the leader's comfort zone, it should be curtailed or modified.

## Range and Target Activities Personnel Descriptions

Beginning September 1, 2024, the position previously titled "Shooting Sports Director" will be renamed "Range Activities Director." Individuals holding a valid certificate from the Shooting Sports Director section of the National Camping School retain their certification until it expires. Expiration dates are indicated on an individual's official National Camping School certificate card. In this manual, the title "Range Activities Director" may also refer to those previously certified as "Shooting Sports Directors," provided their certification remains valid.

### Range Activities Director

- Twenty-one years of age or older and currently certified with a valid certificate of training from the Range Activities Director or Shooting Sports Director section of National Camping School within the past five years.
- In charge of all range and target activities, including rifle, shotgun, muzzleloaders, throwing sports and archery during camp program.
- Manages staff that includes properly qualified instructors with current certifications and trains support staff.
- Sees that all areas are maintained and used properly, keeps an updated inventory of equipment, and is in charge of the safe and proper maintenance and use of this equipment.
- Can serve as a Range Safety Officer if the National Camping School certified Range Activities Director holds current NRA Range Safety Officer Certification.
- Can serve as an NRA Instructor if the National Camping School Range Activities Director holds current NRA Instructor certifications for the discipline for which supervision and instruction is required.

### **NRA Certified Instructor**

- Twenty-one years of age or older. Current NRA Instructor rating in the specific program for which supervision and instruction is required. The National Camping School Range Activities Director can be the NRA Instructor.

### **NRA Assistant Instructors**

- Eighteen years of age or older and holds current NRA assistant instructor's certificate in the appropriate discipline
- Can assist the NRA Instructor in supervising a range; however, this does not include running a live firing line.

### **NRA Range Safety Officer**

- Twenty-one years of age or older and holds current NRA Range Safety Officer credentials
- In charge of the firing line at any time it is in operation
- May not leave the firing line at any time while it is in operation

### **Range and Target Activities Program Counselors and Aides**

- Sixteen years of age or older and trained for specific duties by a National Camping School Range Activities Director
- Under on-site supervision of an NRA Range Safety Officer, may exercise crowd control, serve as training assistant for specified topics assigned by the NRA Range Safety Officer, move and maintain equipment, and act as a coach in a student coach/pupil setting
- May NOT supervise any live fire

### **Scouting America BB Gun Rangemaster**

- Eighteen years of age or older and trained by a National Camping School Range Activities Director or National Rifle Association rifle instructor
- Is in charge of the firing line at any time it is in operation
- BB gun rangemaster training must be renewed every two years, and this person must have a current Training Course Certificate, No. 33767

### **Scouting America Archery Director**

- 18 years of age or older
- An Archery Rangemaster who is trained by a National Camping School Range Activities Director or is instructor certified by the USA Archery using USA Archery Level 1 instructor course by a USA Archery Level 2 Instructor Trainer or a National Camping School Range Activities Director or a USA Level 1 Archery Instructor and would receive a Rangemaster certification.

- Responsibilities include the setup and operation of a safe archery range for Cub Scout, Scouts BSA, Venturing or Sea Scouting programs, Archery merit badge instruction, and management of an archery staff at camp.

### **Scouting America Archery Rangemaster**

- Eighteen years of age or older and trained by a National Camping School Range Activities Director or USA Archery Level 1 Archery Instructor to set up and operate a safe archery range for a Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing or Sea Scouting archery program according to the standards located in this manual, "Archery and BB Guns."
- Archery rangemaster training must be renewed every two years, and this person must have a current Training Course Certificate, No. 33767.

### **Council Range and Target Activities Coordinator/Chair**

- 21 years old or older. National Camping School certification as a Range Activities Director is recommended.
- National Rifle Association certified instructor for one or more of the appropriate disciplines is recommended.
- Current NRA Range Safety Officer or NRA Chief Range Safety Officer certification is recommended.
- USA Archery Level 1 Archery Instructor certification recommended.

### **Definition of "Instructor Qualified"**

**To be instructor qualified means the individual holds one or more of the following certifications depending on the discipline.**

Trained and currently documented by:

- Scouting America National Camping School as a Range Activities Director for rifle, shotgun, co-op muzzleloading rifle, and archery.
- The National Rifle Association as a currently certified instructor for the specific discipline where instruction is taking place (rifle, shotgun, pistol, co-op muzzleloading rifle, or NRA/NMLRA muzzleloading instructor)
- USA Archery as a currently certified USA Archery Level 1 instructor or higher.

A copy of the current training certificate or document is to be on file at the local council office and/or camp.

The following Chart describes the disciplines for Scouting programs, and the supervision required to operate these programs. All range and target activities must follow the guidelines of the Guide to Safe Scouting and the age appropriate guidelines of Scouting America.

Program	Participants	Safety equipment	Minimum program supervision requirements	Qualified staff to open the range	Minimum number of staff to operate	Ratio instructor : participant	Additional information
BB (Scouting America Accredited Camp)*	All program levels <i>except</i> Lion Cub Scouts	Eye Protection	BB gun Rangemaster	BB Gun Rangemaster National Camping School Range Activities Director NRA Rifle Instructor Certified Military shooting instructor** Certified Law Enforcement Shooting Instructor** Certified 4-H Shooting Instructor**	1 qualified staff and appropriate assistants	1:1 adult to participant for Tiger Cubs 1:8 all others	Cub Scout participation at District or Council events Only
BB (Unit Activity)	Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouting	Eye protection	BB gun Rangemaster	BB Gun Rangemaster National Camping School shooting Sports Director NRA Rifle Instructor	1 qualified staff and appropriate assistants	1:8	Not approved as a Cub Scout unit activity
Slingshot (Scouting America Accredited Camp)*	All program levels	Eye Protection	BB gun Rangemaster	BB Gun Rangemaster National Camping School Range Activities Director NRA Rifle Instructor Certified Military shooting instructor** Certified Law Enforcement Shooting Instructor** Certified 4-H Shooting Instructor**	1 qualified staff and appropriate assistants	1:1 adult to participant for Cub Scout (all levels) 1:4 adult to participant Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouting	Cub Scout participation at District or Council events Only
Slingshot (Unit Activity)	Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouting	Eye Protection	BB gun Rangemaster	BB Gun Rangemaster National Camping School Range Activities Director NRA Rifle Instructor	1 qualified staff and appropriate assistants	1:4 adult to participant	Not approved as a Cub Scout unit activity
Pellet Rifles	Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouting, Webelos and Arrow of Light Scouts (Long-term camp only)	Eye Protection	NRA Rifle Instructor	National Camping School Range Activities Director NRA Rifle Instructor Certified Military shooting instructor** Certified Law Enforcement Shooting Instructor** Certified 4-H Shooting Instructor**	1 qualified staff and appropriate assistants	1:8	Webelos Scouts and Arrow of Light Scouts may use pellet rifles on a council operated range while attending a long-term camp. All pellet rifles (CO2, pump, break barrel, etc.) are limited to singleshoot, designated for target shooting, velocity of 500 to 540 feet per second, with a minimum of 2.5 pound trigger pull. See also Multigun Airsoft Experience Operations Guide in appendix for additional operational guidance.

\*Scouting America accredited camp means, Day Camp, Short-term Camp and Long-term camp following the NCAP standards. If a council or district has a day activity, standards for “unit activity” apply. Unless otherwise stated the supervision standard is the same for a camp or unit activity. | \*\*Requires approved waiver. In addition, if these positions are used, these individuals need to also be familiar with and follow the program outlined in the Cub Scout Range and Target Activities Guide located in chapter 23 of this manual. | † Required waiver for long-term camp only

Program	Participants	Safety equipment	Minimum program supervision requirements	Qualified staff to open the range	Minimum number of staff to operate	Ratio instructor : participant	Additional information
Rifle (Scouting America Accredited Camp)	Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouting	Eye and hearing protection	NRA Rifle Instructor	National Camping School Range Activities Director NRA Rifle Instructor† Certified Military shooting instructor** Certified Law Enforcement Shooting Instructor** Certified 4-H Shooting Instructor**	Long-term camp: 1qualified staff and appropriate assistants Short-term camp and Day Camp: NCS Range Activities Director (1 person) OR NRA Rifle instructor AND NRA RSO (2 people)	1:8	See also current NCAP standards
Rifle (Unit activity)	Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouting	Eye and hearing protection	NRA Rifle Instructor AND NRA Range Safety Officer	National Camping School Range Activities Director NRA Rifle Instructor AND NRA Range Safety Officer	2 people (RSO and at least one instructor)	1:8	
Shotgun (Scouting America Accredited Camp)	Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouting	Eye and hearing protection	NRA Shotgun Instructor	National Camping School Range Activities Director NRA Shotgun Instructor† Certified Military shooting instructor** Certified Law Enforcement Shooting Instructor** Certified 4-H Shooting Instructor**	Long-term camp: 1qualified staff and appropriate assistants Short-term camp and Day Camp: NCS Range Activities Director (1 person) OR NRA Shotgun instructor AND NRA RSO (2 people)	1:6 for instruction 1:1 when loading and firing	Instructor maintains control of ammunition See also current NCAP standards Director

\*Scouting America accredited camp means, Day Camp, Short-term Camp and Long-term camp following the NCAP standards. If a council or district has a day activity, standards for “unit activity” apply. Unless otherwise stated the supervision standard is the same for a camp or unit activity. | \*\*Requires approved waiver | † Required waiver for long-term camp only

## 5 LEVELS OF: RIFLE SHOOTING

	Level 1 Air Rifle Shooting Experience	Level 2 Rifle Open Shooting Experience	Level 3 Rifle Ongoing Shooting Program	Level 4 Competitive Level	Level 5 NRA Assistant Rifle Instructor or NRA Assistant Coach
<b>Purpose</b>	Introduce & recruit youth to the BSA and the Scouting America Range and Target Activities program.	Introduce and recruit Scouts into Shooting Sports programs Ex. Fun Shoot Day or open shoot	Introduce and recruit Scouts into year-round Shooting Sports programs Ex. Range and Target Activities MB or Venturing awards	Promote competition among Scouts BSA, Venturers, and Sea Scouts	Scouts BSA, Venturers, and Sea Scouts to take a leadership role in their unit as an NRA Apprentice or Assistant Instructor
<b>Youth</b>	Minimum age 10 years		Scouts BSA, Venturers, Sea Scouts		
<b>Equipment</b>	.177 caliber pellet rifle, min 2.5 lb trigger pull (open, scope or dot sights); air, CO2, or precharged pneumatic	.177 caliber pellet rifle, min 2.5 lb trigger pull (open, scope or dot sights); air, CO2, or precharged pneumatic	.177 caliber pellet rifle, min 2.5 lb trigger pull (open, scope or dot sights); air, CO2, or precharged pneumatic .22 caliber rimfire* (breech-loading, single shot, bolt action or repeater bolt action with box magazine**), trigger pull min 3 lbs	As required by the competition	Rifle meeting minimum requirements for course being taught
<b>Ammunition</b>	.177 caliber pellets		Correct caliber for range and equipment being used. Reloading and use of reloaded ammunition is not approved for Scouting America programs. Tracer, armor-piercing and exploding ammo are not allowed.		
<b>Range</b>			Scouting America camp property approved range, Commercial Firearm Range, Portable range (pellet rifle only), Shooting trailer (pellet rifle only), Temporary safety enclosure (pellet rifle only)		
<b>Training for Participants</b>	Five minutes of 3 rules of gun safety, Rifles assigned to shooting station, Rifles are loaded by instructors, Youth point at target and fire	Scouting America 30-minute rifle briefing	Rifle Shooting Merit Badge OR NRA Basics of Rifle Shooting Course	NRA Basics of Rifle Shooting Course	NRA Rifle Instructor Course
<b>Targets</b>	Bull's-eye targets (large with carrier system), Resetting metallic, Balloons, Other breakable targets no exploding targets	Paper, Balloons, Resetting metallic, Exploding targets not allowed		As determined by competition Exploding targets not allowed	Mandated by course being taught
<b>Course</b>	Bench rest, prone, or standing position only (bench rest recommended)	Bench rest, Prone, Standing, Kneeling, Sitting	Following requirements of Rifle Shooting Merit Badge or Venturing Ranger Award NRA qualification program	Competition Rule Book (Scouting America youth protection policies must also be followed.)	NRA Rifle Instructor Course
<b>Safety Equipment</b>	Eye protection		Eye protection (pellet rifles); Eye and hearing protection		
<b>Instructor</b>	National Camping School Range Activities Director holding NRA rifle instructor certification OR an NRA Certified Rifle Instructor			Provided by venue	NRA training counselor
<b>Range Supervision</b>	See chart in Chapter 1			Based on the rules of the approved competition	Based on course being taught
<b>Ratio</b>	1:8 - NRA Range Safety Officer and 1:8 - Instructor (2 separate persons)			Based on the rules of the approved competition	Based on course being taught
<b>Notes</b>	Event may be a pellet rifle range set up at a community event, county or state fair, etc.	NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program may be introduced			

\* A commercial firearm range is a supervised facility that offers a controlled environment for safe firearm practice. It will provide shooting lanes, targets, and may offer equipment rentals and training in safe firearm handling and marksmanship. Standard operating procedures are required for each firearm type used on-site. Scouting's range and target activities must follow all of Scouting's range and target activities policies or range standard operating procedures that are equivalently stringent, including no variation from Scouting's limitations on firearms used. These ranges may be operated by a licensed business, a government entity or non-profit.

## CHAPTER 2: SCOUTING AMERICA RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES — A WEALTH OF YEAR-ROUND OPPORTUNITIES

### CUB SCOUT PROGRAMS

Cub Scout range and target activities programs may be conducted only on a district or council level. Archery, slingshot and BB gun shooting are restricted to day camps, Cub Scout/Webelos Scout long-term camps, council-managed short-term camps, or to council or district sponsored activities where there are properly trained supervisors and all standards for Scouting America range and target activities are enforced. Archery, slingshot and BB gun shooting are prohibited at the pack level.

The use of pellet air rifles is restricted to Webelos Scouts and Arrow of Light Scouts in a long-term camp setting only.

### SCOUTS BSA, VENTURING AND SEA SCOUT PROGRAMS

Firearm programs may only take place on a nationally authorized camp property's range(s) or at a commercial firearm range. This does not apply to district or council programs that utilize BB devices, but applies to pellet rifles, airsoft (any type), rifles, pistols, shotguns, and muzzle loading rifles and shotguns. Some states, counties, or other jurisdictions may regulate BB guns as firearms depending on their design and capabilities. Councils must review and follow any local regulations before conducting programs.

The council's camp may be an ideal location for range and target activities. Here, safely designed ranges may be established for the long-term camping program. Under qualified leadership, Scouts, should be given a chance to participate in these skills year-round. Alert unit, district, and council leadership will discover community resources that will be available to units throughout the year. Local archery, National Rifle Association, and sportsmen's groups will often provide facilities and resources.

Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scout members can shoot small-bore rifle, shotgun, muzzleloading rifle, muzzleloading shotguns, and archery following the five levels of shooting described in the chart in Chapter 1.

Scouts BSA members who are 14 years of age or older, or are 13 years of age and have completed the eighth grade, Venturing and Sea Scout members may participate in the NRA FIRST Steps Pistol Orientation sponsored by their council or district. No other pistol program is allowed, except for potential participation in approved council cowboy action programs. Pistol use is limited to pistols and revolvers as follows: .177 pellet pistol; .22 long rifle rimfire; .38 caliber special; or 9 mm only.

For information about the Scouts BSA Merit badge programs refer to the following publications:

- Rifle Shooting merit badge pamphlet, No. 35942
- Shotgun Shooting merit badge pamphlet, No. 35948.
- Archery merit badge pamphlet, No. 35856.

**Long-term and Short-term camp programs.** Scouting America camp programs offer a wide variety of range and target activities opportunities for Scouts. Each local council will serve as a resource for more information on what that council's camp offers.

**Hunter education** (Scouts BSA/Venturing and Sea Scouting). Contact your local department of natural resources for more information on hunter safety and education, or find information online at [www.hunter-ed.com](http://www.hunter-ed.com) (Hunting programs are only approved for Venturing and Sea Scouting).

**Venturing Range and Target Activities Outstanding Achievement Award.** While working on the Ranger Range and Target Activities elective, Venturers and Sea Scouts are to complete one of the following disciplines: pellet pistol, air rifle, archery, muzzleloading rifle, shotgun, or small-bore rifle. However, Venturers and Sea Scouts who go beyond the basic requirement and complete five of the seven disciplines will earn the Venturing Range and Target Activities Outstanding Achievement Award. This medal and certificate are sponsored by many companies and organizations to recognize outstanding achievement in shooting sports.

For more information, go to <https://www.scouting.org/awards/awards-central/venturing-shooting/>

## CHAPTER 5: RANGE OPERATION

In planning any range and target activities, consideration must be given to what equipment is required for that specific shooting discipline and venue. Care must be taken to provide, or arrange for, the safety of non-participants as well as personal protection of the participant. This chapter examines some of the items that should be considered.

The use of personal firearms and personal ammunition is prohibited in all Scouting programs at a camp property (see Standard SA-001). Personal firearms and personal ammunition may be used at a commercial firearm range, subject to restrictions regarding caliber, gauge, and action as described in this manual.

### General Equipment Common to All Scouting Program Levels and Range Disciplines

**Range safety flag.** As an indicator that the range is active, the range safety flag is to be displayed on a flagpole in a prominent place visible to approaching spectators and participants. Each range should have its own flagpole. It is recommended the flag be made of a bright red material approximately 48-by-36 inches in size. (This flag can be purchased from the NRA's online store.) The flag should be removed at the end of the shooting session.

**Eye and hearing protection.** Each participant must wear hearing and eye protection appropriate for the shooting discipline. Spectators in the immediate, designated area must also wear protection as appropriate. ANSI Z87.1 is the approved rating and the industry standard. Shooting sports safety glasses with this rating should be worn anytime safety glasses are prescribed.

This personal safety equipment may be provided by the event or furnished by the individual participant. If provided by the individual, the Range Safety Officer or NRA instructor should verify that eyeglasses have adequate lens area to offer protection. Hearing protection must fit properly.

If eye and hearing protection is furnished by the event organizers, an assortment of sizes should be on hand to ensure proper fit. Youth sizes are available from many vendors of safety glasses. Earmuffs might be preferable to earplugs. When exchanging common-use items, be sure to clean and disinfect them before wearing them. Earplugs are NOT to be exchanged.

**Empty-chamber indicator.** An added safety measure while transporting or storing, or while the firearm is, UNLOADED AND NOT BEING USED ON THE FIRING LINE a visual empty-chamber indicator should be installed. Several commercial models are available which when installed in the chamber displays a brightly colored flag readily visible.

A simple alternate method is to use a piece of high-visibility, heavy monofilament trimmer line, cut approximately 12 inches longer than the barrel of the firearm. When inserted through the barrel, approximately 6 inches of line is visible at both the muzzle and the breech.

**Ammunition control.** A simple ammunition block, with an appropriate number of 15/64-inch-diameter holes drilled in a pattern of a multiple of five, should be used to control the ammunition being dispensed to the participants. Range personnel will load the blocks from the bulk ammunition storage, and issue only the number of rounds being fired for a given relay. If magazines are being used, range personnel will load magazine prior to distribution.

### Comfort items.

- Sling. A leather or web sling will aid participants in the prone, kneeling, and sitting positions. They are easily adjustable to each participant and will steady the participant.
- Prone mat. A padded shooting mat of approximately 30-by-60 inches should be provided at each prone shooting position.
- Kneeling roll. A piece of carpet remnant approximately 8 inches wide and tightly rolled and bound to approximately 4 to 6 inches in diameter may be placed under the ankle of the down leg when shooting in the kneeling position.

**First-aid kit.** A first-aid kit must be readily accessible to the range or classroom. It should be well stocked and include items appropriate for potential injuries unique to the specific range and target activities venue. A medical log must be included in each kit. Details of each incident should be recorded. Any injury requiring first aid of any kind must be recorded in the First Aid Log for camp if the activity is a part of a Council long term, short term or day camp and if required, submit an incident report. Expended materials should be replaced before the next activity. Contents should be monitored and replaced as needed.

**Emergency communications device.** The procedure to summon emergency help must be considered during planning and be verified before the start of the event. The details of the exact location should also be noted in the event of an emergency. All range personnel should be familiar with the emergency procedures of the event and understand how to reach help.

## Range Equipment Appropriate to Each Scouting Program Level

**NOTE:** The Cub Scout range and target activities programs are authorized for District and Council events only and are not approved for use at the unit level. For approved shooting activities for each age level, refer to the age appropriate guidelines within the *Guide to Safe Scouting*.

### BB Gun

**BB Gun.** Only a smoothbore, spring-type air gun propelling a coated steel ball projectile commonly known as a “BB” may be used.

**Target.** The target line is usually 16.5 feet from the firing line. The TQ-40 and AR-4 are the common targets for this distance. Paper plates or aluminum pie tins are also popular targets for Cub Scouts and training new shooters. Animal, zombie, and human form silhouettes are not approved for Cub Scout use. Appropriate animal silhouettes including wild game species normally hunted are appropriate for Scouts BSA, Venturers, or Sea Scout use. Zombie and human form silhouettes are not approved for use in any Scouting America range and target activities programs.

**Personal Protection.** All participants must wear eye protection.

### Pellet Rifle

**Pellet Rifle.** Spring, piston or pneumatic (single stroke, multi-pump, air, or CO2 gas) pellet rifles with rifled barrels bored for .177-caliber skirted pellets may be used. Pellet rifles (CO2, pump, break barrel, etc.) are limited to single-shot, designed for target shooting with a look comparable to approved .22 rifles. Rifles may be used by Webelos Scouts, Arrow of Light Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturers and Sea Scouts. Webelos and Arrow of Light use is restricted to long-term camps only.

- The pellet rifle range meets or exceeds Scouting America and NRA recommendations and appropriate Scouting America Outdoor Programs/Properties design standards.
- All pellet rifles in good repair are provided. All pellet rifles used in Scouting America range and target activities have a trigger pull in excess of 2.5 pounds and are tested with a 2.5-pound weight or scale at least once a week while in use. If any trigger mechanism fails, the pellet rifle is immediately removed from service. Documentation of the tests is maintained.
- **Webelos and Arrow of Light Scouts Only:** All pellet rifles (CO2, pump, break barrel, etc.) are limited to single-shot designated for target shooting, velocity of 500 to 540 feet per second, and energy levels not to exceed 7.5 joules.

- Pellet rifle propellant is limited to CO2 cylinders or air compressor/scuba tanks. Refilling is conducted by qualified/trained adults with appropriate controls. If scuba tanks are used, each tank must be visually inspected annually and hydrostatically tested every five years by a qualified technician. Scuba tanks used for range and target activities purposes may not be used for scuba purposes.

**Pellet Rifle Target.** The target line is usually set at 33 feet from the firing line. The TQ-18 and AR-5 are the common targets for this distance. Paper plates or aluminum pie tins are also popular targets for training new shooters. Animal, zombie, and human form silhouettes are not approved for Webelos or Arrow of Light Scout use. Appropriate animal silhouettes including wild game species normally hunted are appropriate for Scouts BSA, Venturers, or Sea Scout use. Zombie and human form silhouettes are not approved use in any Scouting America range and target activities programs.

**Personal Protection.** All participants must wear eye protection.

### Rifle

#### Rifle.

**Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts.** May only use .22 caliber breech-loading, single-shot or a repeater type bolt-action rifles with a box-style magazine. (Only .22 caliber Short, long, long rifle may be used.) (Rifle tubular magazines are not allowed.) \*Note: Tubular magazines may be used in approved Cowboy action programs only following the guidelines in the Cowboy action guide in the appendix of this manual. Councils must be approved by the National Council to offer Cowboy action programs using the NCAP Intent to Operate form each year.

**Ammunition.** Current-manufacture cartridges appropriate for the caliber firearm being used. **Reloading and use of reloaded ammunition is not approved for BSA programs. Tracer, armor-piercing and exploding ammo are not allowed.**

#### Sights.

- Open sights found on most rifles are limited to elevation adjustment.
- Aperture (peep) sights are fully adjustable and have an easy-to-learn sight picture. The easy adjustment will aid in qualification shooting.
- Optical (red dot, telescopic) sights are also fully adjustable.

**Targets.** TQ-1, TQ-5, and A-17 targets are recommended at 50 feet. The A-23 is a popular small-bore rifle target at 50 yards and the A-25 is sized for 100 yards. Scouts BSA, Venturers, and Sea Scouts are allowed to use tasteful and appropriate animal silhouette targets (paper and 3-D targets) with all firearms approved for their use. Appropriate animal silhouettes

include wild game species that are normally hunted. Human form and zombie silhouette targets are not approved for use. Metallic silhouette animal targets are also approved for use.

Exploding targets are NOT approved for ANY shooting activity.

**Personal Protection.** All participants must wear eye and hearing protection.

## Shotgun

**Shotgun.** Modern, age-appropriate, target shotgun models, 12-, 16- or 20-gauge, may be used. Experience shows that beginning shotgun participants are more successful with a 20- or 12-gauge shotgun, putting more shot to the target.

**Chokes.** At the muzzle end of the shotgun is a “choke.” Just as the nozzle of a garden hose determines the width of a jet of water, the choke affects the spread pattern of the pellets exiting from the barrel. There are four main chokes: skeet, IC (improved cylinder), M (modified), and F (full). For camp use, skeet and IC are recommended. If these are not available, modified would be the best choice.

**Ammunition.** Current-manufacture shotshells of the appropriate gauge contain No. 7½ to No. 9 shot. A shot size larger than 7½ is not to be used. **Reloads may not be used in Scouting America range and target activities programs.**

**Trap/thrower.** Hand throwers, manual traps, or automatic traps may be used. Care should be taken to match the target speed and flight path to the shooter’s ability. Always refer to the manufacturer’s operations and safety instructions before operating this equipment.

**Trap location.** For new shooters and merit badge qualification, the trap should present a straight-away, rising target, at a reasonable speed. Trap systems on trap and skeet fields and on sporting clays courses will provide the participant with some challenging presentations as skills are mastered.

**Personal Protection.** All participants must wear eye and hearing protection.

## Muzzleloading Firearms

Because of the historical significance of muzzleloading firearms, Scouts BSA members, Venturers, and Sea Scouts are encouraged to learn to safely load and shoot a muzzleloader. On the range, each participant must be under the direct supervision (one-on-one) of a currently certified NRA or NRA/NMLRA muzzleloading instructor (for the appropriate discipline) when loading or firing the muzzleloader.

**Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts. May only use muzzleloading rifles or muzzleloading shotguns. (No muzzleloading handguns are permitted in the Scouting America program.)**

**Muzzleloading rifles.** Recently manufactured (or assembled from a kit) percussion cap muzzleloading rifles or inline muzzleloading rifles of any caliber may be used. All muzzleloading rifles are subject to safety inspection by the instructor or range officer. Rifles made from kits must be checked by a qualified gunsmith.

**Propellant.** Only a commercially manufactured, sporting-grade black powder or black powder substitute offered for sale by a reputable firm should be used in muzzleloading firearms. For new shooters, the amount of propellant in grains should be at the minimum of the gun manufacturer’s recommended load range.

### Accessories.

- **Ramrod.** The ramrod is used to seat the patch and shot. It is usually mounted in the fore-end of the stock, just beneath the barrel. It is recommended that a more durable work rod be obtained for use on the range. The first time a new rod is used, it should be inserted into the empty barrel all the way down. A permanent mark should be scribed on the rod at the end of the muzzle. Then the same procedure should be used after a standard charge (powder, patch, and ball) has been placed in the barrel. This will enable the shooter to know whether the barrel is empty or has a standard charge.
- **Powder flask and powder measure.** Propellant shall be transferred from the original bulk container to a brass or plastic powder flask to be taken to the range. It shall then be poured into the powder measure before pouring into the barrel.
- **Shot starter.** (ml rifle) This tool allows the shooter to first get the ball and patch just started into the muzzle, and second to drive the ball a short distance down the barrel, before using the ramrod to seat the patch and ball against the powder charge.
- **Shot measure.** (ml shotgun) A small cup with a handle that allows the shooter to measure the exact amount of shot and then pour it directly into the barrel.
- **Nipple wrench and nipple pick.** The nipple wrench is simple tool used to remove the cap nipple should it become fouled. A nipple pick is a stiff wire that is used to clear debris in the nipple orifice (flash channel).
- **Capper.** Percussion caps are packaged 100 per tin. The capper allows the caps to be dispensed one at a time right onto the nipple.
- **Patch puller, ball puller.** These tools fit onto the end of the ramrod to remove the ball or patch from down in the barrel. Care must be taken when using these items.

- **CO<sub>2</sub> ball discharger.** This tool has a fitting to fit onto the nipple and has a small CO<sub>2</sub> cartridge to provide pressure to blow a patch and ball out of the muzzle of the gun. **Always point the muzzle-loader in a safe direction when using this device.**
- **Loading bench.** Many Scout ranges are equipped with a loading bench that provides a stable and easy-to-reach platform for the muzzleloading firearm during the loading process.

**Personal Protection.** All participants must wear eye and hearing protection.

### **Pistols**

**Scouts BSA members who are 14 years of age or older, or are 13 years of age and have completed the eighth grade, Venturing and Sea Scouts may participate in the NRA FIRST Steps Pistol Orientation sponsored by the district or council. No other pistol program is allowed, except for potential participation in approved council cowboy action programs. No unit level sponsored pistol program is approved in any Scout America programs.**

**Handguns of any type are NOT permitted for Cub Scouting.**

**Pistols and Revolvers.** Pistol use is limited to pistols and revolvers as follows: .177 pellet pistol; .22 long rifle rimfire; .38 caliber special; or 9 mm only.

**Sights.** Open sights may be fixed or adjustable. Optical sights (red dot and telescopic) sights are also fully adjustable, but care must be taken to provide an appropriate scope for the shooting distance. Laser sights have become extremely popular as a training aid for pistol shooting; however, they may not be permitted for certain qualification programs.

**Targets.** A 9-inch paper plate is recommended for training new shooters at 15 feet. The TQ-6, slow-fire, and TQ-7 rapid-fire targets are recommended at 25 feet. B-2, slow-fire, and B-3, timed and rapid-fire are popular pistol targets at 50 feet. The B-16, slow-fire, and B-8, timed and rapid-fire, targets are sized for 25 yards. Appropriate animal silhouettes include wild game species that are normally hunted. Human form and zombie silhouette targets are not approved for use. Metallic silhouette is becoming a popular target discipline at many clubs and ranges. **NO exploding targets are allowed in any Scouting America program.**

**Personal Protection.** All participants must wear eye and hearing protection.

**Pointing any type of firearm or simulated firearm at any individual is unauthorized. Units with council approval may participate in formally organized historical reenactment events where firearms are used and intentionally aimed over the heads of reenactment participants. Leaders and the council approvers for participation must complete the SAFE Checklist during planning for attendance or participation.**

### **Archery**

#### **Bows.**

**Cub Scouts.** A light-draw-weight (15- to 20-pound), 54-inch, take-down, recurve bow is recommended because the bow will fit many archers who have different lengths of draw.

**Scouts BSA.** A light-draw-weight (20- to 25-pound), 62-inch or 66-inch, take-down, recurve bow is recommended because the bow will fit many archers who may have different lengths of draw.

**Venturers and Sea Scouts.** A light-draw-weight (20- to 35-pound), 62-, 66-, or 70-inch, take-down, recurve bow is recommended because the bow will fit many archers who may have different lengths of draw.

All bows should be equipped with an arrow rest in good condition and with a proper-length, well-served, 10- to 12-strand string with properly placed nock locator.

Always inspect the bow for cracks and splinters, and the condition of the bowstring and serving.

A universal draw length bow is popular in youth programs because it provides all the advantages of a compound bow but with an adjustable draw weight to accommodate participants of all abilities.

True compound bows are not recommended at this level because they must be set up to fit each individual archer.

**Arrows.** Care should be taken to inspect arrows before use.

- **Shaft material.** Wood arrows are light but susceptible to warping and splintering. Fiberglass arrows are heavier, and more durable, and will last several seasons. Aluminum arrows are light and shoot true, but cannot be repaired if bent or kinked. Carbon fiber arrows are lighter, stronger, and preferred by most competitive shooters.
- **Length.** An appropriate length arrow for Cub Scout age youth will be approximately 24 to 26 inches. For Scouts BSA use will be approximately

26 to 30 inches. For Venturers and Sea Scout use, arrows will be approximately 28 to 32 inches. Care must be taken to avoid shooting an arrow that is too short for the archer or too short for the bow.

- **Point.** Arrows must be fitted with target points. No field points or broadheads.
- **Nock.** The nock should fit the serving of the bow being used. The arrow should not fall from the string if the nock opening is correct.
- **Fletching/vanes.** Either may be used; however, plastic vanes provide longer service with young participants.

#### **Personal protection.**

- **Quiver.** For each archer, either a personal side quiver or a ground quiver must be provided to store arrows during shooting.
- **Finger protection.** Archers must wear a finger tab or glove unless there are “no gloves” on the string.
- **Arm protection.** Each archer **must** wear an arm guard on the bow arm. Arm guards may be obtained in junior sizes for small arms.
- **All protective equipment must be properly sized for the archer.**

#### **Sights.**

- Not recommended for Cub Scouts.
- As the fundamentals of archery are learned, it is recommended that sights be added to the bow. Least expensive may be a simple quilter’s pin affixed at the sight window by foam tape applied to the back of the handle.
- Relatively inexpensive target sights may be added to the bow, which will be a tremendous aid to the shooter for qualifying or competition.

#### **Targets.**

**Cub Scouts.** It is recommended that large-diameter target mats and faces be used to ensure success and to reduce the number of lost arrows. Ethafoam mats are commercially available in 48-inch, 36-inch, and 32-inch diameters, with five-color target faces to match. Animal, zombie, and human silhouettes are not approved for Cub Scout use.

Set the target line at no more than 10 yards in front of the shooting line, adding to the success of young archers. The mat should be mounted relatively low to the ground to make it easier to extract arrows from the target.

**Scouts BSA.** It is recommended that large-diameter target mats and faces be used to ensure success and to reduce the number of lost arrows. Ethafoam mats are commercially available in 48-inch, 36-inch, and 32-inch diameters, with five-color target faces to match.

Scouts BSA participants are allowed to use tasteful and appropriate animal silhouette targets (paper and 3-D targets). Appropriate animal silhouette targets include wild game species that are normally hunted. Human form and zombie silhouettes are not approved for use.

**Venturers and Sea Scouts.** For new shooters, it is recommended that large-diameter target mats and faces be used to ensure success and to reduce the number of lost arrows. Ethafoam mats are commercially available in 48-inch, 36-inch, and 32-inch diameters, with five-color target faces to match. As Venturers and Sea Scouts develop skill, various target games and shooting distances may be introduced to provide a challenge for the participant. Venturers and Sea Scouts are allowed to use tasteful and appropriate animal silhouette targets (paper and 3-D targets). Appropriate animal silhouette targets include wild game species that are normally hunted. Human form and zombie silhouettes are not approved for use.



## CHAPTER 6: SAFETY

Scouting America adheres to its longstanding policy of teaching its youth and adult members the safe, responsible, and intelligent handling, care, and use of firearms, throwing equipment and bow and arrow in planned, carefully managed, and supervised programs.

Safe gun handling is of paramount importance. You must treat every firearm as if it were loaded. With that in mind, there are several universal rules of safe gun handling that must always be followed.

1. **Always** keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
2. **Always** keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
3. **Always** keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.

### Communications

Each range should have reliable communication with the appropriate staff overseeing the event or activity.

### Emergency Response Plans

A complete first-aid kit should be centrally located near the ranges. The location of the first-aid kit should be prominently marked. In the event of an accident, the established emergency protocols for the camp or activity should be followed.

### National Camping Standards

For standards related to range and target activities and day camp, short-term and long term camp operation and management procedures, refer to the current National Camp Accreditation Program Standards at [www.scouting.org/NCAP](http://www.scouting.org/NCAP).

### Standard Operating Procedures

All ranges must have their own written standard operating procedures (SOP) and have them posted at the range. See Appendix for a sample of an SOP.

### Equipment Inspections—Firearms and Archery

Prior to range operation, equipment must be inspected for safety and proper function. This inspection includes the firearm or apparatus being used as well as all protective equipment. During this inspection if any equipment is deemed unsafe or not sized appropriately for the participants, it must not be used. These inspections should be in advance of the activity or camp so if needed, corrective action can take place.

### SAFE checklist

All shooting and throwing sports activities are expected to follow the Scouting America SAFE checklist. Leaders and staff conducting shooting sports activities must conduct this checklist prior to the event or activity. For a model SAFE checklist for range and target activities see the SAFE checklist at the beginning of this manual.

## CHAPTER 7: ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

### General

**Lead protection.** Lead is a soft, dense metal that is an integral part of most bullets. Lead is toxic to humans in relatively small concentrations, with the most susceptible organs being the eyes, central nervous system, and gastrointestinal tract. Handling ammunition, setting up a range for shooting, counting out rounds for firing, loading and unloading a firearm, discharging a firearm, and cleaning a firearm can all leave lead residues on the skin. Two easy precautions can minimize the risk of inhaling or ingesting lead residues. First, when handling ammunition or a recently discharged firearm, minimize contact of the hands with other parts of the body, particularly the eyes, mouth, and skin. When you are finished handling ammunition or firearms, immediately wash your hands with soap and cold water. It is strongly recommended that a handwashing station be next to all ranges and storage areas where ammunition or firearms may be handled or used. Food and drink should not be permitted on a range or in storage areas.

The use of lead can also be an environmental concern and may require some additional consideration for a local council or the landowner. Care needs to be taken to contain the impact of the range on the environment.

Other environmental impacts: The discharge of a firearm can cause a loud report. This noise can also become an environmental concern when the range is close to neighbors or other land owners. Care must be taken in the selection of range locations keeping in mind the noise that could be caused during range and target activities.

**Cleaning solvents.** Solvents used for cleaning firearms typically contain petroleum distillates, ammonia, caustics, and other potentially hazardous chemicals. Hazards may include skin damage, lightheadedness caused by vapors, and risk of fire. In addition, once the solvent has done its job of cleaning a firearm, it not only contains the original chemicals, but now contains the residues from the firearm, which may include lead, copper, gunpowder, and burned plastic. As with lead, contact with the eyes, mouth, and skin should be discouraged while handling firearm cleaning solvents. Use of appropriate gloves and eye protection are strongly recommended when using any cleaning materials and solvents. Food and drink should not be allowed in areas where cleaning takes place. A hand washing station with soap and cold water should be available near the firearm maintenance/cleaning area.

**Considerations for people with special needs and disabilities.** Another consideration concerns participants who may have physical, intellectual, cognitive and/or developmental challenges. Every effort should be made to serve all youth and adults in Scouting. This may require modification of facilities, equipment, content delivery or processes. Safety is the number one concern. The question may need to be asked to how accommodations can be made so that any individual can shoot safely. Considerations to influence the course of action may include: What challenges are afforded by the special need or disability? Does the participant have someone helping them? Can you communicate effectively with the participant and helper? Ask the participant, parent, and/or unit leader what is the best way to accommodate the participant (never assume disability is synonymous with inability). It may be necessary to temporarily close the range to other participants so you can work one on one on the range with a participant with the special need. Consideration must also be given to the provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act.

For information about adaptive shooting with range and target activities, visit the inclusion toolbox <https://ablescouts.org/toolbox/>

## CHAPTER 8: TRAINING COURSES

In Scouting events and activities, our primary consideration is the safety of youth and adult members. To achieve that goal, Scouting America, in consultation with other organizations, has created specific guidelines for range and target activities. These organizations also provide training and instructor certification by discipline-specific subject matter experts to prepare those individuals who will serve in a leadership or supervisory role in the various shooting sports activities.

In general, for all certifying organizations, the instructor candidate must meet specific eligibility requirements, satisfactorily complete the instructor training curriculum, understand and agree to the responsibilities of a certified instructor, and maintain active certification status.

Listed here are the shooting sports training certifications recognized by Scouting America.

### Scouting America Training

#### ***Range SAFETY Online Training for Units***

At a minimum, all Scouts BSA troops, Venturing crews, and Sea Scout ships who provide unit-level sponsored/planned range and target activities must have at least one registered unit leader 21+ years of age take the Range Activity SAFETY online training at my.Scouting. This individual must be present at the range during the activity.

#### ***Scouting America National Camping School***

Annually, seven-day National Camping Schools are conducted. The purpose of the National Camping School is to prepare Scouters who will be serving in management or supervisory roles in a council camp. Those who successfully complete the range activities section of the National Camping School, will be given a certificate of training as a Range Activities Director, which is valid for five camping seasons.

Participation must be approved by a local Scout executive, and enrollment is administered through the local council. For more information about National Camping School visit <https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/national-camping-school/>

It is also expected that the Scouting America range and target activities will serve the council as a resource year-round and be an active member of the council's range and target activities committee.

### ***Rangemaster Training***

Operation of BB, archery, and slingshot ranges for activities and events, including day camp, long-term camp, and short-term camping programs require qualified, trained Rangemasters.

BB/slingshot rangemaster and archery rangemaster training (2 separate courses) are administered by the council's range and target activities committee and conducted by a National Camping School certified range activities director or a council approved currently certified National Rifle Association rifle instructor for the BB/slingshot rangemaster and a USA Archery instructor certification for archery rangemaster. In either case the instructor must be familiar with the Scouting America program for which they are instructing (ex. NRA rifle instructor must be familiar with Cub Scout range and target activities if instructing BB range course for Cub Scout BB rangemaster.)

These BB/Slingshot rangemaster and Archery Rangemaster certifications are valid for two years from the date of the training.

A currently certified NRA rifle instructor is qualified to serve as a BB/slingshot rangemaster only if that person is familiar with the program policies and delivery of the Scouting America program they will oversee. A currently certified USA Archery Level 1 instructor or higher may serve as the Archery Rangemaster for archery activities.

### ***National Rifle Association Training***

#### ***NRA Certified Rifle Instructor***

A NRA Certified Rifle Instructor is required to provide instruction for Scouting America rifle shooting activities involving Scouts BSA, Venturers, and Sea Scouts.

The NRA rifle instructor may teach the Scouting America 30-Minute Rifle Briefing, the NRA FIRST Steps Rifle Orientation, Scouting America Rangemaster training, the Rifle Shooting merit badge using the Rifle Shooting Merit Badge Teaching Guide, and the eight-hour NRA Basic Rifle Course.

A currently certified NRA rifle instructor is qualified to serve as a BB Rangemaster for BB shooting and sling shot shooting activities provided the individual is familiar with the programs of Scouting America they will oversee.

### ***NRA Certified Shotgun Instructor***

An NRA certified shotgun instructor is required to provide instruction for Scouting America shotgun shooting activities involving Scouts BSA, Venturers, and Sea Scouts.

The NRA shotgun instructor may teach the Scouting America 30-Minute Shotgun Briefing, the NRA FIRST Steps Shotgun Orientation, the Shotgun Shooting merit badge using the Shotgun Shooting Merit Badge Teaching Guide, and the eight-hour NRA Basic Shotgun Course.

### ***NRA Certified Pistol Instructor***

An NRA certified pistol instructor is required to provide supervision for Scouting America pistol shooting activities involving Scouts BSA, Venturers and Sea Scouts.

The NRA pistol instructor may teach the Scouting America 30-Minute Pistol Briefing, the NRA FIRST Steps Pistol Orientation involving older Scouts BSA youth, Venturing and Sea Scouts. Older Scouts BSA members must be 13 years of age and have completed eighth grade or be 14 years of age.

### ***NRA Co-Op Muzzleloading Rifle Certified Instructor***

An NRA certified Co-Op muzzleloading rifle OR an NRA/NMLRA certified muzzleloading instructor is required to provide supervision for BSA muzzleloading rifle shooting activities involving Scouts BSA, Venturers, and Sea Scouts.

### ***NRA/National MuzzleLoading Rifle Association Certified Muzzleloading Rifle Instructor***

The NRA certified co-op muzzleloading rifle or full NRA/NMLRA muzzleloading instructor is required to provide supervision for Scouting America muzzleloading rifle shooting activities involving Scouts BSA, Venturers, and Sea Scouts.

The NRA Co-Op muzzleloading rifle instructor or the NRA/NMLRA muzzleloading instructor may teach the NRA Basic Co-Op Muzzleloading Rifle Shooting Course and the muzzleloading option of the Rifle Shooting merit badge.

The NRA co-op muzzleloading rifle instructor may teach the NRA Basic Co-op Muzzleloading Rifle Shooting Course, and the Muzzleloading option of the Rifle Shooting merit badge.

### ***NRA/National MuzzleLoading Rifle Association Certified Instructor***

An NRA/NMLRA certified muzzleloading instructor is required to provide supervision for Scouting America muzzleloading shotgun shooting activities involving Scouts BSA, Venturers, and Sea Scouts.

The NRA/NMLRA muzzleloading instructor may teach the NRA Basic Muzzleloading Shooting Course and the muzzleloading option of the Shotgun Shooting merit badge.

The NRA/NMLRA muzzleloading instructor may teach the NRA Basic Muzzleloading Shooting Course to Venturers and Sea Scouts.

### ***NRA Range Safety Officer***

An NRA Range Safety Officer is required to provide live firing range supervision for all shooting activities involving Scouts BSA, Venturers, and Sea Scouts. No other certification is accepted.

The NRA Range Safety Officer is responsible for the range management.

### ***NRA Chief Range Safety Officer***

An NRA chief Range Safety Officer or an NRA training counselor is qualified to teach the NRA basic Range Safety Officer course. The Chief Range Safety Officer may also assist Scouting activities in the role of the Range Safety Officer.

### ***NRA Training Counselor***

Qualified, experienced, certified instructors may apply for appointment as a training counselor to recruit and train new instructors to teach basic firearms training courses. For information about becoming a NRA training counselor visit [www.nrainstructors.org](http://www.nrainstructors.org).

## **Archery Training**

### ***USA Archery Level 1 Instructor***

The USA Archery Level 1 Instructor Certification course is administered by USA Archery, the national governing body for the Sport of Archery in the U.S., USA Archery, the National Field Archery Association and the Archery Shooters Association jointly recognize all certification levels.

Candidates for the USA Archery Level 1 instructor certification are primarily camp archery staff and those working with entry-level students. The USA Level 1 Archery Instructor Certification Course provides

graduates the necessary tools to maintain a high level of safety both on and off the archery range. The Level 1 Instructor will learn about range safety, range setup, the steps of shooting, equipment and repair, programs and lesson plans and is well prepared to teach beginner archery programs to people of all ages and abilities in a variety of disciplines.

USA Archery Level 1 Archery Instructors may teach the Basic Archery course and the Archery merit badge.

In addition, the certified instructor may serve as a Rangemaster for a Cub Scout archery activity.

### ***USA Archery Level 2 Instructor***

The Level 2 Archery Instructor Certification Course includes the USA Level 1 Archery Instructor Certification Course and provides students with an introduction to the National Training System (NTS) Steps of Shooting for recurve and compound, equipment and accessory setup, athlete development and events. Candidates for the Level 2 instructor certification are instructors age 18 and older and Level 2 instructors may also take an online course to become a USA Archery Instructor Trainer so that they may train USA Archery Level 1 and USA Archery Level 2 instructors.

## Glossary

**action.** A group of moving parts used to cock, compress air (in some models), load, fire, and unload an air gun.

**anchor point.** The particular spot on the archer's face to which the index finger comes on the draw to give consistency to shooting.

**arm guard.** A piece of leather or plastic that is worn on the inside of the forearm to protect the arm from the bowstring.

**arrow plate.** A substance on the side of the bow to give point contact with the arrow.

**arrow rest.** An extraneous device on the bow to provide point contact; also a resting point.

**back.** The side of the bow that is away from the shooter.

**BB.** The term BB is used to describe spherical steel pellets that are .177 inch (4.5 mm) in diameter. However, steel BBs actually have a maximum diameter of .175 inch. BB projectiles for air guns should not be confused with the .181-inch-diameter BB pellets used in shotgun shells.

**blunt.** A blunt-tipped arrow, often used for small game.

**bolt.** A hard, metal projectile with a sharp, pointed nose and plastic fins inserted in the rear portion of the projectile.

**bore.** The inside of the barrel of a gun.

**bow arm.** The arm that holds the bow (not the string).

**bow sight.** A device attached to the bow that allows the shooter to sight directly on the target (which cannot be done with the arrow tip except at point-blank range).

**bowstring.** The string of a bow, usually made of Dacron.

**broadhead.** An arrow with a sharpened metal tip for hunting live game.

**butt.** A backstop for holding arrows shot at a target. The shoulder end of a rifle stock.

**caliber.** The diameter of a projectile, the distance between the lands in a rifled barrel, or the bore diameter in a smoothbore barrel.

**cant.** The act of holding the bow tilted or slightly turned while shooting.

**cast.** The distance a bow can shoot an arrow.

**CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder or tank.** A metal cylinder tank that contains carbon dioxide gas (CO<sub>2</sub>). Available in small disposable cylinders for insertion in some models of CO<sub>2</sub> pneumatic air guns; also available in large tanks that are used to charge refillable cylinders and internal gas reservoirs in other models.

**cocking lever.** The part of a spring-piston air gun used to cock a spring-loaded piston that compresses air at the instant of firing.

**compressed CO<sub>2</sub> /air pneumatic gun.** A type of air gun using carbon dioxide gas (CO<sub>2</sub>) or air that has been compressed and stored in a metal cylinder, or air that is compressed by an external air pump. This type of air gun allows the firing of multiple shots without recharging.

**creeping.** Letting the string hand edge forward before release.

**crest.** Paint or decoration on the arrow shaft near the feathers.

**cylindrical pellets.** A cylindrically shaped air gun pellet that usually has a raised band encircling its base to act as an air seal.

**dart.** A hard metal projectile with a sharp pointed nose and organic or artificial hair or feathers inserted in the rear portion of the projectile.

**dieseling.** The ignition and detonation of low-flash point lubricants due to the high temperature generated during the rapid compression of air in a spring-piston air gun.

**draw.** The acting of pulling the bowstring back into the anchor position.

**drawing arm.** The arm that draws back the bowstring.

**drift.** Natural deflection of an arrow from its normal path due to outside factors, such as wind.

**end.** A specified number of arrows shot at one time (or from one position) before retrieving.

**end loop.** The part of the string that fits over the bow nock.

**face.** The part of the bow facing the shooter; also a target face.

**fast.** An expression used to warn people of arrows being shot.

**field archery.** A competitive round shot at various distances and laid out like a golf course.

**field arrow.** An arrow with a field point; used outdoors for field archery, stump shooting, roving, and small game.

**finger tab.** A tab worn on the drawing hand to protect the fingers and give a smooth release of the bowstring.

**fletching.** The feathers of the arrow that give guidance to the arrow's flight.

**flight.** A competitive round of shooting for distance; also, the path of an arrow.

**forearm.** The part of the arm between the elbow and the wrist.

**free style.** Shooting with the aid of a bow sight.

**front sight.** The sight on the muzzle of a gun.

**glove.** A covering worn to protect the fingers from the string.

**grooves.** The shallow, spiral cuts in a bore that, together with the lands, make up the rifling in the bore of a barrel.

**handle riser.** The center part of the bow.

**head.** The tip or point of the arrow.

**hold.** The act of gripping the bow; hesitating at full draw.

**index.** The raised piece of plastic on the nock of an arrow that is in line with the cock feather.

**index vain.** The arrow feather at right angles to the nock; often of a different color than the other feathers.

**instinctive shooting.** Aiming and shooting arrows instinctively rather than using the pre-gap or point-of-aim methods or a bow sight.

**jerking.** Letting the drawing hand jerk too far back as the arrow is released.

**kick.** The recoil of the bowstring and bow after the arrow is released.

**laminate.** A composite bow, usually of wood and fiberglass.

**lands.** The ridges of metal between the grooves in a rifled barrel.

**limbs.** The two ends of a bow, from the handle riser out.

**longbow.** A bow with no recurve.

**multi-pump pneumatic air gun.** A type of pneumatic air gun that uses several strokes of a lever to compress and store enough air in a reservoir or chamber for one shot.

**muzzle.** The front end of the barrel from which a projectile exits.

**NRA.** National Rifle Association.

**nock.** The groove in the end of the arrow in which the bowstring fits; also, the groove at each end of the bow which holds the bowstring in place.

**nock locator.** The material on the bowstring used to indicate the exact nocking point for the arrow.

**nocking point.** The marked place on the bowstring where the arrow nock is placed before drawing and releasing.

**over-bowed.** Using a bow that is too heavy for the individual.

**overdraw.** Drawing the arrow back too far so that the tip passes the face of the bow. This is a dangerous practice.

**pellet rifle.** A gun that propels a projectile through its barrel by use of compressed air or carbon dioxide gas (CO<sub>2</sub>). Gunpowder is not used in this type of gun.

**plinking.** Informal shooting at a variety of targets.

**pneumatic air gun.** A type of air gun that uses stored compressed air. Divided into two subcategories: single-stroke or multi-pump pneumatics and air pneumatics.

**point.** The tip on the end of the arrow.

**point-blank range.** The only distance from the target at which the point-of-aim is right on the target center.

**point-of-aim.** A method of aiming using a point, usually in front of the target, with which the point of the arrow is aligned; allows for trajectory of the arrow.

**pre-gap (pre-draw gap).** A method of aiming.

**projectile.** A body projected forward such as a bullet from a gun.

**quiver.** A container to hold arrows; can be ground, back, side, or pocket type.

**range officer.** A trained, certified, on-site adult who directs the operation of a range program in a shooting sport.

**rear sight.** The sight nearest the breech of a gun.

**recurve.** A bow that is curved on the ends.

**reflexed bow.** A bow with limb ends curving toward the back rather than toward the face of the bow.

**release.** The act of letting the bowstring slip off the fingertips.

**rifling.** Spiral grooves and lands in the barrel bore that provide a stabilizing spin to a projectile so that it will be more accurate in flight.

**roving.** An outdoor game played by two or more in which natural targets such as stumps, trees, or bushes are selected for accuracy competition.

**self arrow.** An arrow made entirely of one piece of wood.

**self bow.** A bow made entirely of one piece of wood, as opposed to other types of bows such as laminate.

**serving.** The thread wrapped about the bowstring to prevent fraying of the string.

**shaft.** The middle of an arrow; an unfletched arrow.

**shelf.** The place on the bow where the arrow rests.

**shooting sports director.** The person who has overall responsibility for the operation of the shooting program for council camps and activities.

**sight alignment.** The relationship between the front and rear sights, where the shooter sees that the post bead, disc, or front sight device is aligned properly with the rear sight.

**sights.** Mechanical, optical, or electronic devices used to align the axis of the barrel on the target.

**sinking.** The gradual loss of a bow's power.

**single-stroke pneumatic air gun.** A type of pneumatic air gun that uses one stroke of a lever to compress and store enough air in a reservoir or chamber for one shot.

**small of stock.** The narrow part of a rifle stock.

**smoothbore.** An informal name for a gun that has a smoothbore barrel.

**smoothbore barrel.** A barrel that does not contain rifling.

**solid bow.** A common reference to a bow that is made entirely of fiberglass or plastics.

**spring-piston air gun.** A type of air gun that uses a manually operated lever or other device to cock a spring-loaded piston, which compresses air at the instant of firing. The air that propels the projectile is not stored in a reservoir prior to firing.

**stance.** A standing position assumed when shooting an arrow.

**stock.** The wooden or metal piece to which the barrel or mechanism of a rifle are attached.

**string.** Preparing a bow for shooting; also, the bowstring.

**string fingers.** The three fingers used to draw back the bowstring.

**string height.** The distance between the bow and the bowstring at the handle.

**strung bow.** A bow that is ready to shoot.

**target archery.** A competitive round shot at affixed distances in an open area.

**target arrow.** A lightweight arrow with a target point.

**throwing.** Moving the bow hand to the left upon release.

**understrung.** A bow with a bowstring that is too long.

**vane.** A plastic fletching on an arrow.

**weight.** The amount of effort (in pounds) required to draw the bow a given length (normally measured at 28 inches).

**weight in hand.** The actual weight of the bow.

**windage.** The amount of drift in the flight of an arrow caused by wind.

**wobble.** The erratic motion of a flying arrow.

## **APPENDIX 2**

# **NRA FIRST STEPS RIFLE ORIENTATION --- INSTRUCTOR'S LESSON PLANS**

## **SCOUTING AMERICA RIFLE SHOOTING MERIT BADGE TEACHING GUIDE**

NRA FIRST Steps Firearm Instruction, Responsibility, and Safety Training Program First Edition  
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Training Department, National Rifle Association, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030



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## SCOUTING AMERICA INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the combined NRA Rifle FIRST STEPS syllabus and Merit Badge Instructor Lesson Plans for the Rifle Merit Badge. **This book is to be used by registered adult leaders who are currently certified NRA Rifle Instructors.**

The purpose of this book is to use a proven standard of instructional curriculum to teach the Rifle Merit Badge. We had been using the **BSA Shooting Sports Manual Appendix 2** and the **NRA FIRST (Firearm Introduction, Responsibility and Safety Training) Steps Rifle Syllabus** as separate items to teach the **Rifle Merit Badge** since 2009. We have combined the NRA *FIRST Steps* Rifle Syllabus with the additions from the requirements necessary to teach the Rifle Merit Badge into one document and both the Scouting America and the NRA have approved this document.

The advantage to using this document is that our youth will receive a consistently safe and proven instructional training no matter where they are trained in any council within the Scouting family.

By using this syllabus, the registered adult leader or parent who is trained as a NRA Rifle Instructor is accomplishing two important items.

First and most important, they are delivering a consistent program of responsibility and safe gun handling to our youth. Secondly, and equally important, they are using the NRA *FIRST Steps* syllabus contained in this document to satisfy the requirements of the NRA to teach a NRA *FIRST Steps* course. By using this syllabus and then registering their BSA merit Badge course on the NRA Instructors.org portal, as an NRA *FIRST Steps* course they get credit with the NRA towards accomplishing the goal of qualifying to become a NRA Training Counselor.

The goal of both the Scouting America and the NRA is to have at least 2 NRA Training Counselors in every council in the US. By doing this we can conduct NRA instructor courses at a cost that most volunteers can afford. Thus allowing more leaders the opportunity to become NRA Rifle Instructors. These instructors will not only be able to conduct merit badge classes, but equally important, they can help provide more year-round shooting sports programs for the unit, district and council.

Thank you for all you do and we look forward to serving you in the future.

## HOW TO USE THIS SYLLABUS

This syllabus contains the NRA *FIRST Steps* program and has been modified by adding a third column to the contents outline along with some Scouting-related notes in various places within the document.

If you have never been used the NRA *FIRST Steps* syllabus, the first column tells you what you are going to do, the second column tells you how to do it or what to say and now the third column tells you what page to turn your merit badge students to and what requirements they will have completed once you do that particular assignment. When teaching the Scouts BSA Rifle Merit Badge use this syllabus as written and instead of using the NRA student rifle handbook you will use the merit badge book. Each student should have a merit badge book to follow along with the instructional component. When the syllabus says **Ask**, please ask the question, when it says **Explain**, then please explain and when it says **Demonstrate**, please demonstrate. These teaching methods have proven successful with many beginning shooters and your cooperation in following the syllabus will help you in providing a great program to our youth.

The lessons are broken up into 4 days of 1.5 hrs. minimum class time per day. This is the minimum it will take to teach this course properly. Making alterations to the class due to a 1 hr. class 4 or 5 days a week does not accomplish the goals as outlined and this book may not be used if that's the time period you have in your summer camp. Using the 1.5 to 2 hour classes usually provides students ample opportunity for them to complete their required targets during the normal merit badge sessions.

Free time in long term camp was designed for Scouts to have fun and for those not in the merit badge class to be able to still shoot at targets and give them a taste of rifle shooting so that they may wish to pursue the rifle merit badge the next time it is available.

The Rifle Merit Badge may be conducted in an off season weekend using this syllabus as you would just start at the beginning and go all the way thru the syllabus in as little as a full 6 to 8 hr. day.

For more information on how to create successful rifle shooting sports programs such as the NRA marksmanship program please contact your local council range and target activities committee.

The introduction on the next few pages gives you an idea of what the NRA *FIRST Steps* program delivers to the general public and how it should be used when teaching a Rifle Merit Badge student. The Table of Contents begins after this introduction and outlines the syllabus by camping days and lesson objectives for each day.

## NRA *FIRST Steps* INTRODUCTION

*FIRST Steps — Firearm Instruction, Responsibility, and Safety Training* — is the National Rifle Association's response to the American public's need for a firearm orientation program for new purchasers. New Firearm owners are encouraged to take the "first step" of obtaining training, and the NRA *FIRST Steps* Program is designed to provide a hands-on introduction to the safe handling and proper orientation of *one specific firearm model*. There are three orientations in the program: one for rifle, one for pistol, and one for shotgun.

Since *FIRST Steps* orientations are model-specific, and teach only the most basic shooting skills, they are not complete "courses" in the traditional sense of the word. They do provide a thorough introduction to firearm safety, handling, and shooting skills. These skills require regular practice. Initially, this practice should take place under the supervision of a qualified individual — like an NRA Certified Instructor or NRA Shooting Coach. For this reason, the orientation encourages participants to obtain additional training in an NRA Basic Firearm Training Course, and then to take the "next step" by participating in other local activities designed to help individuals maintain and develop their shooting skills.

### Total Participant Involvement

The *FIRST Steps* Orientation Program was the first NRA program designed for the new shooter that used the *Total Participant Involvement (TPI)* training methodology. Minimizing the use of lecture, TPI takes an experiential approach that stresses active training and learning by doing. Instructors guide participants to develop the specified knowledge, skills, and attitude through the use of hands-on exercises and practical applications. Keeping participants involved at every step of the training process engages their energy, holds their interest, and makes learning *fun*! At the same time, the performance-based training approach enables Instructors to evaluate the participants' progress and provide appropriate feedback.

Like the lesson plans for NRA Basic Firearm Training Courses, the *FIRST Steps* lesson plans used a double column format of *content* and *instructional notes*: what to teach and how to teach it. The *FIRST Steps* lesson plans contain far more detail on *how to teach*, and use **bold print** to indicate directions to the Instructor. Involving participants is stressed throughout the orientation.

One example of involving participants is the NRA policy on how Instructors handle firearms. Each time they pick up a gun, they set the example by practicing the three rules of safe gun handling: making sure the gun is pointed in a safe direction, the finger is off the trigger, and the gun is unloaded. Instructors then involve the participants by having one of them verify that the gun is unloaded.

Another way to involve participants is through the use of the *coach-pupil method*, which has one Instructor, one firearm, and two participants at a shooting station on the range. While one participant (the "pupil") shoots, the Instructor involves the other participant (the "coach") in the learning process by guiding him or her to provide feedback under the Instructor's direction. The Instructor then has the participants reverse roles and repeat the shooting exercise.

The *FIRST Steps* Program is designed for a low participant-to-instructor ratio. The three-hour orientation length is based on a ratio of one-to-one. The length of course lessons will need to be increased proportionately to allow multiple participants to complete all activities specified in the lesson plans. For example, in Lesson I, *each* participant must name the indicated firearm parts, describe their functions, and explain and demonstrate the loading and unloading procedures.

**A single instructor may conduct a *FIRST Steps* orientation for a maximum of four participants at a time in Lessons I, II, and IV, and two participants at a time in Lesson III.**

Instructors may combine students using different rifle models in the same *FIRST Steps* class, provided that all rifles are of the same action type (all bolt actions, all semi-automatics, etc.). Individual students in such classes are still trained on only their specific model rifle.

As in the case in NRA Basic Firearm Training Courses, Instructors should provide participants with a 10-minute break after every 50 minutes of instruction during a *FIRST Steps* orientation.

These *FIRST Steps* lesson plans should be placed in your lesson plan binder and used in conjunction with the *Basics of Rifle Shooting* handbook.

### Policy Notes

*FIRST Steps* orientations can be conducted by NRA Certified Instructors holding credentials in the discipline. They should follow these lesson plans as they pertain to learning objectives, training materials, equipment, orientation content, instructional methodology, and other specified details. Additional policies governing the conduct of the *FIRST Steps* Program will be periodically announced in the *NRA blog and email blasts*, sent to all NRA Instructors.

Since the *FIRST Steps* orientations are among the activities that NRA Certified Instructors are authorized to conduct, they will be entered into an instructor's activity record. To ensure that they receive proper credit, instructors must file a completed NRA Firearm Training Course Report Form within ten days of course completion. A separate form must be submitted for each NRA *FIRST Steps* Orientation or Basic Firearm Training Course.

In conducting an NRA *FIRST Steps* orientation, instructors must provide each participant with the items in the *FIRST Steps* Rifle Participant Packet, and the other items indicated on the “Required NRA Materials” list. The number of participants on an instructor’s course report should not exceed the number of participant packets purchased by the Instructor. (Instructors are encouraged to charge a reasonable fee sufficient to recover the costs of materials and other training- related expenses.)

NRA *FIRST Steps* Orientation Completion Certificates are available only as part of the participant packet. The Instructor must indicate on the certificate the model of firearm that was used by the student in the orientation.

The owner’s manual for the participant’s rifle should be consulted prior to the orientation to see whether the manufacturer has any particular guidelines for its operation, dry firing recommendations, approved ammunition, and cleaning procedures. Instructors should not conduct the orientation unless they are thoroughly familiar with the correct operation of the participant’s rifle model as recommended by the manufacturer. Instructors who have any questions concerning whether or not the participant’s rifle is safe to shoot should have it checked by a reputable gunsmith before using it in the orientation.

The *FIRST Steps* Program is designed to provide training with one particular firearm model — preferably the participant’s. However, individuals who do not yet own a firearm may attend a *FIRST Steps* orientation using a firearm provided by the instructor. If an instructor’s firearm is used, however, participants should be advised that the operational and handling characteristics will not be the same on a different firearm. They should be encouraged to attend a new *FIRST Steps* orientation if they later purchase a different gun.

**No live ammunition is permitted in the classroom under any circumstances, or on the range during Lessons I, II and IV if these lessons are conducted on a range. Dummy ammunition must be visually distinguishable from live ammunition to ensure that a live round is not brought to class, or to the range except during Lesson III.**

NRA Instructors may refer to guns as “firearms,” “guns,” “rifles,” etc. but not as “weapons.” “Weapon” has a negative connotation.

Establish emergency procedures to be followed in the event of an accident. All course staff must be aware of these procedures and maintain a list of emergency telephone numbers.

### **Good Luck!**

Remember, the *FIRST Steps* Program was designed with both the instructor and the participant in mind. These lesson plans will prepare you to conduct a successful orientation, and provide your participants with an exciting and informative introduction to the world of shooting.

We thank you for your commitment to firearm education and your participation in the training programs of the National Rifle Association. Your expertise and dedication will train a new generation of American shooters to exercise their firearm freedoms safely and responsibly. If you have any questions about *FIRST Steps* or the NRA Basic Firearm Training Program, please contact the NRA Training Department, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030, (703) 267-1500.

NRA Training Department  
Education & Training Division  
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[nraf@nrahq.org](mailto:nraf@nrahq.org)

## ORIENTATION OUTLINE

### NRA *FIRST Steps* Rifle Orientation

**Orientation Goal:** To provide beginning shooters with an introduction to the knowledge, skills, and attitude necessary to own and use a specific rifle model safely.

**Length of Orientation:** 3 hours. (All times listed are minimums.) Additional time may be needed to meet the specified learning objectives using the methodology of Total Participant Involvement.

**Note:** Use the Merit Badge Book instead of the NRA *Basics of Rifle Shooting* Handbook. Lesson times still apply.

Lesson time must be increased proportionately to allow multiple participants to complete all specified activities.)

**Participant Text:** The *NRA Basics of Rifle Shooting* handbook.

#### Orientation Lessons:

Lesson I: Introduction to Rifle Safety, Parts, and Operation (45 minutes)

Lesson II: Introduction to Ammunition and the Fundamentals of Rifle Shooting (45 minutes)

Lesson III: Introduction to Rifle Shooting from the Benchrest Position (60 minutes)

Lesson IV: Introduction to Rifle Cleaning, Storage, and Training Opportunities (30 minutes)

**SCOUTING AMERICA:** Your attached lesson plans will be taught for 1.5 hrs. each day for 4 days for a total of 6 hrs. Teaching 1 hr. classes will not fit this syllabus. Please see the time adjustments below for covering the merit badge.

#### Orientation Lessons:

Lesson I: Introduction to Rifle Safety, Parts, and Operation (45 minutes)

**Note: Teach this lesson on Day 1 for 1.5 hrs. (See syllabus)**

Lesson II: Introduction to Ammunition and the Fundamentals of Rifle Shooting (45 minutes)

**Note: Teach this lesson on Day 2 for 1.5 hrs. (See syllabus)**

Lesson III: Introduction to Rifle Shooting from the Benchrest Position (60 minutes)

**Note: Teach this lesson on Day 3 for 1.5 hrs. (See syllabus)**

Lesson IV: Introduction to Rifle Cleaning, Storage, and Training Opportunities (30 minutes)

**Note: Teach this lesson on Day 4 for 1.5 hrs. (See syllabus)**

## REQUIRED NRA MATERIALS

### NRA *FIRST STEPS* Rifle Orientation

(See current <http://materials.nrahq.org> for item numbers and prices)

**Note:** This list does not apply to merit badge classes. You only need this list if you are doing a regular NRA *FIRST Steps* class.

#### One per participant:

NRA *FIRST Steps* Rifle Participant Packet — contains the following items:

- NRA Basics of Rifle Shooting handbook
- NRA *FIRST Steps* Rifle Orientation Completion Certificate
- NRA Gun Safety Rules card
- NRA Basic Training Program brochure
- NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program booklet

**Note:** Anytime you see the NRA *Basics of Rifle Shooting* handbook as the reference use the Rifle Merit Badge Book instead

#### For reference:

NRA *Basics of Rifle Shooting* handbook

## OTHER REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

Rifle

Rifle owner's manual

Dummy ammunition (must be visually distinguishable from live ammunition)

Empty cartridge box for rifle ammunition

Fired rifle cartridge case

Paige sighting device (if available)

Quality factory ammunition (for use during live fire exercises on range only)

Hearing protection

Eye protection Targets Sandbags

Benchrests (tables) Chairs

Small screwdriver (for sight adjustment)

Rifle cleaning equipment

Lockable rifle case

## LESSON I. Introduction to Rifle Safety, Parts, and Operation

**Note:** Lesson I is taught on Day 1 each week of camp

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** As a result of their participation in this training session, participants will be able to:

1. State the goal of the NRA *FIRST Steps* Rifle Orientation.
2. Name the three fundamental NRA rules of safe gun handling and demonstrate them with a specific rifle model.
3. Name the three major components of a rifle and describe their functions.
4. Safely demonstrate the loading and unloading procedures for a specific rifle model with dummy ammunition.

**LENGTH:** 45 minutes

**FACILITY:** Classroom or Range

**TRAINING AIDS:** Rifle, rifle owner's manual, dummy ammunition, one per participant of the following: NRA Training Course Student Registration Card, *The Basics of Rifle Shooting* handbook, *NRA Gun Safety Rules card*

**(Note: No live ammunition is to be used during this lesson. Dummy ammunition must be visually distinguishable from live ammunition.)**

**REFERENCES:** *The Basics of Rifle Shooting* handbook.

**Note:** Anytime you see the NRA *Basics of Rifle Shooting* handbook as the reference use the Rifle Merit Badge Book instead

Content	INSTRUCTIONAL NOTES	
	<b>Lesson Time: 10 min. max</b>	
<b>A. Orientation</b>		
1. Registration	1. <b>Instruct</b> participants to fill out an NRA Training Course Student Registration Card	<b>Note:</b> Have Scouts fill out their merit badge card
2. Welcome	2. <b>Introduce</b> self and welcome participants to the orientation	
3. Orientation goal	3. <b>Review</b> the orientation goal with participants: <i>To provide beginning shooters with an introduction to the knowledge, skills, and attitude necessary to own and use a <u>specific rifle model</u> safely.</i>	
4. Orientation schedule	4. <b>Review</b> the orientation content, and the times and locations of the different lessons of the orientation.	Items 1-10 in column 1 should only take 5 minutes to do
5. Special considerations	5. <b>Review</b> any special considerations that are unique to the orientation, e.g., transportation arrangements to range facility.	
6. Facilities	6. <b>Point out</b> location of rest rooms, drinking fountain, telephone, first aid kit, fire exits, alarm, extinguishers, etc.	Explain the merit badge schedule for the week
7. Firearms	7. <b>Check</b> immediately any firearms to be used during the orientation to insure they are unloaded, and <b>have a participant verify</b> this.	

8. No live ammunition in classroom	8. <b>Note</b> that no live ammunition is permitted in the classroom, and that <u>only</u> dummy ammunition will be used during the first two lessons of the orientation. <b>Check</b> with participants to be sure they have not brought any live ammunition into the classroom.	Distribute the merit badge books to Scouts
9. Gun fit	9. <b>Check</b> the fit of the rifle to be used during this orientation relative to the size and strength of the participants. The participant should be able to hold the rifle securely and comfortably, mount it correctly, and reach and operate the appropriate parts safely and properly.	
10. Basic handbooks	10. <b>Distribute</b> the <i>Basics of Rifle Shooting</i> handbooks to participants. <b>Note</b> that the handbook will be used during the orientation, and may be used afterwards as a reference to review the material covered in class.	
	<b>Lesson Time: 5 min. max</b>	
<b>B. Introduce Lesson</b>	<b>State</b> learning objectives for this lesson.	
<b>C. Rifle Safety</b>	<b>Lesson Time: 10 min. max</b>	
1. The importance of safety	1. <b>Ask</b> participants: What do you think is our primary concern when handling firearms? <b>Discuss</b> responses briefly. State that <u>safety</u> is always the primary concern when handling firearms, whether the guns are located in the home, at the range or in the field.	<b>Note:</b> Refer Scouts to pg. 18 in MB Book
2. The major causes of gun accidents	2. <b>Ask</b> participants: What do you think are the major causes of gun accidents? <b>Discuss</b> responses briefly. <b>State</b> that <u>ignorance</u> and <u>carelessness</u> are the primary causes: a lack of knowledge of firearm safety or operation (ignorance), or the failure to apply one's knowledge when handling guns (carelessness).	
3. The fundamental NRA rules for safe gun handling	3. <b>Distribute</b> the <i>NRA Gun Safety Rules</i> card to participants. <b>Explain</b> that the NRA has developed three basic rules which should always be applied simultaneously when handling or using a gun.	Step 3 qualifies for teaching req. 2b
a) <u>ALWAYS</u> keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.	a) <b>Turn</b> with participants to the three rules in the brochure. <b>Have participants read</b> the first rule aloud. <b>Ask:</b> What do you think is meant by a "safe direction"? <b>Discuss</b> responses briefly. <b>Explain</b> that this rule means that a gun must always be pointed so that even if it were to discharge, it would not cause injury or damage. <b>Note</b> that controlling the gun's <u>muzzle</u> is the key, and that common sense will dictate the safest direction. <b>Indicate</b> the safe direction(s) in the facility you are using.  <b>Demonstrate</b> this rule by <b>picking up</b> a rifle, <b>identifying</b> the muzzle, and <b>noting</b> that you have it pointed in a safe direction.	



<p><b>D. Safe Rifle Handling Practical Exercise</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lesson Time: 15 min. max</b></p> <p><b>D. Note</b> that, when handing a firearm to another person, the three rules of gun safety must be observed simultaneously, i.e., gun pointed in a safe direction, finger off the trigger, magazine out, action open, and empty chamber(s) visible.</p> <p><b>Note</b> also that a gun should not be accepted from another person unless its magazine is out, its action open, and its empty chamber(s) visible.</p> <p><b>Hand</b> the rifle you are using in this orientation to one participant at a time.</p> <p><b>Have participants demonstrate</b> the three safety rules while handling the shotgun.</p> <p><b>Have participants describe</b> each action they perform, i.e., that they are keeping the gun pointed in a safe direction, etc. The rifle's action must remain open during this exercise, and must not be manipulated by participants at this time.</p> <p><b>Have each participant hand</b> the rifle back to you when they are done.</p> <p><b>Offer</b> guidance, direction, encouragement, and positive feedback as appropriate.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lesson Time: 5 min. max</b></p>	<p><b>Note:</b> Refer Scouts to pg. 18 in MB Book</p> <p>Step D qualifies for teaching req. 2b</p>
<p><b>E. Rifle Parts: Major Components</b></p> <p>1. Stock</p> <p>2. Barrel</p> <p>3. Action</p>	<p><b>E. Note</b> that all rifles consist of three major components: the <u>stock</u>, the <u>barrel</u>, and the <u>action</u>.</p> <p>1. <b>Turn</b> with participants to the definition of the <u>stock</u> in the <i>Basics of Rifle Shooting</i> handbook. <b>Have participants read</b> the definition aloud. <b>Point out</b> the stock on the rifle you are using.</p> <p>2. <b>Turn</b> with participants to the definition of the <u>barrel</u> in the <i>Basics of Rifle Shooting</i> handbook. <b>Have participants read</b> the definition aloud. <b>Point out</b> the barrel on the rifle you are using.</p> <p>3. <b>Turn</b> with participants to the definition of the <u>action</u> in the <i>Basics of Rifle Shooting</i> handbook. <b>Have participants read</b> the definition aloud. <b>Point out</b> the action on the rifle you are using.</p>	<p>Refer Scouts to pg. 8 in MB Book</p> <p>Step E qualifies for teaching req. 2a</p>

<p><b>F. Rifle Parts:</b></p> <p>1. Stock</p> <p>a. Butt — the rear portion of the stock which is designed to fit against the shoulder.</p> <p>b. Comb — the top portion of the stock, on which the shooter rests the cheek.</p> <p>c. Grip — the area where the hand grasps the stock when firing the rifle</p> <p>d. Fore-end (or forearm) — the part of the stock that extends underneath the barrel. This is where the non-shooting hand holds the rifle to support it. When separate from the rest of the stock, it is called the forearm.</p> <p>2. Barrel</p> <p>a. Bore — the inside of the barrel. The measurement of its diameter is called the <u>caliber</u> of the rifle.</p> <p>b. Muzzle — the front end of the barrel where the bullet exits.</p> <p>c. Breech — the rear of the barrel.</p> <p>d. Chamber — the part of the barrel, located at the breech end, which holds the cartridge at the instant of firing.</p> <p>e. Rifling — composed of spiral lands and grooves cut into the bore. The rifling makes the bullet spin to give it stability.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lesson Time: 10 min. max</b></p> <p><b>F. Rifle Parts:</b></p> <p>1. <b>Review</b> with participants the definition of the <u>stock</u> by asking them to define it.</p> <p><b>Name</b> the rifle parts listed at left, <b>point out</b> their location on the <u>stock</u> of the rifle you are using, and <b>describe</b> briefly the function of each part.</p> <p><b>Review</b> the parts of the <u>stock</u>. <b>Point</b> to each part, <b>have participants name</b> each one, and <b>have participants describe</b> briefly the function of each part.</p> <p>2. <b>Review</b> with participants the definition of the <u>barrel</u> by asking them to define it.</p> <p><b>Name</b> the rifle parts listed at left, <b>point out</b> their location on the <u>barrel</u> of the rifle you are using and describe briefly the function of each part.</p> <p>e. <b>Have participants turn</b> to the <i>Basics of Rifle Shooting</i> handbook for an illustration of rifling.</p>	<p>Refer Scouts to pg. 8 in MB Book</p>
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<p>f. Sights — used to aim the rifle.</p> <p>3. Action</p> <p>a. Receiver — the backbone to which all other parts are attached.</p> <p>b. Bolt/breech block — closes over the chamber to hold the cartridge in place for firing.</p> <p>c. Trigger — when squeezed, activates the firing mechanism to fire the rifle.</p> <p>d. Trigger guard — designed to protect the trigger in order to reduce the possibility of an unintentional firing.</p> <p>e. Magazine — holds cartridges ready for feeding into the chamber.</p> <p>f. Safety — a mechanical device designed to reduce the chance of an unintentional discharge. Since a safety is a mechanical device that can <u>fail</u>, it must be used as a supplement to safe gun handling practices, <u>never</u> as a substitute.</p> <p>g. Action release (if applicable) — allows a closed action to be opened</p> <p><b>G. Rifle Parts: Review</b></p>	<p><b>Review</b> the parts of the <u>barrel</u>. <b>Point</b> to each part, <b>have participants name</b> each one, and have <b>participants describe</b> briefly the function of each part.</p> <p>3. <b>Review</b> with participants the definition of the <u>action</u> by asking them to define it.</p> <p><b>Name</b> the rifle parts listed at left, <b>point out</b> their location on the <u>action</u> of the rifle you are using, and <b>describe</b> briefly the function of each part.</p> <p><b>Review</b> the parts of the <u>action</u>. <b>Point</b> to each part, <b>have participants name</b> each one, and <b>have participants describe</b> briefly the function of each part</p> <p><b>Skip G with Scouts</b></p> <p><b>G. Review</b> <u>all</u> the parts of the <u>stock</u>, <u>barrel</u>, and <u>action</u> listed above. <b>Point</b> to each part, <b>have participants name</b> each one, and <b>have participants describe</b> briefly the function of each part.</p>	
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	<p><b>Observe</b> participants closely. <b>Be sure</b> all applicable safety rules are followed. <b>Offer</b> guidance, direction, encouragement, and positive feedback as appropriate.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lesson Time: 5 min. max</b></p>	
<p><b>J. Conclude Lesson</b></p> <p>1. Summary</p> <p>2. Questions</p> <p>3. Preview</p>	<p>1. <b>Ask</b> participants to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State the goal of the orientation</li> <li>Name the three NRA fundamental rules of safe gun handling.</li> <li>Name the three major components of a rifle and describe their function.</li> <li>Describe the loading and unloading procedures for the specific rifle model used in this orientation.</li> </ol> <p>2. <b>Ask</b> participants what questions they have about this lesson. <b>Answer</b> questions.</p> <p>3. <b>Preview</b> next lesson briefly.</p>	

## Lesson II. Introduction to Ammunition and the Fundamentals of Rifle Shooting

**Note:** Lesson II is taught on Day 2 each week of camp

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** As a result of their participation in this training session, participants will be able to:

- Identify the three items they need to check to determine the proper ammunition for their rifle.
- Identify and define the three major types of cartridge malfunctions and explain how to respond safely when they occur.
- Determine their dominant eye.
- Explain and demonstrate the fundamentals of firing the shot and demonstrate them from the benchrest position.

**LENGTH:** 45 minutes

**FACILITY:** Classroom or Range

**TRAINING AIDS:** Rifle, rifle owner's manual, dummy ammunition, empty cartridge box for the rifle being used, fired case for the rifle being used, sighting device (if applicable), *NRA Basics of Rifle Shooting* handbook, *NRA Gun Safety Rules card*

**NOTE:** Dummy ammunition must be visually distinguishable from live ammunition.) Live Ammo is used after lesson D1-D5 when scouts do live fire shooting

**REFERENCES:** *NRA Basics of Rifle Shooting* handbook.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lesson Time: 5 min. max</b></p>	
<p><b>A. Introduce Lesson</b></p>	<p><b>A. Review</b> the previous lesson briefly. <b>State</b> learning objectives for the current lesson.</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lesson Time: 10 min. max</b></p>	
<p><b>B. Rifle Ammunition</b></p> <p>1. Ammunition compatibility</p>	<p>1. <b>Turn</b> with participants to the <i>NRA Gun Safety Rules card</i>. <b>Have them read</b> the paragraph discussing the rule, "Use only the correct ammunition for your gun."</p>	<p>Refer Scouts to pg. 35-36 in MB Book</p>

	<p><b>Ask</b> participants: How do you know what type of ammunition should be used for a particular gun? <b>Discuss</b> responses briefly. <b>Explain</b> that most firearms have the ammunition type stamped on the <u>gun</u> itself.</p> <p>Following the NRA gun safety rules, <b>show</b> participants the ammunition designation on the rifle being used for this orientation.</p> <p><b>Ask</b> participants: How do you know whether the ammunition you have is the correct type for your gun? <b>Discuss</b> responses briefly. <b>Explain</b> that the ammunition type is identified on the <u>box</u>, and sometimes on the <u>cartridge</u> as well.</p> <p><u>Show</u> participants the ammunition designation on an empty cartridge box, and on a fired case for the rifle used for this orientation.</p> <p><b>Ask</b> participants: What three items should you check to be sure that you are using the correct ammunition for your gun? <b>Review</b> that the <u>gun</u>, the ammunition <u>box</u>, and the ammunition <u>cartridge</u> should be checked to make sure the ammunition is compatible with your gun.</p> <p><b>Note</b>, if appropriate, the ammunition with a different designation may be compatible with the participant's gun. Refer to the rifle's owner's manual for specific recommendations endorsed by the manufacturer.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lesson Time: 10 min. max</b></p>	<p>Step B1 qualifies for teaching BSA req. 2c</p>
<p>2. Cartridge malfunctions</p> <p>a. Misfire</p> <p>b. Hangfire</p> <p>c. Squib load</p>	<p>2. <b>Explain</b> to participants that there are three major types of ammunition malfunctions which may occur:</p> <p>a. A <u>misfire</u> is a failure of the cartridge to fire.</p> <p>b. A <u>hangfire</u> is a perceptible delay in the ignition of a cartridge.</p> <p>c. A <u>squib load</u> is the development of less than normal pressure or velocity after ignition of the cartridge.</p> <p><b>Explain</b> that, if a cartridge fails to fire immediately, it will not be known at first whether the problem is a <u>misfire</u> or a <u>hangfire</u>. Since the problem may be a hangfire, you should wait at least 30 seconds while keeping the gun pointed in a safe direction. After that time, the rifle may be unloaded carefully.</p> <p><b>Explain</b> that, if anything unusual is noticed when a shot is fired, such as a difference in recoil or noise, a squib load may have been fired, and you should <u>stop firing immediately</u>. Squib loads can result in the bullet failing to exit the barrel. The firing of another shot could cause serious injury or damage.</p>	<p>Refer Scouts to pg. 37 in MB Book</p> <p>Step B2 qualifies for teaching req. 2d</p>

<p><b>C. Determining the Dominant Eye</b></p>	<p><b>Explain</b> that, if a squib load is suspected, you must point the gun in a safe direction, unload it, and check the chamber to be sure that it is empty. Then, with the gun pointed in a safe direction and the action open, you must carefully run a cleaning rod through the barrel to be sure a bullet is not stuck in the barrel. If the barrel is obstructed, <u>the gun must not be fired</u> until the barrel has been cleared.</p> <p><b>Review</b> the definitions of misfire, hangfire, and squib load with participants. <b>Have them explain</b> the correct actions to take if these malfunctions occur.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lesson Time: 10 min. max</b></p> <p><b>C. Explain</b> to participants that each individual has a <u>dominant eye</u>: the eye that determines the direction of vision. <b>Note</b> that the dominant eye is used to aim the rifle, so each participant must determine his or her dominant eye before learning the fundamentals of rifle shooting.</p> <p><b>Have participants perform</b> the dominant eye exercise as described in the <i>Basics of Rifle Shooting</i> handbook. <b>Have participants note</b> which of their eyes is dominant.</p> <p><b>Note</b> that right-handed participants with a right dominant eye should shoulder the rifle on the right side. Left-handed participants with a left dominant eye should shoulder the rifle on the left.</p> <p>If a participant is <u>cross-dominant</u> (i.e., is right-handed with a left dominant eye, or vice versa) <b>have the participant try</b> shouldering the rifle on the same side as the dominant eye during the mounting exercise below. If the participant feels more comfortable using the shoulder opposite the dominant eye, he or she may do so. In this case, you may need to block the dominant eye with a piece of translucent tape on the inside of the non-shooting lens of the shooting glasses.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lesson Time: 15 min. max</b></p>	<p>Refer Scouts to pg. 39-40 in MB Book</p>
<p><b>D. Shooting Position</b></p>	<p>1. <b>Ask</b> participants: What do we mean by “shooting position”? <b>Discuss</b> responses briefly. <b>Explain</b> that <u>shooting position</u> refers to the way you hold your <u>body</u> and the way you hold the <u>rifle</u> when firing the shot. The shooting position is the platform from which all the shooting fundamentals shall be executed.</p> <p><b>Note</b> that in this orientation, only the <u>benchrest</u> position will be taught, a position in which the shooter sits at a table and fires the gun with the non-shooting hand supported by sandbags.</p> <p><b>Refer</b> participants to the <i>Basics of Rifle Shooting</i> handbook for an illustration.</p>	

<p>a) The position of the <u>body</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) The position should be comfortable, balanced, relaxed, provide maximum bone support, and be properly aligned with the target.</li> <li>(2) The participant sits behind the bench or table facing the target.</li> <li>(3) Both elbows rest on the bench.</li> <li>(4) The non-shooting hand is supported by sandbags.</li> <li>(5) The shooting hand is positioned to grasp the rifle grip.</li> <li>(6) The head is erect.</li> </ol> <p>b) The position of the rifle</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) The rifle should be positioned against the shoulder so that you can look through the sights with your dominant eye comfortably and naturally. The cheek should rest firmly against the comb of the stock.</li> <li>(2) The grip of the stock should be grasped with the lower three fingers, lightly resting the thumb on the top of the stock. The hand must be positioned so that the index finger is clear of the stock and can squeeze the trigger straight to the rear. The wrist must remain straight.</li> <li>(3) The fore-end should lie across the palm of the non-shooting hand between the thumb and index finger with the other fingers relaxed. It is best not to grip or squeeze the fore-end, though this may be necessary in larger caliber rifles in order to maintain control when firing.</li> </ol>	<p>a. <b>Explain and demonstrate</b> the elements of a proper position as described at left, and in the rifle handbook.</p> <p><b>Have participants practice</b> the proper benchrest position without a rifle. <b>Have participants describe</b> the elements as they get into position. <b>Block</b> the dominant eye if a cross-dominant participant feels more comfortable using the opposite shoulder.</p> <p><b>Observe</b> participants closely. <b>Offer</b> guidance, direction, encouragement, and positive feedback as appropriate.</p> <p>b. <b>Explain and demonstrate</b> the elements of proper rifle position as described at left, and in the rifle handbook.</p> <p>With participants seated in the benchrest position, <b>have them practice</b> the position using an empty gun. <b>Have participants describe</b> what they are doing as they bring the rifle into position.</p> <p><b>Observe</b> participants closely. <b>Be sure</b> all applicable safety rules are followed.</p> <p><b>Offer</b> guidance, direction, encouragement, and positive feedback as appropriate.</p>	<p>Follow steps a and b</p>
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	<p><b>Note:</b> The following lesson is actually split into two sections. The first section is to have the scout get do steps E1-E5 and that should take 8 scouts about 15 minutes.</p> <p>The remaining time should be used for live fire for scouts to experience their first shot. No scoring just pull the trigger and get the first experience.</p> <p>The NRA FIRST Steps program does not have participants shooting until lesson three. The goal of the merit badge program is to have Scouts shoot on the second day of the merit badge. Therefore, this syllabus has Scouts shooting on the second day prior to lesson three. If you are doing the merit badge as part of the year-round program you should stick to the NRA lesson plan and have Scouts shoot as part of lesson three.</p>	
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<p><b>E. The Fundamentals of Firing a Shot</b></p> <p>1. Aiming</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For open sights with a post or bead front sight, the front sight should be centered in the rear sight notch and the top of the front sight must be even with the top of the rear sight.</li> <li>For aperture sights, the front sight ring (or top of the front sight post) must be centered in the rear aperture.</li> <li>For telescopic sights, the eye must be positioned so that you can clearly see the entire field of view when looking through the scope.</li> <li>As with a telescopic sight, electronic sights that generally resemble a telescopic sight externally, but use a battery illuminated dot or reticle for aiming, eliminate the need to align a rear and front sight.</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lesson Time: 40 min. max</b></p> <p><b>Explain</b> to participants that, although broken down into individual components, the fundamentals blend together into one integrated act of firing a shot. <b>Explain</b> that “fundamental” means “basic” or “essential.”</p> <p><b>Explain and demonstrate</b> the following fundamentals of shooting:</p> <p>Aiming consists of two steps. The first step in aiming is to properly align the front and rear sights with the dominant eye. This process is referred to as “sight alignment.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The relationship between the eye, the rear sight, and the front sight (or scope).</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Maintaining proper sight alignment is crucial to accurate shooting.</p> <p>The second step is “sight picture.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The relationship between the aligned sights (or scope) and the target.</li> </ul> <p>The eye can only focus on one object at a time. It cannot keep the rear sight, the front sight, and the target in focus simultaneously. The shooter must focus, both visually and mentally, on the front sight. The front sight should appear sharp and clear, the rear sight should look less sharp, and the target should look blurred. For telescopic sights, the scope reticle is simply centered on the target (and the target is not blurred).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ideally, it is best to keep both eyes open while aiming. An equal amount of light is available to both eyes and depth perception is better. Facial contortions and muscle tension are also eliminated.</li> <li>There will always be some movement of the aligned sights (or scope/dot) relative to the target. The shooter should try to maintain proper sight alignment while keeping the movement of the gun to a minimum.</li> </ul>	<p>Refer Scouts to pg. 39-44 in MB Book</p> <p>Step E qualifies for teaching MB req. 2e</p>
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<p>2. Breath Control</p>	<p>To minimize movement of the rifle, the breathing must be stopped while the shot is fired.</p> <p>Interrupting our normal breathing cycle while firing a shot is called “breath control.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before each shot, take a breath. When you are pointing the front sight at the target, exhale and stop breathing. Do not breathe until after the shot is fired.</li> <li>• The shot should be fired within six to eight seconds of when you have stopped breathing. If your breath is held too long, muscle tremors may start. Point the gun in a safe direction, take your finger off the trigger, put the gun down, relax, take a few breaths, and begin the cycle again.</li> </ul> <p><b>Have participants exercise</b> proper breath control from the benchrest position. <b>Have them note</b> how movement of the gun and body is reduced during the interruption of the breathing cycle.</p>	
<p>3. Hold Control</p> <p><b>Note</b> - The first step in minimizing movement is to get into a stable shooting position, which, as discussed previously, is the platform from which all the fundamentals are executed. An arc of movement will barely be noticeable in the bench rest position.</p>	<p>Hold control is the process of maintaining the correct relationship between the shooter, gun, and target.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The “hold” is the movement of your aligned sights in relation to the target that you see while aiming. The amount and speed of movement shows how well you are controlling your hold. Your task is to hold the gun as still as possible, which is best done by relaxing and letting your position do the work for you. Concentrate on holding your body and the gun as still as you can.</li> <li>• It is impossible to attain a perfect sight picture all the time. This motion of the gun/body combination as seen through the sights on the target is called the “wobble area” or “arc of movement.”</li> <li>• The shooter needs to concentrate on the sight alignment and holding as still as possible in order to exercise effective hold control.</li> </ul>	
<p>4. Trigger Control</p>	<p><b>Ask</b> participants where the trigger is <i>located</i> and what is its <i>function</i>. <b>Discuss</b> responses briefly. <b>Review</b> the location of the trigger on the gun being used in this orientation.</p> <p>Trigger control is the process of pulling or pressing the trigger smoothly and straight to the rear firing the firearm while maintaining as near perfect sight alignment as possible and an acceptable sight picture.</p>	

<p>5. Follow-through</p>	<p>The best finger placement will allow the shooter to pull the trigger straight to the rear without causing the front sight to move in the rear sight when the trigger “break” occurs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The middle of the pad on the fingertip – the most sensitive part of the finger – is the preferred position for finger placement. But, maintaining the best possible sight alignment as the shot is fired is much more important than putting the trigger finger in a “preferred position” on the trigger.</li> <li>• Hand size and shooter finger strength may be another factor on the exact placement of the trigger finger.</li> <li>• When squeezing the trigger each shot should come as a surprise.</li> <li>• Trigger squeeze and sight alignment must be done simultaneously while keeping the movement of the gun to a minimum.</li> </ul> <p><b>Have participants practice</b> proper trigger squeeze using an empty rifle. <b>Have participants describe</b> what they are doing while they are placing their finger on the trigger and squeezing it. (<i>Consult the rifle’s owner’s manual to see whether the manufacturer approves dry firing. If not, use dummy ammunition or “snap caps” to protect the rifle from damage.</i>)</p> <p><b>Observe</b> participants closely. <b>Be sure</b> all applicable safety rules are followed. <b>Offer</b> guidance, direction, encouragement, and positive feedback as appropriate.</p> <p>Ask participants how follow through is used in sports such as tennis or golf? Discuss the response briefly.</p> <p>In golf and tennis, follow-through is the continuation of a motion after the golf club or tennis racket hits the ball. The same principle applies in shooting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Follow-through is simply maintaining aiming, breath control, hold control and trigger control before, during and after firing the shot</li> <li>• Follow-through is the “glue” that holds the other fundamentals together and makes firing the center shot possible</li> <li>• If the shooter focuses on the front sight and follows-through correctly, the shooter should be able to “call the shot,” i.e., indicate its location on the target before looking at the bullet hole</li> </ul> <p><b>Have participants practice</b> proper follow- through using an empty rifle. <b>Have participants describe</b> what they are doing after the trigger breaks and why.</p> <p><b>Observe</b> participants closely. <b>Be sure</b> all applicable safety rules are followed. <b>Offer</b> guidance, direction, encouragement, and positive feedback as appropriate.</p>	
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<p><b>F. Conclude Lesson</b></p> <p>1. Summary</p> <p>2. Questions</p> <p>3. Preview</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lesson Time: 5 min. max</b></p> <p>1. <b>Ask</b> participants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What three items need to be checked to make sure you are using the correct ammunition for your gun? What two ammunition designations need to be checked?</li> <li>What are the three major types of cartridge malfunctions? What should you do if they occur?</li> <li>Which of your eyes is dominant? What is the dominant eye used for in shooting?</li> <li>What are the five fundamentals of firing the shot? On what must you focus, visually and mentally, while firing?</li> </ol> <p>2. <b>Ask</b> participants what questions they have about this lesson. <b>Answer</b> questions.</p> <p><b>Preview</b> next lesson briefly</p>	
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### Lesson III. Introduction to Rifle Shooting from the Benchrest Position

**Note:** Lesson III is taught on day 3 each week of camp

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** As a result of their participation in this training session, participants will be able to:

1. Explain the three basic range commands, the procedures to be followed if one has a problem with a firearm or drops ammunition, and any applicable range rules which apply to the facility being used
2. Discuss and explain the eight NRA gun safety rules to be followed when shooting and storing a rifle.
3. Safely shoot a target from the benchrest position using the fundamentals of rifle shooting.

**LENGTH:** 60 minutes

**FACILITY:** Range

**TRAINING AIDS:** Rifle, rifle owner's manual, factory ammunition, hearing and eye protection, blank targets, sandbags, benchrests, chairs, small screwdriver (for sight adjustments), *NRA Basics of Rifle Shooting* handbook, *NRA Gun Safety Rules* card.

**REFERENCES:** *NRA Basics of Rifle Shooting* handbook.

Content	INSTRUCTIONAL NOTES	
<p><b>A. Introduce Lesson</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lesson Time: 5 min. max</b></p> <p><b>A. Review</b> the previous lesson briefly. <b>State</b> learning objectives for the current lesson.</p>	
<p><b>B. Range Safety and Shooting Facility Orientation</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lesson Time: 10 min. max</b></p>	

1. Range layout	1. <b>Point out</b> to participants the layout of the range: the location of the firing points, firing line, ready area, etc. <b>Explain</b> the activities that are permitted in each area.	
2. Range personnel	2. <b>Introduce</b> participants to the range personnel, e.g., the chief range safety officer, other range safety officers, etc., and describe their functions.	
3. Range commands and procedures	3. <b>Name</b> the three basic range commands and <b>explain</b> what they mean:	
a. “Load”	a. <b>Explain</b> that shooters may load their rifles only after this command has been given. <b>Emphasize</b> that this command authorizes shooters to load their rifles, and nothing more. Shooters must still keep their fingers off the trigger.	
b. “Commence firing”	b. <b>Explain</b> that, after this command has been given, shooters may fire their rifles when they are ready. <b>Emphasize</b> that shooters are not required to begin firing immediately.	
c. “Cease firing”	c. <b>Explain</b> that, when this command is given, shooters must stop shooting <u>immediately</u> , remove their fingers from the triggers, keep their guns pointed in a safe direction, and await further instructions from the range safety officer. These instructions may include such commands as, “Unload ... Magazines out ... Actions open ... Guns on the bench.”  <b>Emphasize</b> that the “cease firing” command may be used during normal range operation or in an emergency situation. <u>Anyone</u> observing an unsafe situation may use the “cease firing” command.	
d. Problem with firearm	d. <b>Explain</b> that a shooter who has any type of problem with the rifle must take their finger off the trigger, keep the gun pointed in a safe direction, and raise his or her hand for assistance from one of the range personnel.	
e. Dropped ammunition	e. <b>Remind</b> participants that ammunition that falls to the ground must remain on the ground until it may be safely retrieved by someone who is not handling a firearm (the instructor or another participant under the instructor’s direction).  <b>Review</b> by asking participants: What is the meaning of the command, “Load”? “Commence firing”? “Cease firing”? Who may issue the “cease firing” command? What procedures should be followed by a shooter who is experiencing a problem with a rifle? What should you do if you accidentally drop ammunition?	
4. Range rules	4. Explain and discuss the range rules for the range you are using.	

<p><b>C. Rules for Safe Shooting</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review of the three fundamental NRA rules for safe gun handling.</li> <li>2. NRA rules for using and storing a gun. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Know your target and what is beyond.</li> <li>b. Know how to use the gun safely.</li> <li>c. Be sure the gun is safe to operate.</li> <li>d. Use only the correct ammunition for your gun.</li> <li>e. Wear hearing and eye protection as appropriate.</li> <li>f. Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting.</li> <li>g. Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.</li> <li>h. Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting situations require additional safety precautions.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lesson Time: 10 min. max</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review the three fundamental NRA rules for safe gun handling by asking participants to name them.</li> <li>2. Turn with participants to the rules for using and storing guns in the <i>NRA Gun Safety Rules</i> card. Have participants read the first rule aloud, and then have the participants read the rest of the accompanying paragraph to themselves. Ask participants to explain the importance of the first rule. Repeat this procedure for each of the remaining rules.</li> </ol>	<p>Refer Scouts to pg. 17-19 in MB Book</p> <p>Step C qualifies for teaching req. 1c and 2f</p>
<p><b>D. Preparation for Shooting Exercises</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lesson Time: 10 min. max</b></p> <p><b>D.</b> Prior to the range session, <b>inspect</b> the participant's rifle for overall appearance, fit of parts, function, and operation. If it is a new-in-the-box rifle, it should be cleaned before shooting. If there is any question concerning whether or not the rifle is safe to shoot, <b>have it checked</b> by a reputable gunsmith before using it in the orientation.</p> <p>Use quality factory ammunition. <b>Inspect</b> the ammunition to be used during the shooting exercises to be sure it is clean, free of obvious defects, and compatible with the gun. <b>Keep</b> the ammunition under your control. If there is any question concerning whether or not the ammunition is safe to use in the participant's rifle, <b>check</b> with a reputable gunsmith before using it in the orientation.</p>	

	<p><b>Be sure</b> that you and participants are wearing hearing and eye protection before entering the range. <b>Pre-prepare</b> the firing point with the necessary equipment: a benchrest, chair, sandbags, and the rifle. <b>Have</b> a copy of the NRA <i>Basics of Rifle Shooting</i> handbook and the owner's manual for your participant's rifle handy for reference.</p> <p><b>Set</b> a relatively large <u>blank</u> target approximately 50 feet in front of the firing line.</p> <p>In the case of multiple participants, there should be one NRA instructor per firing point, one rifle per firing point, and no more than two participants per firing point. <u><b>Be sure</b> to increase range time proportionately if there are two participants at a firing point.</u></p> <p><b>Use</b> the "coach/pupil" method with multiple participants: while one participant (the "pupil") shoots, <b>involve</b> the other participant (the "coach") in the learning process by guiding him or her to watch the "pupil" and offer feedback under your direction.</p>	
<b>E. Shooting from the Benchrest Position</b>	<p><b>Lesson Time: 45 min. max</b></p> <p><b>E. Instruct</b> participants using the NRA eight-step method for teaching beginning rifle shooters.</p> <p>At each step, <b>observe</b> participant closely. <b>Be sure</b> all applicable safety rules are followed. <b>Offer</b> guidance, direction, and positive feedback as appropriate.</p>	Refer Scouts to pg. 39-44 and 52-55 in MB book
1. Study benchrest position	1. <b>Turn</b> with participants to the rifle handbook. <b>Review</b> the details of the benchrest position and <b>demonstrate</b> the position for participants.	Step E qualifies for teaching req. 2g
2. Practice position without rifle	2. <b>Direct</b> <u>one</u> participant to practice what he or she has just read, heard, and seen. The gun is not yet used so the participant can concentrate totally on the position of the body.	
3. Practice position with rifle	3. <b>Add</b> the rifle once the participant has achieved the correct body position. <b>Review</b> the elements of the position of the rifle, and <b>be sure</b> the participant performs them properly. If the participant's rifle is a semi-automatic, <b>be sure</b> that the participant keeps the fingers away from any recoiling parts.	
4. Align position with target	4. <b>Be sure</b> the participant is positioned so that the gun points naturally at the center of the target. <b>Check</b> natural point of aim by having participant lower eyes away from the sights momentarily, and then look back at the sight picture. The aligned sights should still be on target. If necessary, <b>direct</b> the participant to adjust the position.	

<p>5. Dry fire exercise using the fundamentals of rifle shooting</p> <p>a. Aiming</p> <p>b. Breath control</p> <p>c. Hold Control</p> <p>d. Trigger control</p> <p>e. Follow-through</p> <p>6. Live fire exercises</p> <p>7. Adjust sights</p> <p>8. Resume live fire exercises</p>	<p>5. <b>Direct</b> participant to practice the fundamentals of rifle shooting by dry firing the rifle. (<b>Consult</b> the rifle's owner's manual to see whether dry firing is approved by the manufacturer. If it is not, <b>use</b> dummy ammunition or "snap caps" to protect the rifle from damage.)</p> <p><b>Review</b> the fundamentals. <b>Emphasize</b> focus on the front sight and the importance of squeezing the trigger while maintaining proper sight alignment. After the participant has demonstrated reasonable skill and confidence in dry firing the rifle, <b>move on</b> to the next step.</p> <p>6. <b>Supply</b> participant with one round of ammunition at a time. <b>Direct</b> participant to "load." When the participant is ready, <b>direct</b> him or her to "commence firing." Then <b>instruct</b> participant to "cease firing" and unload. <b>Have participant fire</b> a three- or five-shot group on the target.</p> <p><b>Observe</b> participant closely. <b>Watch</b> the gun and the shooter, not the target. <b>Be sure</b> all applicable safety rules are followed. <b>Offer</b> guidance, direction, and positive feedback as appropriate. <b>Involve</b> another participant (the "coach") in the learning process by guiding him or her to watch the "pupil" and offer feedback under your direction.</p> <p><b>Supply</b> participant with three or five rounds of ammunition. <b>Direct</b> participant to "load." When the participant is ready, <b>direct</b> him or her to "commence firing." <b>Be sure</b> the participant rests between shots. After the group has been fired, instruct participant to "cease firing" and unload.</p> <p><b>Observe, offer</b> feedback, and <b>involve</b> the other participant as before.</p> <p><b>Have participant fire</b> additional groups as time permits</p> <p>7. <u>If time permits, and if participant has shot groups of a reasonably small size</u>, <b>explain</b> the rule for adjusting sights: "Move the rear sight in the same direction that the hits on the target should move." Direct participant to make sight adjustments as necessary.</p> <p>8. <b>Have participant fire</b> additional groups as time permits. If you are using the coach/pupil method, <b>have participants reverse</b> roles and <b>repeat</b> the eight steps.</p>	
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**Note:** The list below uses the Rifle Merit Badge Book page 5 to cover requirements 2k and 2l. These requirements are not found in the NRA *FIRST Steps* Lesson Plans.

#### **Requirement 2k.**

Using a .22 caliber rimfire rifle and shooting from a benchrest position or supported prone position at 50 ft., fire five groups (three shots per group) that can be covered by a quarter. Using these targets, explain how to adjust sights to zero a rifle.

### **Requirement 21**

Adjust sights to center the group on the target and fire five groups (five shots per group). According to the target used, each shot in the group must meet the following minimum score:

(1) A-32 targets-9; (2) A-17 or TQ-1 targets-7; (3) A-36 targets-5

<p><b>F. Review of Shooting Practice</b></p>          <p><b>G. Conclude Lesson</b></p> <p>1. Summary</p>          <p>2. Questions</p>          <p>3. Preview</p>	<div>Lesson Time: 5 min. max</div> <p><b>F. Ask</b> participants what they learned from the day's shooting practice.</p> <p><b>Discuss</b> responses briefly. <b>Supplement</b> their comments with positive feedback as appropriate.</p> <div>Lesson Time: 5 min. max</div> <p>1. <b>Ask</b> participants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>What are the three basic range commands? What do they mean?</li><li>What are the eight NRA safety rules for using and storing a gun?</li><li>What have you learned from your practice of the fundamentals of rifle shooting?</li></ol> <p>2. Ask participants what questions they have about this lesson. Answer questions.</p> <p>3. Preview next lesson briefly.</p>	
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### **Lesson IV. Introduction to Rifle Cleaning, Storage, and Training Opportunities**

**Note:** Lesson IV is taught on day 4 each week of camp

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** As a result of their participation in this training session, participants will be able to:

1. Identify the materials needed to clean a rifle.
2. Outline the three safety guidelines to be followed when cleaning a rifle.
3. Explain and demonstrate how to clean a rifle safely.
4. Name the NRA rule for safe firearm storage, and discuss options for applying this rule when storing a rifle.
5. Discuss the three hygienic guidelines following exposure to airborne particulate lead and cleaning solvent residue.
6. Discuss the benefits of receiving additional rifle training through the NRA Basic Firearm Training Program.

**LENGTH:** 30 minutes

**FACILITY:** Classroom or Range

**TRAINING AIDS:** Rifle, rifle owner's manual, rifle cleaning equipment, lockable rifle case, *NRA Basics of Rifle Shooting* handbook, one per participant of the following: *NRA Marksmanship Qualification* booklet, *NRA Gun Safety Rules* card

**REFERENCES:** NRA Guide: *Basics of Rifle Shooting* handbook.

Content	INSTRUCTIONAL NOTES	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lesson Time: 5 min. max</b></p>	
<p><b>A. Introduce Lesson</b></p>	<p><b>A. Review</b> the previous lesson briefly. <b>State</b> learning objectives for the current lesson.</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lesson Time: 40 min. max</b></p>	
<p><b>B. Cleaning a Rifle</b></p> <p>1. Importance of cleaning</p>	<p>1. <b>Turn</b> with participants to the <i>NRA Gun Safety Rules</i> card. <b>Have participants review</b> the rule, “Be sure the gun is safe to operate” and the paragraph that follows. <b>Discuss</b> the importance of regular cleaning and proper storage as part of a gun’s general upkeep as stated in the brochure. <b>Note</b> that a gun should be cleaned after every shooting session.</p>	<p>Refer Scouts to pg. 30 in MB Book</p>
<p>2. Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Cleaning rod and attachments (tips and bore brush)</li> <li>b. Cloth patches</li> <li>c. Bore cleaning solvent</li> <li>d. Gun oil</li> <li>e. Clean cloth</li> <li>f. Small brush</li> </ul>	<p>2. <b>Display</b> the materials necessary to clean a rifle. <b>Identify</b> each of the items listed at left, and <b>explain</b> their use in cleaning a rifle.</p> <p><b>Have participants note</b> manufacturers’ guidelines for the use of gun cleaning products.</p>	<p>Step B qualifies for teaching req. 2h</p>
<p>3. Safety guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Ammunition must not be present in the area</li> <li>b. The gun must be unloaded</li> <li>c. The action must be open</li> </ul>	<p>3. <b>Ask</b> participants: Based on our discussions of gun safety, what are some of the safety guidelines you think should be followed when cleaning a rifle? <b>Discuss</b> responses briefly. <b>State</b> that, when cleaning a rifle, the guidelines listed at left <u>must</u> be followed.</p>	
<p>4. Practical exercise</p>	<p>4. <b>Conduct</b> a cleaning practical exercise by having participants clean the rifle under your direction. <b><u>Be sure no ammunition is present in the area during the cleaning exercise.</u></b></p>	<p>Refer Scouts to pg. 31-32 in MB Book</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Attach brush to cleaning rod and apply bore cleaner to brush.</li> <li>b. Run brush through bore 8-10 times.</li> <li>c. Run wet patch through bore.</li> <li>d. Run dry patch through bore.</li> <li>e. If dry patch dirty, repeat first four steps until dry patch comes out clean.</li> <li>f. Run lightly oiled patch through bore.</li> <li>g. Use small brush and solvent to clean other parts of gun.</li> <li>h. Wipe rifle with lightly oiled cloth.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Follow</b> the cleaning guidelines outlined in the NRA <i>Basics of Rifle Shooting</i> handbook. (The guidelines are summarized briefly at left.) <b>Note</b> that the rifle bore should be cleaned from the breech end whenever possible.</p> <p><b>Inform</b> participants that some rifles need to be partially disassembled prior to cleaning. <b>Have participants consult</b> the rifle's owner's manual for disassembly/reassembly directions and for any specific recommendations the manufacturer may have regarding cleaning.</p>	<p>Step 4 qualifies for teaching req. 2i</p>
<p><b>C. Hygienic guidelines following exposure to airborne particulate lead or cleaning solvent residue</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Refrain from eating, drinking, smoking, applying makeup, or otherwise placing your hands and/or fingers in proximity to your mouth or nose while on the range or while cleaning a gun.</li> <li>2. After leaving the range or cleaning a gun, wash your hands and face thoroughly before eating, drinking, smoking, applying makeup, or otherwise placing your hands and/or fingers in proximity to your mouth or nose.</li> <li>3. Change and wash clothing after a shooting or gun cleaning session so that exposure to airborne particulate lead or solvent residue may be further minimized.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lesson Time: 5 min. max</b></p> <p><b>C. Ask</b> participants: What hygienic practices should be followed during and after a shooting or gun cleaning session? <b>Discuss</b> responses briefly.</p> <p><b>Explain</b> the three hygienic guidelines at left. <b>Note</b> that they should be practiced by individuals who were present or otherwise exposed at the range even if they did not participate in the shooting session.</p>	<p>Refer Scouts to pg. 56 in MB Book</p> <p>Step 4 qualifies for teaching req. 1h</p>

<p><b>D. Storing a Rifle</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NRA rule for safe firearm storage</li> <li>2. Options for safe rifle storage</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lesson Time: 5 min. max</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Turn</b> with participants to the <i>NRA Gun Safety Rules</i> card. <b>Have participants review</b> the rule, “Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons” and the paragraph that follows. <b>Note</b> that there is not a universally applicable method for applying this rule, and that storage options must take into account each individual’s particular situation.</li> <li>2. <b>Discuss</b> some of the options available for rifle storage, such as gun cases, cabinets, safes, etc. <b>Show</b> participants a lockable rifle case as an example of a storage device.</li> </ol> <p><b>Note</b> that ammunition should generally be stored separately from guns, and should likewise be stored so that it is inaccessible to unauthorized persons. <b>Note</b> also that there may be state or local laws governing the storage of guns and ammunition.</p>	<p>Refer Scouts to pg. 23-27 in MB Book</p> <p>Step D qualifies for teaching Req. 2j</p>
<p><b>E. The “Next Step”: Additional Shotgun Shooting Activities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The NRA Basic Firearm Training Program</li> <li>2. Additional NRA training opportunities</li> <li>3. The National Rifle Association</li> <li>4. Other shooting activities - Discuss local activities in which participants may practice and develop their shooting skills after they receive additional training. Refer participants to your NRA-affiliated shooting clubs, and local shooting ranges.</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lesson Time: 5 min. max</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Discuss</b> the advantages of receiving additional rifle training in an NRA Basic Rifle Shooting Course. <b>Provide</b> participants with a schedule of upcoming NRA Basic Course in the area, and <b>encourage</b> them to attend.</li> <li>2. <b>Inform</b> participants that the NRA has developed additional rifle training opportunities, including advanced marksmanship clinics for competitive shooters. <b>Note</b> that the NRA also has special programs available for young shooters, such as the NRA National Junior Rifle Camp.</li> <li>3. <b>Distribute</b> copies of NRA membership applications. <b>Discuss</b> the advantages of NRA membership and review several programs available to the shooters from the NRA, and <b>invite</b> them to join.</li> <li>4. <b>Distribute</b> <i>NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program</i> booklets. Briefly <b>describe</b> rifle programs.</li> </ol>	

**Note:** Instead of teaching Lesson E above, teach merit badge requirements 1d thru 1f and 1g and 1i of the Rifle Merit Badge Book.

**Time length to teach this section is 20 minutes max.**

### **Requirement 1d**

Give the main points of the laws for owning and using guns in your community and state. Consult local and state law enforcement for this information.

### **Requirement 1e**

Explain how hunting is related to the wise use of renewable wildlife resources. Reference Rifle Shooting merit badge book pages 80-82, "Conservation, Recreation, and more".

### **Requirement 1f**

Obtain a copy of the hunting laws for your state. Explain the main points of hunting laws in your state and give any special laws on the use of guns and ammunition.

Reference Rifle Shooting Merit Badge book pages 82-83.

### **Requirement 1g**

Identify and explain how you can join or be a part of shooting sport activities.

Reference Rifle Shooting Merit Badge Book pages 86-89, "Olympic Games and Shooting".

### **Requirement 1i**

Give your counselor a list of sources that you could contact for information on firearms and their uses. Reference Rifle Shooting Merit Badge book pages 95-96, "Rifle Shooting Resources".

After teaching the requirements above you are done with DAY 4.

## **DAY 5- AS TIME ALLOWS**

Continue qualification shooting as needed for the merit badge. If a Scout has met their shooting qualifications for the merit badge, have them continue shooting to qualify for the NRA Marksmanship Qualification program awards. You can download the awards book from the internet.

**Note:** Skip this section for merit badge classes.

<b>F. Orientation Review</b>		
<b>G. Orientation Certificates</b>	G. <b>Ask</b> participants what questions they have about anything that was covered during the orientation. <b>Answer</b> questions.	
<b>H. Thank You</b>	H. <b>Distribute</b> completed NRA <i>FIRST Steps</i> Rifle Orientation Certificates to qualified participants. <b>Congratulate</b> them on their accomplishments, and <b>invite</b> them to attend your next NRA Basic Shooting Course.  I. A special thanks needs to go to the NRA Foundation and its generous donors for helping make this course possible.  <b>Thank</b> participants for their interest in firearm education and for their participation in the training programs of the National Rifle Association.	

## APPENDIX 3

### **SAMPLE ONLY**

**This is an example of one council's standard operating procedures.**

**Your council will need to write its SOP  
to account for individual range situations unique to its camp.**

## **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR RIFLE, SHOTGUN, AND PISTOL RANGES**

## I. Authorized Use of Range Facilities

- A. The council camp shooting ranges may be in operation only when the camp ranger gives permission. For special council/district events, shooting ranges must have the permission of council camping director.
- B. Council ranges will be under the supervision of a Range Safety Officer, 21 years of age or older, holding a current NRA Range Safety Officer certification. There must also be one or more NRA instructor(s) certified for that firearm, 21 years of age or older, holding a current NRA instructor certification. The ratio of NRA firearm-specific instructors to students is specified below.
- C. All Range Safety Officers and NRA-certified firearm instructors must have a copy of their certification(s) on file with the NRA training team/shooting sports committee as well as on their person while operating the range.
- D. The Range Safety Officer is responsible for the operation of a specific range. They are to run the range, maintain safety, and ensure all rules are followed. In order to fulfill these duties, the Range Safety Officer cannot be involved in any instruction during live fire.
- E. Rifle ranges have a ratio of one instructor to a maximum of eight students. There is also one Range Safety Officer per range.
- F. Shotgun ranges have a ratio of one instructor to one student. Current facilities can service no more than two participants and one trap. There is also one Range Safety Officer per range.
- G. Pistol ranges have a ratio of one instructor to one participant. Current facilities can service no more than six participants. There is also one Range Safety Officer per range.
- H. Range operation will conform to current National Camp Accreditation Program standards and the *Guide to Safe Scouting*. You can download from [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org).
- I. For every one hour that you are open exclusively for your own unit, you must be open two hours to the camp. If there are only a couple of troops, you can contact them first to see if they are interested and then set hours accordingly.
- J. Range equipment and ammunition will be checked out by the camp ranger to the Range Safety Officer and checked back in to the camp ranger.
- K. You may have only one class and caliber of firearm and ammunition on the range during live fire.
- L. The log with the standard operating procedures must be signed each time you run a range.

M. The use of personal firearms and personal ammunition is prohibited.

- N. Verify that if a troop, crew or ship are sponsoring the activity, that at least one registered adult leader has completed the online Range SAFETY training available at [my.Scouting.org](http://my.Scouting.org).

## II. Opening Range

- A. Check that there is sufficient eye and ear protection equipment present.
- B. Check the range and equipment for safety issues prior to the start of your sessions.
- C. When ready to open, put the range flag up to show that you are ready. (Current flag locations are marked.)

## III. Range Safety Briefing

- A. While gathered at a location outside the firing line:
  - 1. Introduce the range staff and who will be in charge of the range.
  - 2. Review the three “Fundamental Rules for Safe Gun Handling” (verbatim):
    - a. **Always** keep the gun pointed in a safe direction. (Declare that on this range “safe direction” means “toward the targets.”)
    - b. **Always** keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
    - c. **Always** keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.
  - 3. Review general range rules:
    - Know and obey all range commands.
    - No running or horseplay.
    - Listen to and obey the Range Safety Officer and instructor(s) at all times.
    - Shoot only at authorized targets.
    - Raise your hand to ask questions or to indicate a misfire (explain misfire).
    - Point out the spectator area.
    - Point out when and where eye and ear protection is or is not required.
    - Spectators must not converse with participants while they are on the range.
    - Participants and spectators ask permission to enter or exit the range.
    - **Remember SAFETY first.**
  - 4. Review equipment:
    - Explain how to hold the gun.
    - Explain how to operate the gun.
    - Explain how to sight in on the target.
    - Explain sight picture.
    - Explain how to load the gun and prepare to fire.
  - 5. Review the targets:
    - Explain to the participants what they will be shooting at.
    - Explain to them what they are attempting to do.
    - Discuss shot groupings.

6. Eye and ear protection. Explain how to properly put them on and fit them as required.
7. Eye dominance. Eye dominance should be checked with all participants.
8. Shooting Fundamentals. Review the five shooting fundamentals:
  - Position
  - Sight picture
  - Breathing
  - Trigger control
  - Follow-through
9. To indicate an EMERGENCY OR HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS.
  - Use the command: **“CEASE FIRE!”**
  - Purpose: To stop all shooting routinely or, in the case of an emergency, immediately.
  - Action: Participants immediately stop shooting, continue to keep their muzzle pointed downrange, remove their finger from within the trigger guard, unload and clear the firearm as instructed, and wait for further instructions.
  - **A cease-fire can be called by anyone!**

#### B. Range commands and actions:

1. To prepare the range for live fire, the following commands are recommended for you to use. Please use your discretion in using them:
  - a. Command: **“Move forward/take your position on the firing line.”**
    - Purpose: To get participants into position to prepare to begin shooting.
    - Action: Participants will move from behind the ready line to their assigned position. Remind them as required: **DO NOT TOUCH YOUR RIFLE!** Let them get comfortable, and ensure they are in the correct position.
  - b. Command: **“Protective gear on.”**
    - Action: Participants should put on their eye protection first, then ear protection.
  - c. Command: **“You may pick up your rifles.”**
    - Action: Participants will pick up their rifle, sight in on the target, make any final adjustments, and prepare to load.
  - d. Command: **“Load!”**
    - Purpose: To notify the Participants that they may load their first round.
    - Action: Participants will load their first round, close the bolt, keep their finger off the trigger, and wait for the next command.
  - e. Command: **“Is the line ready?”**
    - Purpose: To determine if all participants along the line are ready.
    - Action: All participants NOT ready should indicate their status to the Rangemaster. Sufficient time will be allowed for the participant to complete their preparation.
  - f. Command: **“Ready on the right?”**
    - Purpose: To declare that the participants have indicated they are ready on the right side of the range.

- Action: Any participant not ready at this command may choose to either alert the Rangemaster that they are not ready or to complete the process of getting ready before the final command has been given.
- g. Command: **“Ready on the left?”**
    - Purpose: To declare that the participants have indicated they are ready on the left side of the range.
    - Action: Any participant not ready at this command may choose to either alert the Rangemaster that they are not ready or to complete the process of getting ready before the final command has been given.
  - h. Command: **“The firing line is ready.”**
    - Purpose: To notify all participants that the range is about to be under live fire.
    - Action: Participants simply await the next command. If anyone is not ready at that point, they should notify a Rangemaster. (Audible or raised hand)
  - i. Command: **“Commence firing!”**
    - Purpose: To declare that the range is formally open for live fire.
    - Action: The participants may commence the prescribed course of fire.
2. To stop firing and declare the range safe:
    - a. Command: **“Cease fire!”**
      - Purpose: To stop all firing.
      - Action: All participants shall open the bolt, lay the rifle down with the bolt up, and remain in position until given further instructions. **If magazines are used, range commands must include “magazines out after firing all your shots”**
    - b. Command: **“Range is clear.”**
      - Purpose: The Range Safety Officer is telling all participants that all guns are unloaded.
    - c. Command: **“Remove protective gear.”**
    - d. Command: **“Pick up your brass, place it in the bucket, and get a new target.”**
    - e. Command: **“You may go change your targets.”**
      - Actions: Participants may move through the gate to the target area.

#### C. Move to the firing line gate:

1. Review again the three Fundamental Rules for Safe Gun Handling (verbatim).
2. Point out the ready line:
  - Participants DO NOT cross the line until instructed to do so by the Range Safety Officer.
  - Participants move back and forth across the line ONLY when instructed to do so by the Range Safety Officer.
  - Participants DO NOT touch the guns until instructed to do so by the Range Safety Officer.

#### IV. Move Onto the Firing Line

- A. Stay behind the ready line.
- B. Explain the “prescribed course of fire,” e.g., how many rounds, time, targets, etc.
- C. Explain “Misfire!” and procedures:
  - A misfire occurs when you pull the trigger and the gun does not fire.
  - Continue to keep the gun pointed at the target and raise your hand, and an instructor will assist you. Also explain “hang fire” and the procedure to be followed.
- D. Review the command **“Load.”**
  - Upon this command, participants may load one round and prepare to fire, but **MUST NOT** fire until the command “Commence firing” is given.
- E. Review the command **“Cease fire”** and explain that participants may also call “Cease fire.”
- F. Begin the firing session:
  - Command: **“Move forward/take your position on the firing line.”**
  - Command: **“Protective gear on.”**
  - Command: **“You may pick up your rifles.”**
  - Command: **“Load.”**
  - Command: **“Is the line ready?”**
  - Command: **“Ready on the right?”**
  - Command: **“Ready on the left?”**
  - Command: **“Ready on the firing line?”**
  - Command: **“Commence firing.”**
  - Command: **“Cease fire.”**
  - Command: **“Range is clear.”**
  - Command: **“Remove protective gear.”**
  - Command: **“Pick up your brass, place it in the bucket, and get a new target.”**
  - Command: **“You may go change your targets.”**
- G. Repeat the commands for each firing sequence.
- H. Leave the range through the gate.

#### V. Closing Procedures

- A. Clear the range of all nonessential personnel.
- B. Put all range equipment away appropriately.
- C. Clean firearms properly.
- D. Remove flag when leaving range.
- E. Return all equipment to the ranger.
- F. Return signed SOP log book to the ranger.

#### VI. Emergency Procedures

- A. Take charge of the situation.
- B. Render aid.
- C. Call for help.
- D. Direct medical help to the location.
- E. Take notes and file an incident report. (Incident report forms can be obtained from the ranger, council staff, or council office and must be filed with the ranger and council office.)

## APPENDIX 6 - PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

To review all Scouting America unauthorized activities,  
please visit <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss07/>

# APPENDIX 13 - INSTRUCTIONAL RIFLE EXPERIENCE

## For Scouts BSA, Venturers And Sea Scouts

### INTRODUCTION

This guide is intended to provide units, districts and councils with an overview of the requirements for running the shooting program ensuring all Scouting America Policies are followed under NRA Certified Rifle Instructor and NRA Range Safety Officer (RSO). In this publication, you will find youth requirements, training requirements for adults who are facilitating a safe handling Rifle instruction program for youth.

### PROGRAM GUIDELINES

#### Youth Requirements

Registered Scouts BSA members, Venturers or Sea Scouts and youth who are age appropriate participating in a Rifle instructional curriculum designed to develop and improve shooting skills.



### STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

The standard operating procedures (SOPs) of the range should also be reviewed by NRA Range Safety Officer before delivering this program. All firearms must be approved for use by the NRA Range Safety Officer.

### THE RANGE

An approved range can include:

- Scouting America Range at an NCAP accredited camp
- Commercial range.

### ADULT SUPERVISION AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

1. Scouting America Youth Protection policies for two deep leadership must be maintained at all times.
2. Instructors must have current certification as an NRA Instructor.
3. RSO must have current certification as an NRA Range Safety Officer (RSO).

### APPLICABLE LAWS

Scouting America safety policies generally run parallel to or go beyond legal mandates. However, it is the camp or activity supervisor's responsibility to confirm and ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations or statutes related to youth handling and using a firearm.

### INSTRUCTIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS PROGRAM

**Purpose:** Teach youth the Knowledge, Skill and Attitude (KSA) of safe handling of a Rifle by participation in a formal Rifle shooting curriculum.

**Examples:** Examples of instructional programs are the Scouts BSA Rifle Shooting Merit Badge and the Venturing Ranger Award. Shooting programs could be held at a Scouting America national accredited camp property, public, or commercial range.

## Youth: Scouts BSA, Venturers, Sea Scouts

- .22 caliber rimfire, bolt-action rifle. Either a breech-loading, single-shot, bolt-action or a repeater bolt action with a box magazine can be used. Tubular or high-capacity magazines are not allowed. If magazines are used, the range commands must include “magazines out after firing all rounds” to ensure the firing line is safe after all shots are fired. This now means a Scout can load more than one round directly into the box magazine to shoot. The trigger pull will be 3 pounds or greater.

Lever action and tubular magazine rifles are approved for use in the Cowboy Action Program ONLY.

**Ammunition:** Correct ammunition for the rifle being fired. Tracer, armor-piercing, and explosive ammunition are not allowed.

### **Reloaded ammunition is not approved for BSA programs.**

**Range:** A range at a Scouting America accredited camp property or a commercial range.

**Instruction for Scouts BSA members:** NRA Basics of Rifle Shooting Course (eight hours), Rifle Merit Badge. Taught only by an NRA Rifle Instructor.

**Instruction for Sea Scouts and Venturers:** Sea Scout Shooting Sports, Venturing Ranger Award or NRA Basics of Rifle Shooting Course (eight hours). Taught only by an NRA Rifle Instructor.

**Required for Scouts BSA members:** Scouting America Rifle Safety Briefing in this document.

**Required for Sea Scouts and Venturers:** Scouting America Rifle Safety Briefing in this document.

**Instruction References:** Scouts BSA Rifle Merit Badge Pamphlet; [Download Ranger Award Requirements](#)

**Safety:** ANSI Z87.1-2010 certified eye protection and appropriate hearing protection is required.

**Range supervision:** A certified NRA Range Safety Officer is to directly supervise all live fire on the range. Additionally a currently certified NRA Rifle Instructor must provide support to the shooters during live fire. These must be two separate individuals.

**Ratio:** One NRA Range Safety Officer (1:8) must be present for each group consisting of a maximum of eight shooters. One NRA certified Rifle Instructor per eight active (1:8) shooters is required when loading and firing a Rifle.

**Course:** Scouts BSA Merit Badge: Using a .22 caliber rimfire rifle and shooting from a bench rest or supported prone position at 50 feet, fire five groups (three shots per group) that can be covered by a quarter.

**Course for Sea Scouts and Venturing:** [Download Ranger Award Requirements](#)

**NRA Basic Rifle Shooting Course:** Shooting activities are described in the course lesson plans. NRA Winchester Qualification Program: Use this program to recognize success as shooters progress.

### **Sample Range commands**

- “Eye and ear protection on”
- “Shooters to the ready line.”
- “Shooters to the firing line”
- “Is the line ready?”
- “Load.”
- “Ready on the firing line.”
- “Commence firing.”
- “Cease fire.”
- “Remove magazines”

## **BEFORE YOUTH ARRIVE AT THE PROGRAM AREA**

All Rifles, ammunition, and targets are provisioned in sufficient quantity to run the program for all shooters without interruption during non-program times by maintenance and support personnel.

### **ON THE RANGE**

- Eye and ear protection should be cleaned between each shooter.
- Range staff will assist the NRA RSO and Instructor by preparing rifles, ammunition to the preparation table, and setting up shooting positions on range.
- General staging areas for shooters and those waiting their turn are clearly marked and safe gun handling rules posted.

**People in program areas adjacent to the firing line must wear ear protection if measured sound levels are 85 dB (decibel) or above.**

## **WHEN YOUTH ARE PRESENT IN THE PROGRAM AREA**

Welcome youth to the area and begin the gun handling safety briefing. NRA Range Safety Officer(RSO) is responsible for all activities on the range.

## RANGE INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Inspected by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

√ = Yes

- ☐ Controlled access/fencing/gates closed
- ☐ Flags or signs displayed
- ☐ Range limits identified
- ☐ Backstop/impact area inspected
- ☐ Ready line/area marked
- ☐ Spectator area designated
- ☐ Supplies available
- ☐ First-aid kit filled/accessible
- ☐ Range rules posted
- ☐ Bulletin board available
- ☐ Rifle racks available
- ☐ Empty trash receptacles available
- ☐ Lockable storage
- ☐ Throwers available and loaded
- ☐ Eye and ear protection available
- ☐ Hand washing Station Available

## Range Safety Briefing – Rifle

- No LIVE Ammunition in the classroom!
- To provide beginning shooters with Knowledge, Skill and Attitude (KSA) necessary to shoot a Rifle safely under supervision of a certified instructor.
- 3 Rules of Gun Safety
  - Always keep your gun pointed in a safe direction
  - Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot
  - Always keep your gun unloaded until ready to use.
- Parts of a Rifle
- Demonstrate Rifle operation
  - Loading dummy rounds
  - Cocking
  - Dry Fire
  - Unloading
- Shooting Fundamentals
  - Dominant Eye
  - Position
  - Shooting Fundamentals
    1. Aiming
    2. Hold Control
    3. Breath Control
    4. Trigger Control
    5. Follow-through
- Range Layout
  - Ready Area
  - Firing Line
  - Target Area
  - Back Stop
- Other Safety Rules
  - Know your target and what is beyond
  - Eye and Ear Protection
  - No alcohol or drugs
  - Proper hygiene
  - Clean up after shooting
- Range Commands
  - “Eye and ear protection on”
  - “Shooters to the ready line.”
  - “Shooters to the firing line”
  - “Is the line ready?”
  - “Load.”
  - ”Ready on the firing line.”
  - “Commence firing.”
  - “Cease fire.”
  - “Remove magazines”

Before running a program check out the Range and Target Activities Webpage for updates to this program guide and find other resources.

For questions or additional information, contact the National Service Center at [outdoorprograms@scouting.org](mailto:outdoorprograms@scouting.org)

## APPENDIX 14 - OPEN RIFLE EXPERIENCE

### For Scouts BSA Members, Venturers And Sea Scouts

#### INTRODUCTION

This guide is intended to provide units, districts and councils with an overview of the requirements for running the shooting program ensuring all Scouting America Policies are followed under NRA Certified Rifle Instructor and Range Safety Officer (RSO). In this publication, you will find youth requirements, training requirements for adults who are providing the program for camp and weekend program venues. The program offers a fun and safe introduction to safe handling of a rifle.

#### PROGRAM GUIDELINES

##### Youth Requirements

Registered Scouts BSA members, Venturers or Sea Scouts, and youth who are age-appropriate participating in a Council, District or Unit organized Rifle Shooting activity conducted as part of a weekend campout, camporee or similar event.



#### STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

The standard operating procedures (SOPs) of the range should also be reviewed by NRA Range Safety Officer before delivering this program. All firearms must be approved for use by the NRA Range Safety Officer.

#### THE RANGE

An approved range can include:

- Scouting America Range at an NCAP accredited camp
- Commercial range.

#### ADULT SUPERVISION AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

1. Scouting America Youth Protection policies for two deep leadership must be maintained at all times.
2. Instructors must have current certification as an NRA Instructor
3. RSO must have current certification as an NRA Range Safety Officer (RSO).

#### APPLICABLE LAWS

Scouting America safety policies generally run parallel to or go beyond legal mandates. However, it is the camp or activity supervisor's responsibility to confirm and ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations or statutes related to youth handling and using a firearm.

## OPEN RIFLE SHOOTING SPORTS EXPERIENCE

**Purpose:** Teach youth the Knowledge, Skill and Attitude (KSA) of safe handling of firearm in a range and target activities.

**Examples:** A day-at-the-range event (fun shoot), Venturing or Sea Scout event, NRA Day event (contact the National Association for information on NRA Day), Winchester/NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program, camporee, camp weekend shoot, or Order of the Arrow event are examples.

**Youth:** Scouts BSA members, Venturers, Sea Scouts

- .22 caliber rimfire, bolt-action rifle. Either a breech-loading, single-shot, bolt-action or a repeater bolt action with a box magazine can be used. Tubular or high-capacity magazines are not allowed. If magazines are used, the range commands must include “magazines out after firing all rounds” to ensure the firing line is safe after all shots are fired. This now means a Scout can load more than one round directly into the box magazine to shoot. The trigger pull will be 3 pounds or greater.

Lever action and tubular magazine rifles are approved for use in the Cowboy Action Program ONLY.

**Ammunition:** Correct ammunition for the rifle being fired. Tracer, armor-piercing, and explosive ammunition are not allowed.

**Reloaded ammunition is not approved for Scouting America programs.**

**Range:** A range at a Scouting America accredited camp property or a commercial range.

**Required for Scouts BSA members:** Scouting America Rifle Safety Briefing in this document.

**Required for Sea Scouts and Venturers:** Scouting America Rifle Safety Briefing in this document. Safety. ANSI Z87.1-2010 certified eye protection and appropriate hearing protection is required.

**Range supervision:** A certified NRA Range Safety Officer is to directly supervise all live fire on the range. Additionally, the instruction offered must be done by a currently certified NRA certified Rifle Instructor. These must be two separate individuals.

**Ratio:** One NRA Range Safety Officer must be present for each group consisting of a maximum of eight shooters. And one NRA certified Rifle Instructor per 8 shooters during live fire.

**Course:** Shoot one or two 5-shot targets per relay, from a position appropriate to the skill level of the participants.

### Sample Range commands

- “Eye and ear protection on”
- “Shooters to the ready line.”
- “Shooters to the firing line”
- “Is the line ready?”
- “Load.”
- “Ready on the firing line.”
- “Commence firing.”
- “Cease fire.”
- “Remove magazines”

## BEFORE YOUTH ARRIVE AT THE PROGRAM AREA

All Rifles, ammunition, and targets are provisioned in sufficient quantity to run the program for all shooters without interruption during non-program times by maintenance and support personnel.

### ON THE RANGE

- Eye and ear protection should be cleaned between each shooter.
- Range staff will assist the RSO and Instructor by preparing rifles, ammunition to the preparation table, and setting up shooting positions on range.
- General staging areas for shooters and those waiting their turn are clearly marked and safe gun handling rules posted.

**People in program areas adjacent to the firing line must wear ear protection if measured sound levels are 85 dB (decibel) or above.**

## WHEN YOUTH ARE PRESENT IN THE PROGRAM AREA

Welcome youth to the area and begin the gun handling safety briefing. Range Safety Officer(RSO) is responsible for all activities on the range.

## RANGE INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Inspected by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

√ = Yes

- ☐ Controlled access/fencing/gates closed
- ☐ Flags or signs displayed
- ☐ Range limits identified
- ☐ Backstop/impact area inspected
- ☐ Ready line/area marked
- ☐ Spectator area designated
- ☐ Supplies available
- ☐ First-aid kit filled/accessible
- ☐ Range rules posted
- ☐ Bulletin board available
- ☐ Rifle racks available
- ☐ Empty trash receptacles available
- ☐ Lockable storage
- ☐ Throwers available and loaded
- ☐ Eye and ear protection available
- ☐ Hand washing Station Available

## Range Safety Briefing – Rifle

- No LIVE Ammunition in the classroom!
- To provide beginning shooters with Knowledge, Skill and Attitude (KSA) necessary to shoot a Rifle safely under supervision of a certified instructor.
- 3 Rules of Gun Safety
  - Always keep your gun pointed in a safe direction
  - Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot
  - Always keep your gun unloaded until ready to us.
- Parts of a Rifle
- Demonstrate Rifle operation
  - Loading dummy rounds
  - Cocking
  - Dry Fire
  - Unloading
- Shooting Fundamentals
  - Dominant Eye
  - Position
  - Shooting Fundamentals
    1. Aiming
    2. Hold Control
    3. Breath Control
    4. Trigger Control
    5. Follow-through
- Range Layout
  - Ready Area
  - Firing Line
  - Target Area
  - Back Stop
- Other Safety Rules
  - Know your target and what is beyond
  - Eye and Ear Protection
  - No alcohol or drugs
  - Proper hygiene
  - Clean up after shooting
- Range Commands
  - “Eye and ear protection on”
  - “Shooters to the ready line.”
  - “Shooters to the firing line”
  - “Is the line ready?”
  - “Load.”
  - ”Ready on the firing line.”
  - “Commence firing.”
  - “Cease fire.”
  - “Remove magazines”

Before running a program check out the Range and Target Activities Webpage for updates to this program guide and find other resources.

For questions or additional information, contact the National Service Center at [outdoorprograms@scouting.org](mailto:outdoorprograms@scouting.org)